

Sexual Assault Referral Centres Established in Niger and Yobe States

The official launch ceremony of the Rayuwa Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) was held on Thursday, 11th August 2016 and Yobe State also recently launched its first SARC. This makes Niger and Yobe the third and fourth states in Nigeria to have their own SARC.

The Rayuwa SARC has been provided with specially trained counselors, medical staff and equipment that are being used to provide free emergency treatment (medical and counseling support) to survivors of sexual assault within and around Minna, Niger State. So far, the Centre has assisted, over 100 victims of sexual assault, most of whom are girls under the age of 18 years.



Rayuwa Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Minna

The Centre in Yobe State was fully-funded by the State Government with the Justice for All Programme providing technical assistance through the training of medical and counselling personnel nominated by the state. While the Yobe State SARC is located at the Miriam Abacha Hospital for Women and Children in Damaturu, the Rayuwa SARC is located at the Police Clinic in Minna and staff work closely with divisional police stations in Minna, providing the police with forensic medical reports to support the investigation and prosecution of sexual crimes. The Rayuwa Centre is also collaborating with the State Ministry of Gender and Social Development to look after the welfare of survivors especially minors.



Yobe State Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Damaturu

At the ribbon cutting ceremony, coordinator of the Rayuwa SARC, Dr Yinka Umeh said, **“We are committed to using our skills and training to assist in this unique way and are encouraged by the support we continue to**

receive from all of our stakeholders. We want to collaborate with all of you to ensure that this initiative achieves its purpose of helping those who cannot help themselves”.

The launch ceremony was attended by officials from the State Ministries of Justice, Gender and Health, the Nigeria Police Force, the State Prisons Service and civil society organisations.

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CSOs and Media Collaborate on Reporting Anti-Corruption Cases

J4A supported Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and media stakeholders in Nigeria called on the country's anti-graft agencies to reopen hibernating cases of corruption involving some politically-exposed persons and other influential Nigerians. The CSO/Media Roundtable on Pending High Profile Cases, which was held in Enugu, was supported by the J4A programme. The event, issued a five point communique that urged the Attorney General of the Federation to urgently compel anti-graft agencies, particularly the EFCC and ICPC, to take advantage of the new legal environment brought about by the Administration of Criminal Justice Law. It stressed that the skills such agencies have received from the assistance provided by different development agencies, including the J4A programme should be used to conclude all pending high profile corruption cases expeditiously on or before the end of 2016.

As a result of the event, the Attorney General and Minister of Justice announced on July 26, 2016 his intention to re-open the cases of 30 ex-governors, specifically stating in his letter to the ACAs that some of the high profile cases were investigated some years ago but charges were never filed. He further mandated the ICPC and the EFCC to remit the duplicate case files concerning the politically exposed persons investigated over the years to his recently constituted National Prosecution Coordination Committee (NPCC) for review.

In order to facilitate the process, the J4A programme has further supported the training of the NPCC and its twenty National Prosecution Teams on the new Administration of Criminal Justice Act.

Two New Justice Sector Reform Teams Established in Nassarawa and Yobe States



A Cross Section of Delegates at the Launch of the Yobe Justice Sector Reform Team

The number of Justice Sector Reform Teams (JSRTs) in the country has risen to twenty three following the establishment of JSRTs in Nassarawa and Yobe states. The Nassarawa state JSRT was inaugurated by the Chief Judge of the state, Hon. Justice Suleman U.Dikko in Lafia, Nassarawa State on Thursday, 22nd September 2016.

The Yobe State JSRT was also inaugurated on 27th September 2016 by the Attorney General of the state on behalf of the State Governor, His Excellency Ibrahim Gaidam. The inauguration of the teams followed the commitments made by the representatives of both states at the Network Conference of JSRTs held in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State in April 2016 where Yobe and Nassarawa states attended the Network Conference as observer states.

A three-day retreat, facilitated by the Justice for All Programme was organised for the teams and action plans were developed to respond to the challenges facing the justice sector in both states.

NPF Increases the Awareness of Police Officers on Cyber Crime

The Nigeria Police Force supported by the J4A Programme, held a two-day Cybercrime Awareness Workshop on the 24th and 25th October 2016, at the Peacekeeping Hall, Federal Police Headquarters in Abuja.

This cybercrime workshop was attended by 113 police officers from many states across Nigeria. These officers represented a broad cross-section of policing departments with the majority drawn from the Force or State Investigation and Intelligence Departments.

Presentations were made by a number of contributors who are involved in tackling cybercrime including a police officer from the Headquarters, an expert from International Business Machines (IBM) and an expert from Digital Forensics Limited in Abuja.

Presentations and discussions were focused on how criminal organisations are turning increasingly to the Internet to facilitate their activities and maximise their profit in the shortest time. The event was used as an avenue to identify some of the many types of cybercrimes such as theft, fraud, illegal gambling and sale of fake medicines, etc., the challenges posed and the interventions that could be used to address the problems.

The IGP and his officers in the NPF are intent on becoming better skilled and better equipped in this area to help the fight against cybercrime in Nigeria.



Enugu Customary Court of Appeal Organises Awareness Raising Forum

The Customary Courts of Appeal (CCA) in Enugu State held its 2016 Town Hall meeting for court users in Udi community of Enugu West Senatorial Zone.

The Town Hall meeting was introduced in 2012 with support from the J4A programme as part of the court oversight by the Inspectorate Unit of the Court. The meetings bring together court officials and court users to create awareness about how the courts function and get feedback from users about their concerns and how the courts can provide more efficient services.

At the Udi Town Hall meeting, participants were informed of the jurisdiction of the court, conduct of proceedings and how to file cases. They were also informed of the reforms in the courts including time limits for concluding cases and complaints procedures where a court user is not treated well by court personnel.

Some of the issues raised by the community members included whether the court has jurisdiction over Fulani cattle herders; the lack of a permanent court building as the court in the community shares the same hall with a church; the need for adequate security for the Chairman and Members of the Customary Court in the community; and the need for more Town Hall meetings to create more awareness among the people to encourage them to use the court to settle disputes rather than resort to other means.

The Town Hall meeting was attended by the traditional rulers of the community and surrounding communities; the leadership of the town unions and members of the communities. It was also attended by the senior leadership of the Customary Court of Appeal

NPF Cascading the Community Policing Strategy



The J4A programme supported the Nigeria Police Force to develop a series of federal strategic guidelines, including a Community Policing strategy. This was followed by capacity building training, which was delivered to the state Community Policing Teams in three pilot states; Kano, FCT and Lagos.

Consequently, during the month of June 2016 these trained state community policing officers cascaded the training to officers from some 45 divisions within the three pilot states.

They were introduced to the ethos of community policing and human rights; and in Lagos State the Community Based Policing (CBP) training went a step further, introducing officers to Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), Divisional Intelligence Officers (DIOs) and Neighbourhood Policing.

Extension of Oversight Systems to More Courts in J4A Pilot States

The newly introduced oversight systems in the pilot lower courts are to be extended to more courts in the J4A States of Enugu, Jigawa and Kaduna.

In Jigawa State, the Inspection System will commence in six additional courts; in Enugu State the Performance Management System (PMS) will be extended to twenty more Magistrates Courts; while in Kaduna State the PMS is to be extended to seven Magistrates Courts; six Sharia Courts and six Customary Courts (though in the Customary Courts some aspects had previously been extended to fifty more courts)

Personnel from the affected courts had been trained and data is currently being collated towards the inspections in the case of the Jigawa Sharia Courts and the PMS with regards to the Courts in Enugu and Kaduna States. It is expected that the extension of these systems will improve service delivery and increase efficiency of the courts in J4A supported states.

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