

Nigeria Country Report



CIVIL SOCIETY
PLATFORM
FOR PEACEBUILDING
AND STATEBUILDING



Country Team

Country: Nigeria

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Background

Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa (CDSEA) is the Focal Point Organisation in Nigeria. Led by Mr. Theophilus Ekpon, the Centre proposes and promotes creative and new approaches towards ensuring sustainable development in Africa. The Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa advocates transformational policies that lead to peacebuilding, environmental sustainability and good governance through advocacy, capacity development, reflective dialogue and research. It also embraces a multi-stakeholder approach while networking with organizations that share similar values at the local, sub-regional, continental and global levels.

Peacebuilding and Statebuilding

Although Nigeria is a non-g7+ member state, the Civil Society continues to advocate for the International Dialogue for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS)/New Deal ownership. A series of activities relating to Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, spearheaded by Civil Society in Nigeria, were held over the past two years for infusing the New Deal into Government system. Most importantly, a Civil Society meeting on the IDPS/New Deal was held in June 2014. The Civil Society Country Team also plans a multi-stakeholders meeting in collaboration with the Nigerian government and the donor community that will be taking place in September 2016.

The National Peace Summit Group (NPSG) and the Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa (CDSEA) continues to publish issues related to the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding on the New Deal in its quarterly magazine *Peace Trends and on its website*. The NPSG has also ensured that some participants to the National Dialogue Conference of the Federal Government became aware of the New Deal and has reflected it in some of the outcomes of the conference. Nigerian Civil Society Country Team has also paid advocacy visits to the ruling All Progressive Congress Party (APC) and the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution - Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure the highest level of political buy-in. An online mailing list for networking among Nigerian Civil Society organizations on the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding on the New Deal has been created and operational.

An inclusive Fragility Assessment is under preparation, next to that, the issues of youth and gender are considered and given priority by Civil Society in the ongoing partnership with the Nigerian government.

Civil Society Engagement in Peacebuilding

Some Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are already mainstreaming the work of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding/New Deal into their organizational plans. Others are involved in the Countering Violent Extremism initiative of the Nigerian government. To better coordinate their work, Civil Society in Nigeria collaborate through consultations and networking using a mailing list and meetings.

Early Warning and Early Monitoring Response Mechanism

The Civil Society Country Team intends to make use of CSOs network and upcoming (results) of the Fragility Assessment to create a responsive and flexible platform for sharing information that have implications for peace and working with International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding and the New Deal partners to respond in a timely manner.



Challenges

CSPPS Focal Point reported that despite all work being implemented to solicit Government buy-in into the New Deal process, space is shrinking for Civil Society in the Nigerian political arena. He added that Civil Society is limited to implement long term strategy due to lack of Financial Support. Once these challenges are surmounted, the Country Team expect tangible results and more recognition of Civil Society as partners for peacebuilding and Statebuilding.

Upcoming events

Advocacy visits to stakeholders on the IDPS/New Deal	Ongoing. Recent advocacy visits to the ruling All Progressive Congress Party (APC) has been concluded and Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution – Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs have been completed.
Fragility Assessment	Planning in progress

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Photo Credit

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