

An Integrated Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and the Role of Sexual Assault Referral Centres



The J4A programme organised a one-day sensitization event in response to the rising levels of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) across Nigeria. The event was aimed at raising awareness of the need for an integrated response to the problem of SGBV and the desirability of establishing Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC) in the Northern states of Nigeria. The event was held on 7th October 2015 at the Tahir Guest Palace Hotel in Kano State.

In attendance were Chief Judges, the State Attorneys General, Commissioners of Police, Commissioners and Permanent Secretaries from Ministries of Justice, Ministries of Women Affairs and Ministries of Health from different states including Bauchi, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Niger, Sokoto, Yobe and Zamfara. Lawyers, judicial officers, medical personnel, law enforcement officers, gender activists and relevant civil society organisations from these nine states were also present.

While the various presentations made at the event demonstrated to stakeholders the effectiveness of a cross-sectoral methodology in tackling SGBV, it also stressed the critical role of SARCs.

At the end of the conference participants agreed on the need for a coordinated approach that can effectively combat sexual and gender-based violence in the region.

Prior to the conference, in September 2015, J4A supported a specialist training event for medical and counselling staff from the Jigawa, Kano and Niger State Ministries of Health, Justice, Gender, Women's Affairs and Social Welfare. It is hoped that this will help initiate SARC services in their states and improve the way SGBV survivors are treated.

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Enugu State Government Commends J4A's Support to Neighbourhood Watch in the State

The Honourable Commissioner for the Ministry of Human Capital Development and Poverty Reduction, Enugu State,



Mr Mbaeke Obinna Benjamin praised J4A for the assistance it has provided to the Neighbourhood Watch group in the state. Mr Mbaeke revealed that J4A's support through the voluntary policing sector (VPS) interventions has contributed to peaceful co-existence and improved safety in the state.

Furthermore, there is a general belief that training implemented by the programme for the Neighbourhood Watch from 2012 to 2015 has greatly impacted on the performance of the informal security sector in the state. A study carried out by the programme has shown that the skills and knowledge acquired through various capacity building efforts are now being used in the discharge of their duties.

Mr Mbaeke credited the award for the **'Least Crime State in Nigeria'** and the **'Best Community Policing State in West Africa'** to the J4A programme as a result of its intervention with the formal and informal policing sector in

FCT Chief Judge Releases 22 Inmates of Kuje Prisons

The Chief Judge of the Federal Capital Territory, Hon. Justice Ishaq Bello has ordered the release of 22 inmates from Kuje prisons. The release took place during a visit to the prison by the Chief Judge, as part of the periodic 'jail delivery' exercise.

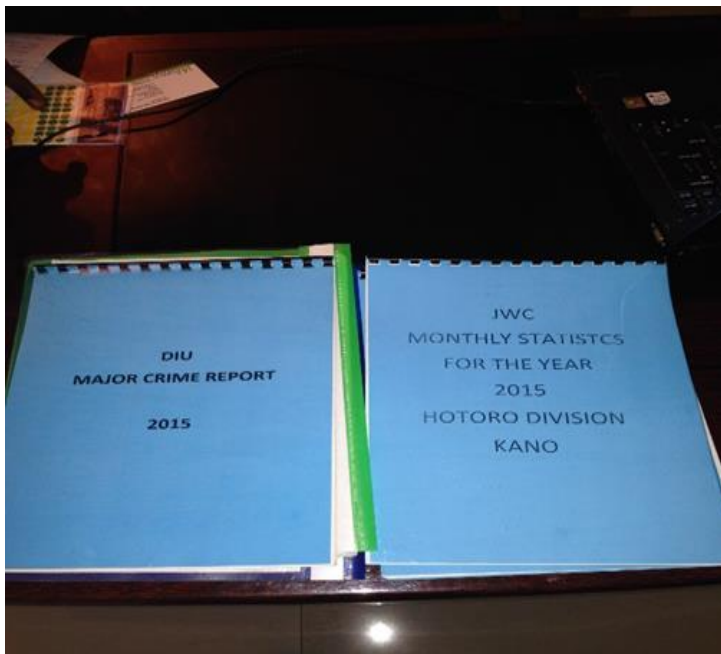
He was accompanied on the visit by other judges, magistrates of the FCT judiciary, lawyers from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Director General of the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria, Dr. Mrs. Joy Bob-Manuel, representative of the Executive Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission, Tony Ojukwu, PRAWA, J4A Staff and other NGOs. The jail delivery visit follows from a resolution at the J4A supported Criminal Justice Administration Committee of the FCT.

The inmates released include two foreign nationals who were released on health grounds, a 90 year old man who had served a substantial length of his life sentence and has shown exemplary and good behaviour, some convicts who had served most parts of their various sentences and others whose fines were paid by the CSOs present.

An inmate who was detained for an unduly long period of time following a remand order by a magistrate but whose trial had not commenced, was also set free. At the end of the exercise the Chief Judge promised to visit other prisons

New Divisional Intelligence Unit in Hotoro Division Delivering Results

The establishment of a Divisional Intelligence Unit (DIU) in Hotoro Model Police Station, Kano State is impacting upon service delivery in the community where it is located. For instance, the analysis of crime trends and patterns in Hotoro has improved as a result of this J4A supported intervention.



The report of the analysis is now presented to the DPO, Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) Garba Dugum and the senior management team. This is then used to plan proactively and to deploy resources within the community.

Corporal Umar, a staff member of the DIU, explained that the intervention has changed his role and provided him with greater knowledge and understanding of how police can safeguard the community against crime.

He explained that he provides his DPO with an overview of criminal activity in the past 24 hours each

morning when he arrives and provides a weekly bulletin every Monday morning. He said, ***“We have refined the template provided in our registers to suit the work we do. In addition we now keep a separate register for all JWC related matters.”***

To assist with identifying crime patterns in the community Corporal Umar created a map of the area depicting all the different zones. He designed a colour coding system to identify the specific locations of crimes within the community.

Corporal Umar works with diligence and is a good example of how the Nigeria Police Force is taking a more proactive approach to their work especially in the use of intelligence.



Corporal Umar Isah undertaking an analysis of crime in his division

“The establishment of a Divisional Intelligence Unit in Hotoro has assisted us greatly particularly with the gathering of intelligence. J4A’s assistance has influenced the quality of data that we produce and enables us to distribute intelligence to all police officers and other partners in an efficient way. The intelligence analysis provided is used to identify issues, to plan and allocate resources”

**CSP Bello Garba Dugum,
DPO Hotoro Division, Kano State**

Kano State Divisional Police Officer Receives African Leadership Award



CSP Bello Shaibu, the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Sabon Gari Model Police Station in Kano State received the 'Excellent Achievers' African award for his outstanding leadership skills.

The award was presented by Integrity Watch Africa (IWA), which recognised the outstanding contribution he has made to the community of Sabon Gari.

In 2015, IWA conducted research on government and security agencies throughout Africa and identified CSP Bello Shaibu as the most outstanding DPO in policing.

Comrade Victor Nwala, the Nigerian Representative of IWA, explained that during the survey IWA discovered the partnership between Sabon Gari Division and the J4A programme. The survey took into consideration the reform interventions that being undertaken by J4A, excellence and professionalism of the DPO and all his officers. He stated, ***'It was through the success of this partnership with the programme that the IWA identified DPO Bello Shaibu***

for outstanding leadership'

"Receiving this award is a challenge for me to render better service to my community and humanity in general. I thank the leadership of the NPF who gave me the opportunity to serve the community of Sabon Gari."

**CSP Bello Shaibu,
DPO Sabon Gari Division**

Nigeria Police Force Sets up a Complaint Response Unit

The collaboration between J4A and the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) on strengthening the internal complaints mechanism of the organization is making good progress. As a result the NPF has set up a Complaint Response Unit (CRU) located at the Force Headquarters.

The J4A programme provided the technical advice and training for 20 officers who will work at the call centre. The facility is designed to receive calls, make immediate referrals for investigation and resolution of complaints from members of the public. On the commissioning of the centre, members of the public will be able to interact with the complaints unit through various mediums of communication including phone calls, text messages, twitter, whatsapp, e-mail, etc. It is envisaged that the work of CRU will improve trust and confidence in the Nigeria Police Force.

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Contact Us

We welcome your feedback and contributions.

Email: info@j4a-nigeria.org

J4A Programme Offices

Abuja

Tel: 07098121548-49

Enugu

Tel: 042290962

Kano

Tel: 064969112

Lagos

Tel: 018418479