

NIALS/UNDP Project On Access To Justice And Rule Of Law In The North-East
Launch And Orientation Workshop For Field Observers
Held On The 1st and 2nd Of November 2017 At The Statement Hotel, Abuja.

INTRODUCTION

The **UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)** in collaboration with the **NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES (NIALS)** launched and organized a workshop/training program for the Project **SUPPORT TO ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND RULE OF LAW IN THE NORTH-EAST**.

The Project seeks to contribute to the stabilization and early recovery in the North-East through support for the re- establishment of justice and security services in accessible areas and the enhancement of timely and effective access to justice especially for those most affected by the insurgency.

THE LAUNCH

The launch/workshop which took place at The Statement Hotel, Abuja on the 1st and 2nd day of November, 2017 commenced at 9:45 am with the recitation of the National Anthem and the National Prayer.

The following dignitaries were present at the opening ceremony:

- The Director-General of NIALS, Professor, Adedeji Adekunle, SAN who delivered the opening / welcome remarks,
- Representative of the Country Representative of the UNDP Rep. Mrs Onyinye Ndubuisi;
- Commodore Musa Yamisu - Office of the National Security Adviser;
- The Honourable Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice - Adamawa State Mr. Mohammed, represented the Honourable Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice-Yobe State.
- The Honourable Commissioner for Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement - Borno state,
- The National Consultant, Ugonna Ezekwem, who familiarized the participants with the task at hand, giving an Overview/Methodology of Community Based Mapping Activity.



The Director-General of NIALS, Professor Adedeji Adekunle, SAN delivering his welcome/opening speech



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Commissioner for Justice – Adamawa State,
State, Mr. Mohammed, represented
the Honourable Attorney General and
Commissioner for Justice-Yobe State



The Honourable Commissioner for
Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and
Resettlement -Borno state,



The UNDP Rep. Mrs Onyinye Ndubuisi



Commodore Musa Yamisu Representative-
Office of National Security Adviser



A group picture of all present at the launch of the support o access to justice project

WORKSHOP/TRAINING

COMMUNITY BASED MAPPING EXERCISE

- The primary activity at the workshop programme was the Community Based Mapping Exercise (CBME), a system building process carried out by the facilitators and the participants to determine and confirm the level of presence and accessibility of core security and rule of law institutions in North East, Nigeria.
- Focus was placed on **Adamawa, Borno and Yobe** states with particular reference to a few local governments which have been most affected by the Boko Haram insurgency, are in dire needs and are accessible - Mafa, Konduga, Hong and Tarmuwa.
- Accurate knowledge of the exact state of the security, justice and justice administration and the availability and accessibility of service will be gathered by the 5 personnel deployed to each community for on-site mapping. This will allow for the implementation of relevant solutions in theses communities.

- This will last for a period of about 2 to 3 weeks



Discussion of Community Based Mapping Exercise (CBME) Presentation

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Participants were divided into 3 discussion groups where they made suggestions to the modalities and gave their inputs to the methodology.





Group discussions

After the discussions, the three groups each presented their result and unanimously agreed on the following observations and made recommendations.

- The participants agreed with the **Modality/methodology**, however, there is need to complement the
 - Questionnaires with KII (Key Informant Interview) as part of the methodology to adopt in executing the project.
 - Pictures /video digital recording device can be deployed, but are usually subjected to acceptability as security personnel might be suspicious. However, it is better to get consent before use.

- **To elicit Cooperation between Security and Justice Agencies** the participants agreed:
 - The starting point should be the Security Council in the state i.e., the permanent Secretary.
 - Others include- Interface with security commanders, Public relation officers, the Army, Police, Civil Defense (NSCDC) and State Security Service (SSS). It is imperative that the SSS is the coordinating Unit to allow you go anywhere.
- **Which Institutions/ local Government Areas:**
 - Traditional Rulers (wards heads-“*Mai Agwans*) and Religious Leaders (it should be structured to include “*Bulaman*” and societal configuration should come to the fore also))
 - There should be interface with Security Operatives at the local level, community vigilantes, hunters, (also according to configurations) and opinion Leaders
- **Which Community Leaders:**
 - Councilors / Local Government Chairmen
 - Development Area Administrator
 - Village Heads/District Heads
 - Security Chiefs (Police, Hunters/Vigilante or JTF Leaders)

It was observed that there is no active visible presence of NHRC (National Human Right Commission and Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACN) in the local communities and there is need for these key institutions to be actively involved in the local communities instead of concentrating in the city centers.

It was also observed that FIDA and NBA activities and impact are felt in most of the communities but also not without hardware challenges.



Presentation of results

Having agreed on the modalities and methodologies to be employed in the on field research work, agencies and institutions to be loaded with and security arrangements for the participants/on field researchers, the workshop/training came to a close on the 2nd day at 4:30pm