



# COMPREHENSIVE REPORT OF THE STAKEHOLDERS' CONSULTATIVE FORUM ON PCVE IMPLEMENTATION IN NIGERIA

## HELD ON THE



20th May 2021



Rockview Royale Abuja



9:30AM



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Programme commenced at 10.34am following registration of attendees.

**MODERATORS:**

Mr. Anicetus Atakpu, PVE Program and Consortium Coordinator, ActionAid Nigeria, Ms. Justina Amakor and Ms. Iye Mangset, Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA)

**ORGANIZED BY:**

ActionAid Nigeria with funding from the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) and in collaboration with The Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) in pursuance of the “System and Structure Strengthening Approach against Radicalization to violent extremism (SARVE II) Project (Phase II).”

**REPORT WRITTEN BY:** Achenyo Alfa.

**SPEAKERS:**

Professor Ahmed Bello Dogawara of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna  
Dr. Hassana Ibrahim Waziri, University of Maiduguri, Borno State

**LIFE EXPERIENCE SHARING:**

Hon Zuwaira Gambo, Hon. Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Borno State

**PANELISTS – FIRST PANEL DISCUSSION**

1. Professor Ahmed Dogawara of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State and Paper Presenter.
2. Professor Mohammed Tabiu, Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN)
3. Reverend Joseph Tizho Kwaha, State Secretary, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Borno State chapter, representing the CAN Chairman, Borno State
4. Sheikh Sa'aad Ngamdu, State Secretary of Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI), Borno State
5. Khadija Adams Sadiq, Woman Community Leader, Yobe State
6. Interpreter - Aliyu Adamu, ActionAid Nigeria

**PANELISTS – SECOND PANEL DISCUSSION**

1. Dr, Hassana Ibrahim Waziri, University of Maiduguri, Borno State and Paper Presenter.
2. David Habba, ActionAid Nigeria
3. Dr. Garba Abari, Director General, National Orientation Agency
4. Mr. Jaiye Gaskiya, Coordinator, Partnership Against Violent Extremism (PAVE)
5. Mr. Cliff Gai, PVE Programme Manager, Women Environmental Programme (WEP)

**ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPANTS**

PHYSICAL – 139 PERSONS

VIRTUAL – 146 (Zoom) and 105 (YouTube)

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS – 390

See appendix A on Stakeholders at the Consultative Forum.



## ACRONYMS/DEFINITIONS

<b>AAN</b>	ActionAid Nigeria
<b>BAY States</b>	Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States
<b>BYI</b>	Beacon Youth Initiative
<b>CAN</b>	Christian Association of Nigeria
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>DDRR</b>	Demobilization, Disassociation, Reintegration & Reconciliation
<b>GCERF</b>	Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund
<b>GPD</b>	Global Peace Development
<b>JNI</b>	Jama'atu Nasril Islam
<b>MDA</b>	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
<b>NACTEST</b>	National Counter Terrorism Strategy
<b>NCoS</b>	Nigerian Correctional Service
<b>NDLEA</b>	National Drugs and Law Enforcement Agency
<b>NOA</b>	National Orientation Agency
<b>ONSA</b>	Office of the National Security Adviser
<b>OpSC</b>	Operation Safe Corridor
<b>PAVE</b>	Partnership Against Violence Extremism
<b>PCVE</b>	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
<b>PFNAP</b>	Policy Framework and National Action Plan
<b>PIBCID</b>	Participation Initiative for Behavioural Change in Development
<b>SAN</b>	Senior Advocate of Nigeria
<b>SARVE</b>	System and Structure Strengthening Approach against Radicalisation to Violent Extremism
<b>TETFUND</b>	Tertiary Education Trust Fund
<b>WEP</b>	Women Environmental Programme



## ABSTRACT

The Stakeholders Consultative Forum organized on the 20th of May 2021 at the Rockview Hotel, Wuse, Abuja by ActionAid Nigeria with funding from Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), in collaboration with the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) in pursuance of the “System and Structure Strengthening Approach against Radicalization to Violent Extremism (SARVE II) Project (Phase II).” The event was organized to provide a platform for multi-stakeholders' appraisal of the current Policy Framework and National Action Plan (PF and NAP) of the Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) in Nigeria and discuss ways Religious Leaders, Traditional Leaders, Community Leaders, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) can strengthen its role in providing an enabling environment for preventing or countering violent extremism in Nigeria and in order to preserve community and religious values of culture, tradition, moral and religion.

In keeping with the intent of the Forum, participants were invited from different stakeholder groups which included government ministries and agencies, international and local civil society organisations, religious leaders, traditional leaders and community leaders. The Federal Ministries of Interior, Information, Education, Health, Defense, Women Affairs, Youths and Sports, Budget and National Planning, Justice, Foreign Affairs, Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development and the Federal Capital Territory were ably represented at the forum.

Also in attendance was the National Orientation Agency (NOA), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and National Directorate of Employment (NDE). Security agencies such as the Nigerian Correctional Service, Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps, the Nigerian Army, Nigerian Air force, Nigerian Navy, Nigeria Police Force, Nigeria Immigration Service, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, Department of State Security Services and DHQ (OPSC) were present at the forum.


A total of 58 selected Civil Society Organisations were present at the forum as well as Chairmen of local government areas and Traditional leaders.

The core objectives of the policy framework which was the fulcrum for the forum are:



The sessions focused on assessing the role of four specific stakeholders in realising the objectives of the policy framework and national action plan of the PCVE implementation. The focus was on the roles of Religious, Community, Traditional Leaders and Civil Society Organizations in the PCVE implementation from its inception on 24th August 2017 to date.




 Funmilayo Oyefusi

## WELCOME ADDRESS

The Welcome Address was given by the Country Director of ActionAid Nigeria, Ms. Ene Obi who was ably represented by Funmilayo Oyefusi, the Director, Organizational Effectiveness, ActionAid Nigeria. She stated that following the current ranking of Nigeria as number 14 in the alert category and with an index of 97.3 points on the Global list of fragile states formerly known as failed states, based on the United Global Terrorism Report 2020 by the United States fund for peace Organization, the need for concerted efforts on peace and security in the country could not be overemphasized.

ActionAid Nigeria, with its presence in 45 countries worldwide and since its inception in 1999 believes that Peace and Security is the business of everyone and has engaged in the process through its System and Structure Strengthening Approach against Radicalization to Violent Extremism (SARVE II) project funded by GCERF as well as establishing and supporting structures at community and local government areas in the last five years in Kogi and Nassarawa states towards creating an enabling environment for the prevention of violent extremism. Action Aid Nigeria has, through the project reached 1614 young men and women, empowering them with useful life skills to keep them engaged.

ActionAid Nigeria has also established 12 local government conflict management alliance structures to prevent conflict and promote peace as well as training the capacity of 60 police officers to respond efficiently and effectively to rising issues on violent extremism through a human rights-based approach while working with existing community policing structures. The SARVE II project was also integral to the enactment of the Kogi State Youth Development Commission Law designed for the inclusion and engagement of youth in government and creation of employment opportunities within the state thereby reducing youth's vulnerability to violent extremism.

The Country Director appreciated the Office of the National Security Adviser(ONSA) through the PCVE unit for its unwavering commitment and coordination of PCVE implementation in Nigeria and surmised that the Consultative Forum provided the needed platform for broad-based and meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders, particularly Civil Society Organizations, Traditional and Community Leaders to carry out the critical appraisal of policy options on PCVE in Nigeria based on the Nigerian context and also contribute to current changes in policy and practice in Nigeria.





Rear Admiral YEM Musa

## OPENING REMARKS

The Coordinator of the Counter Terrorism Center of the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), Rear Admiral YEM Musa in his opening remarks welcomed the dignitaries and stakeholders present.

He mentioned that the Stakeholders forum was important in dire times of increasing successions of terror attacks across the globe. These attacks are a harsh reality of the challenges the world faces in addressing the scourge of terrorism. He stated that more cooperation and assistance was required across governments and societies.

Providing the instance of the Boko Haram insurgents and its negative impact on the economy, polity, life, and livelihood in the North Eastern part of Nigeria and across Nigeria, violent extremism is the precursor of Terrorism. Therefore, if the drivers of Violent Extremism are eliminated, terrorism can be excluded and insurgency can be met with resolution and resilience led by government, its law enforcement and security agencies, and CSOs.

The realization of the government to extinguish the flame of terrorism birthed the Policy Framework and National Action Plan of the PCVE signed by the President on the 24th of August 2017 to create a clear policy environment that interconnects peace, security, development and promotes tolerance, of which, ONSA was tasked with coordinating all counter terrorism measures.

The Coordinator saw the forum as an appropriate time and opportunity for reflection on the progress and opportunity present by the government policy framework on PCVE to further enhance the attainment of peace through the promotion of tolerance and constructive contribution to building resilient communities. The Outcome of the forum, in view of the current myriad of security challenges was to assess gaps, progress and ways stakeholders can contribute to ensuring the PCVE functions better.

The Coordinator restated ONSA's collaboration with Action Aid Nigeria, funded by GCERF, of which Nigeria is a foundation signatory, towards promoting synergy and strengthening PCVE implementation. He opined that such synergies as that of GCERF and AAN, would pave the way for the establishment of the Partnerships against Violent Extremism (PAVE) network which is a collection of Civil Society Organizations committed to countering violent extremism.



# GOODWILL MESSAGES



Nigeria Country Manager of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), Sarah Le Mesurier in her goodwill message expressed the GCERF's delight to be part of the forum and to support AAN in its work in Nigeria over the past 5 years and commended AAN as a leading partner in the initiatives it has designed and implemented as well as the ability to reach out into communities at risk, work with the vulnerable and marginalized, and develop effective and sustainable community resilience and response mechanisms. She also mentioned the indispensability of the ONSA with regards to putting funds to local communities which would be impossible without GCERF's linking up to state level and access to use of National structures.

The Chairman, Lokoja – Kogi Traditional Council, Kogi State, His Royal Highness Alhaji Abdulrazak Sani Gambo Isakoto, the Ohimegye-Igu of Koton Karfe, expressed his happiness with the representatives of the various groups present in the forum and recognized the impact of ActionAid Nigeria in various communities in Kogi State such as women empowerment programmes. He cheered the efforts of ActionAid and its programmes which are not only held in cities but also in the hinterlands, where it is not expected of organizations such as theirs. He hoped that stakeholders present inclusive of himself would learn at the forum and be able to implement lessons learned at their various communities or places of influence.



Dr. Garba Abari, Director General of the National Orientation Agency asseverated the role the NOA can play besides those as encapsulated in the NOA Act and how its 813 offices across the country makes the Agency most suited to partner and collaborate with ONSA, AAN and other key stakeholders in championing the cause of national unity and security from the grassroots. Dr. Abari agreed that they must be committed together with regards to issues affecting Nigeria's national development. He stated the PCVE implementation can be target specific and reiterated the NOA's commitment and willingness to learn, disaggregate and aggregate what has been done in the past, what is been done currently and what is to be done in the near future.







The representative of the Civil Society Network and grantee of GCERF, Anne-Marie Abaagu, Executive Director of the Women Environmental Programme (WEP) in her goodwill message showed elation at the collaboration between ONSA and AAN to provide a platform for CSOs and other stakeholders to develop and harness initiatives on implementing policies to foster and build resilience. Applauding the Policy Framework and the National Action Plan of the PCVE as a great step in response to achieving community and national stability, she cautioned that the impact of violent extremism undermined the Country's growth, economy, and social political frame. She stressed that it was pertinent that suggestions are raised around policies in PCVE implementation and that contributions from the forum would be mainstreamed in programmes and policy frameworks at federal and sub-national levels. She pleaded for interventions that would ensure inclusion and partnering for safer and resilient communities.

In her goodwill message, Ambassador Janet Olisa, Director for Planning Research & Statistic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Representative of all ministries at the forum, posited that the theme of the forum was well timed and significant considering the present security challenges. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in partnering with the ONSA and AAN seeks to bring dialogue to the table as there is need for non-military methods to avert the rise of violent extremist group in Nigeria and this threat should not be left to security agencies alone. Effective government, she said, should also be enhanced to address aggrieving factors and underlying conditions which provoke grievances and may have led individuals to join violent groups. Root causes and drivers of violent extremism must be addressed such as socio-economic issues, marginalization, poor governance, human right violations, and the remnants of violent conflicts seemingly forgotten. According to her, such dialogue called for stakeholders such as traditional leaders who can tackle such grievances at the grassroots.

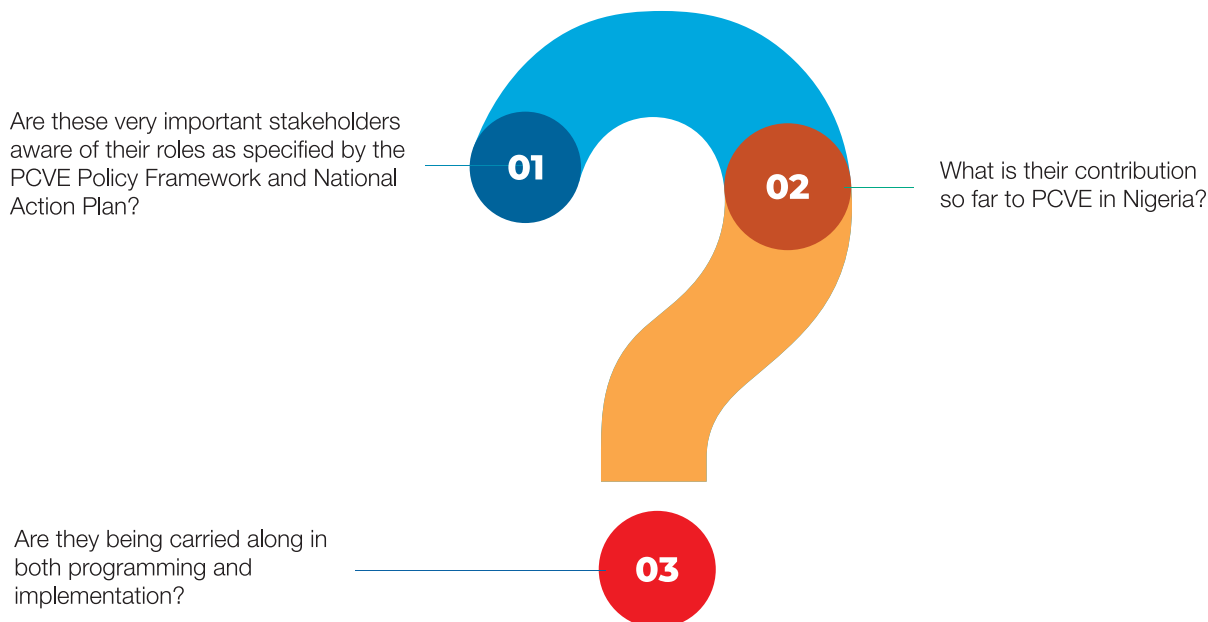


# PRESENTATION 1

## **“Assessing the Role of Religious, Community and Traditional Leaders on PCVE Implementation in Nigeria: 2017 till Date”, by Professor Ahmed Bello Dogawara of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State**

Professor Dogawara presented background issues that birthed the Policy Framework and National Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in Nigeria (PCVE) such as the emergence of violent religious extremism in Nigeria and the Federal Government's efforts and initiatives to curb and eliminate violent religious extremism such as the Establishment of a Counter Terrorism Center and Department for Behavioural Analysis and Strategic Communication Development by the National Counter Terrorism Strategy (NACTEST) 2014, ONSA coordinated/NCoS Deradicalisation programmes amongst other initiatives.

Prof. Dogarawa posited that the Policy framework and National Action Plan for the PCVE recognised the importance of religious, community and traditional leaders and their roles in its programming and implementation. However, he postulated three questions that formed the bedrock of his presentation:



In his analysis, Traditional, Community and Religious Leaders are directly integral to Core objectives 2 and 3 of the PFNAP PCVE which is the Strengthening of the Rule of Law, Access to Justice and Human Rights by way of rehabilitating and reintegration of persons associated with violent extremism at different stages of the justice system; and, Engaging Communities and Building Resilience by providing platforms for dialogue and discussions designed to promote tolerance and understanding.

He stated that Religious Leaders were important to the PCVE implementation due to their Knowledge and moral authority, legitimacy, strong network and access to power, understanding of local issues and context, credibility, shared values, custodianship, and patronage by different stakeholders.

Community and Traditional leaders were also integral to the PCVE implementation because of their positions as cultural gatekeepers who provide grass-root leadership, and who represent and are custodians of traditions and values of their people within and outside their communities with a strong network and access to power.



According to him, there were Human Resource Challenges and programme implementation challenges such as a Dearth of capacity among religious, traditional and community leaders to develop counter and alternative narratives, scant published reference materials on PCVE counter/alternative narratives, security threats to leaders who speak against violent religious extremism, insufficient and inadequate engagement and synergy between government and leaders thereby resulting in limited awareness on the part of Traditional, religious and community leaders. Despite these, he commended the past and ongoing initiatives and efforts of the government and particularly, the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) in training Religious, Community and Traditional Leaders. Among these efforts, he mentioned several sensitisation lectures held on the dangers of violent religious extremism across Nigeria, Bayero University CICID scholars' roundtable on the imperatives of inter- and intra-faith dialogue with focus on how to sensitise people on the need for moderation, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence and the NCoS Radicalization and OpSC DDDR.

Though not based on empirical or official data, between 2018 and 2021, there have been several step-down training and trainer the trainer workshops directed at religious, community and traditional leaders. Examples include Step-down training delivered by participants of Al-Azhar-Tony Blair Foundation special training on PCVE to Imams and teachers of Arabic schools in BAY states; DIWA-DIN training on Shari'ah intelligence for OpSC personnel, selected Gombe state Imams and GSU Islamic studies lecturers; Train-the-trainer and step-down trainings for North-East religious and traditional leaders on PCVE, Peace Building and Transitional Justice by Green Horizon-British Council.

There have also been several National stakeholders' roundtable on the role of religious leaders in PCVE, Creation of Social Cohesion Centers in BAY states comprising of religious, community, traditional and youth leaders; and, continuation of peace-building and peaceful coexistence efforts by different religious and community leaders.

## PANEL DISCUSSION 1

Prof. Tabiu (SAN) applauded the presentation made by Professor Dogawara on the comprehensive role of Traditional, Community and Religious Leaders in the policy framework and National Action Plan for PCVE implementation but added that their roles extend beyond objectives 2 and 3 of the Policy framework and National Action Plan for PCVE in Nigeria. He believed that the fourth objective of the policy framework and national action plan for PCVE implementation will require the input of traditional and community leaders especially with strategic communication, developing alternative narratives and disseminating them in the community.

The representative of the Christian Association of Nigeria, State Secretary CAN Borno State commended the forum as well as the presentation made by Professor Dogawara albeit hearing about the PCVE programme initiatives for the first time. He invited the Professor to Maiduguri stating that the Christian Clergy needed to be onboard in order to further the implementation of the policy framework and National Action Plan of the PCVE.

In addressing the question posed by the Moderator on the need for clarity in the engagement and involvement of religious leaders with regards to the policy framework in Borno and the North East so far, the JNI State Secretary acknowledged that the JNI has engaged in more alternative narratives with regards to the PCVE implementation which included a written paper on counter terrorism, promoting diversity, tolerance and the riddance of extreme religious views and working closely with traditional rulers and community leaders. At present, the JNI was looking at translating the written alternative narrative from Arabic to other local dialects, including Hausa.

A representative of the community, Khadija, when asked to share her experience how women at the traditional level were able to support counter terrorism initiatives and challenges, introduced stakeholders to "Women in Dawa" an organization that engaged in sensitization, creating awareness and counter narratives on extreme views. Victims of violence and Boko Haram attacks were empowered economically, provided with skill acquisition, and support in the payment of school fees for orphans. Young women of marriageable ages were also supported with materials and empowered economically when they got married.



## PRESENTATION 2

***“Assessing the Role of CSOs on the PCVE Implementation in Nigeria: 2017 till date”, presented by Dr. Hassana Ibrahim Waziri, University of Maiduguri, and Executive Director/Chairperson Muslim Association.***

Dr. Waziri gave a heartfelt and impassioned presentation on the role and participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in counter terrorism as the tactics and strategies employed by terrorists and violent extremists has shifted to include non-kinetic means, and thus requiring new counter-terrorism approaches.

She acknowledged that it was no coincidence that the office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) was vested with the responsibility of coordinating the National Action Plan for the policy framework on preventing and Countering Violent extremism because security is multifaceted and goes beyond physical protection to encompass political, economic, environmental, cultural, and social security. CSOs therefore play a pivotal role in the four core objectives of the policy framework and National Action Plan on PCVE.

CSOs being a source of alternative policies and information hub to stakeholders, support, advocate, monitor and hold both government and non-governmental actors accountable were necessary, while providing social welfare, capacity and economic empowerment, human rights services, humanitarian services, political participation, and inclusion, among others.

With regards to the policy framework and National Action Plan of PCVE, though faced with many challenges, CSOs have engaged in PCVE implementation by rehabilitation, resilience and reintegration programmes, Live skill Capacity building and education, Gender-based Violence campaigns, Sensitization, mobilization, Medical Outreach, Research, Radio Outreach, Documentation and Dissemination of information, Safe School initiatives, Dialogue, and reconciliation.

## PANEL DISCUSSION 2

The Coordinator of Partnership against violent extremism (PAVE) Mr. Jahi Gaskia taking a critical look at the subtitle of the policy framework and National Action Plan for PCVE “Partnering for Safer Communities” indicated the context in which CSOs had operated and been guided by. Prior to inception of the policy framework and National Action Plan, CSOs had little or no guidance on PCVE. However, several training activities for and by CSOs had allowed for CSOs to reintegrate, empower, and push alternative narratives. He mentioned the challenges CSOs often faced such as the impression of competition among themselves as well as changes in government that could interrupt project cycles and their implementation. He campaigned for the need to revive networks for the purpose of sharing knowledge, experience, and quality control. Such a Network would host a hub of knowledge and added that beyond a network of organization, such network would notably promote a community of practice.

Dr Gaskia also added that contrary to what was formerly obtainable where people who fought for their human rights were marginalized groups, everyone is now marginalized hence, during the development of the policy framework, there was a recommendation that states should develop their own policy action plan to be used as guidelines in terms of what Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) can do to work with other stakeholders. Every relevant MDA was also to develop institutional response which was to be included in their budget development. However, this recommendation was left inconclusive.

The Director General of the NOA in suggesting a better strategy in communicating issues around PCVE implementation indicated that in line with its statutory mandate, the role of the NOA was cut out in two perspectives, one of which is as a citizen engaging agency and so mandated by law to sensitize Nigerian



citizens. In relation to the implementation of PCVE, sensitization and advocacy for violent extremism is carried out under 3 mechanisms which included permanent dialogue mechanisms which NOA is the lead driver to sensitize, engage and send feedback to government through reporting channels. A second mechanism is to hold town hall meetings with specific stakeholders considered critical to PCVE implementation. A third mechanism was holding broad-based stakeholder fora engaging CSOs. It was therefore important for inter-agency collaboration to take place for implementation of the policy framework to create a safe engagement where all are carried along.

Representing the Executive Director, WEP, PVE Programmes Manager, Cliff Gai mentioned some of the challenges CSOs faced while engaging with government and communities in program implementation sighting structural, institutional and priority challenges. Structurally, besides the difficulty and high cost in implementing projects while involving the government, a change in the government or in the government official can frustrate advocacy already commenced and so warrants fresh advocacy and the buy in of the current government official which could affect the timeline of the project. Regarding institutional challenges, capacity building issues can impede implementation of the project. Priority challenges on the other hand, were said to emerge where short-term initiatives are preferred over long-term project as the former proffers instant feedback which is nonconstructive for behavioural change. According to Cliff Gai, PCVE implementation necessitates long term initiatives. He also added that credibility and legitimacy issues of traditional leaders to their throne in their communities could affect CSOs intervention and engagements.

David Habba, ActionAid Nigeria representative alleged that gaps in the policy framework and National Action Plan for PCVE implementation needed to be identified and fixed. Beyond ticking the check box in project implementation just because it was a requirement from the Donor, projects that made sense were a desideratum while evaluating a rapidly changing context. Government should also commit resources for the effective implementation of the policy framework. He added that there are issues of perceived unreal injustice people are agitating for and the need to address them.

Dr Hassana Ibrahim gave voice to the involvement of women in PCVE implementation as they were at the forefront of changing the narrative by talking to their children. Women, she said, must be reoriented to have self-worth irrespective of their level of education.

The DG, NOA added to Dr Hassana Ibrahim's observation sighting the powerful role of women when the NOA started its campaign on the healing of memories. Women had aggregated themselves into support groups and became front liners in promoting economic development, doing this irrespective of the trauma they had faced/were facing.



## QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Several perspectives were raised following the panel discussions:

A question was directed to Professor Muhammed Sabiu (SAN) on how more synergy could be drawn in the work on PCVE implementation among religious, traditional leaders and CSOs.

Underscoring the relevance of the question, the SAN stated that the relevance of participation of religious, traditional, community and CSOs was indispensable to the success of PCVE implementation. He gave an example of his involvement in a program, "Managing Conflict in North East Nigeria (MCN)" under which there was an initiative for early warning; a very important aspect of PCVE from the policy framework and intensive capacity building. He also intimated that the second presenter was one of the leaders in the MCN spearheading early warning initiatives. He added that these stakeholders initiate and engage in platforms that bring together various segment of the society which included security agencies, local governments, CSOs and traditional, community and religious leaders as well as intensive capacity building programme for traditional leaders and councils in the BAY states.

A question via an online attendee asked what measure could be employed in controlling drug induced extremism as the paper presented dwelt on extremism on ideological basis.

Professor Dogawara opined that collaboration with the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in sensitizing people on the dangers of drug abuse was pivotal in controlling drug induced violent extremism. He added that religious leaders have a monumental responsibility to inform their congregation on the dangers of drug abuse as it, in Islam for instance, violates the sanctity of intellect and should not be condoned. He suggested the need for sensitization and partnership of the NDLEA with NOA to go to the grassroots using NOA offices all over the country as well as engaging youth groups.

Fatima Garba, attending online, commented that the issue of hate speech was a major factor in violent extremism and religious leaders had a major role to play in speaking to their congregants as their sayings were adhered to.

A question was raised that those involved in violent extremism believed they were fighting a just cause. How could government anti-people policy that shortchanged the masses be addressed through legislative and judicial system without the executive hijacking justice from the poor masses. Professor Dogarawa stated that unless structural and nonstructural drivers and causes of violent extremism are addressed, the desired results would not be achieved. Effort must be made beyond addressing ideological issues, to address structural issues by coming together to engage the government for community development. It was necessary that Religious leaders, Traditional and community leaders partnered with CSOs and all other stakeholders mentioned in the policy framework for better dividends of democracy.

A suggestion was made, and opinion sought from the panelists that in view of the two major religions in Nigeria, whether building synergy among religious leaders would necessitate the establishment of a Ministry of Religious Affairs at state and national levels. The JNI State Secretary, Borno and the State Secretary, CAN responded in the affirmative that such an establishment was necessary.

The Commissioner for Women Affairs, Borno State, Hon. Hajija Zuwerat Gambo shared experiences on the DDRR programme which she described as the last bus stop before clients are reintegrated into their communities. She described that after the de-radicalization exercise, they spend at least 6 weeks at transit centers where a month before reintegration, the Borno State government interfaces and screens the clients. However, there are rejections from the Client's host community due to stigmatization hence the need to involve stakeholders such as the IOM, Civilian joint task force, market women, staff of Ministry of Women Affairs, the military, local government officials and traditional leaders at the screening, where clients that may be rejected are identified and the issues readdressed. She also intimated that for the programme to be effective, for every client integrated into the host community, a double number of vulnerable persons in that community are supported and empowered.



# CHALLENGES

Several challenges and commendations were highlighted during the forum:

- a. Human Resource related Challenges- These challenges included the need to build capacity for PCVE implementation as well as capacity to develop counter and alternative narratives.  
  
There are also limited published materials on PCVE and security threats to religious and community leaders who speak up against Violent Extremism.
- b. Programming Related Challenges- These challenges include limited awareness by most religious and community leaders due to inadequate engagement. Hence platforms need to be created.
- c. A weak Synergy between Government and those involved in PCVE implementation.
- d. There are few long term and sustained interventions so government officials may be more inclined to address projects/interventions that give immediate feedback, but long-term investment is needed for behavioural change.
- e. Engagement – Due to inadequate mapping, engagement is limited as in some communities, community/traditional leaders are not recognized as the legitimate or rightful leaders hence even after capacity building exercises such as Dispute Resolution Skills, the community fails to accept the various interventions. Some communities also expect quick fixes rather than the interventions posited by the government or CSOs.



## RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

The following recommendations, read by Mr. Samuel Ikani, Manager, Impact Assessment & Shared Learning, Action Aid Nigeria, from the consultative forum of community and religious leaders and civil society organizations in Nigeria were extricated/garnered with the objective of increasing awareness on PCVE stakeholders and to improve coordination and synergy between PCVE actors/Stakeholders in Nigeria:

1. Review – A recommendation that the policy framework and National Action Plan on PCVE should be reviewed considering the current security and Covid-19 challenges.
2. Sensitization – Religious, Traditional and Community Leaders should be sensitized on the importance of moderation, tolerance and peaceful co-existence and their capacity to play these respective roles to be built in view of its specialized nature.
3. Awareness – There should be more robust awareness creation on the policy framework and National Action Plan on PCVE among all stakeholders.
4. Dialogue – To engage in meaningful dialogue, Stakeholders should have a good understanding of the religious and non-religious drivers of violent extremism such as social, economic, political issues as well as the typology of persons involved in violent extremism such as foot soldiers, those involved through coercion etc. Diversity in religious beliefs should also be seen as a tool for development. This will inform how they engage in meaningful dialogue.
5. PAVE Secretariat – A recommendation to activate a functional Secretariat for the Partnership Against Violent Extremism (PAVE) which is now the recognized body of CSOs working to prevent Violent Extremism, which will serve as a hub for quality assurance, policy influencing and Knowledge management and sharing. Action Aid Nigeria obliges to serve as Secretariat.
6. Alternative Narratives - Religious, Traditional, and Community leaders should identify the religious and ideological narratives and develop and convey alternatives to the narratives pedaled by personas associated with violent based religious extremism with the correct religious or ideological teaching.
7. Design & Clarify – Stakeholders should design and develop simple and advanced reference materials to clarify religious misconceptions such as those surrounding Jihad, which should be translated in different languages for ease of understanding among the various communities. The concept of Patriotism and democracy should also be clarified to avoid misconceptions.
8. Collaboration - Deliberate and concerted efforts to ensure collaboration between the government, security agencies and CSOs for effective and inclusive delivery and in furtherance of the policy framework. There should also be collaboration of Religious, Traditional, and Community leaders and CSOs with youth groups and with necessary government agencies such as the NOA and NDLEA with regards to the youth engaging in drugs and its abuse which can lead to youth engaging in violent extremism.
9. Effective Coordination – Overriding security needs supersedes all other framework issues hence effective coordination and monitoring need to be urgently considered and worked out with all Stakeholders and the ONSA even though the ONSA has no regional or state presence in respect of the PCVE agenda. There should also be effective coordination and monitoring needs of Civil Society Organizations.





10. Support – Leaders can help vulnerable persons stay away from Violent Extremism by employing supporting tools such as critical thinking, tolerance, and respect for diversity.
11. Recognition – CSOs, Religious, Community and Traditional Leaders should not only be recognized but supported in their role on PCVE implementation.
12. Peace Building – Religious, Traditional and Community Leaders should use messaging skills and interviewing to foster reconciliation.
13. Partnership – Religious, Traditional and Community leaders should partner with CSOs and engage the government for better dividends of democracy.
14. Address Structural Issues – Beyond ideological issues being identified as factors in violent extremism, effort needs to be made by the government, religious and community leaders to address structural issues such as availability of water, healthcare etc. These structural issues have laid the platform for terrorists to distribute food and money to households in the villages they invade while preaching their extremist ideologies.
15. The capacity of host communities of former insurgents should be strengthened such that ex-insurgents can become advocates for tolerance and peaceful coexistence and successful case examples of reintegration.
16. A recommendation to create a Ministry of Religious Affairs to handle religious matters and therefore create a stronger synergy.
17. A recommendation for a larger facility for former/rehabilitated insurgents to facilitate the reintegration process and a need to strengthen the capacity of host communities. A new community can be created for former insurgents where they can be equipped with the skills taught at Operation Safe Corridor (OpSC). As former violent extremist persons are integrated back into the community, more numbers of vulnerable persons in the community should be economically empowered.
18. Elite Enlightenment – Politicians and Stakeholders need to be enlightened on the necessity for programmes such as Operation Safe Corridor.
19. Governance – Good governance is critical to PCVE implementation and should be available at the grass-root level to address critical challenges that exacerbate violence.
20. A recommendation for effective community policing system and implementation of the KYN (Know your Neighbour) strategy is strongly encouraged.
21. A recommendation for the Localization of all efforts including enforceable laws to raise funds through corporate responsibilities as achieved in the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND).



## APPENDIX A

List of attendees at the Stakeholders Consultative Forum on PCVE Implementation in Nigeria

S/N	Name	Agencies/Organization	State
1	Admiral YEM Musa	ONSA	Abuja
2	Ms Mairo M Abbas	ONSA	Abuja
3	Amakor Justina	ONSA	Abuja
4	Iye Mangset	ONSA	Abuja
5	Colone UF Abubakar	ONSA	Abuja
6	Ozioko Dennis	ONSA	Abuja
7	Muhammed David Isah	ONSA	Abuja
8	Muhammed Auwal Aminu	ONSA	Abuja
9	Maria Effiwatt	AAN	Abuja
10	Funmi Oyefusi	AAN	Abuja
11	Margrete Akpan	AAN	Abuja
12	Kate Donatus	AAN	Abuja
13	Victory Idogho	AAN	Abuja
14	Bilikis Afolasi	AAN	Abuja
15	Aliyu Adamu	AAN	Abuja
16	David Habba	AAN	Abuja
17	Imaobong Edukere	AAN	Abuja
18	Ogezi Friday	AAN	Abuja
19	Monday Ekpa	AAN	Abuja
20	Hannatu Haje	AAN	Abuja
21	Momoh Amanah	AAN	Abuja
22	Jannie Zibiri	AAN	Abuja
23	Charles Petu	AAN	Abuja
24	Ebele Collins	AAN	Abuja
25	Anicetus Atakpu	AAN	Abuja
26	Chiedu Nwokolo	AAN	Abuja
27	Peace Eneja	AAN	Abuja
28	Samuel Ikani	AAN	Abuja
<b>FEDERAL MINISTRIES</b>			
29	Garba Lawal M.	Federal Ministry of Interior	Abuja
30	R.P Pheelangwa	Federal Ministry of Education	Abuja
31	Uyanna U.B	Federal Ministry of Education	Abuja
32	Ahmed Yushau	Federal Ministry of Defense	Abuja
33	Dinatu Wiyah	Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development.	Abuja
34	Essien Stella	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs	Abuja
35	Despa Kwardem	Federal Ministry Youths and Sports	Abuja
36	Chamberlain Okoro	Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning	Abuja
37	Adewumi Aloko	Federal Ministry of Justice	Abuja
38	Amb. Janet Olise	Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Abuja
39	Mattu Warami	Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Abuja
40	Gwary Adamu	Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory	Abuja



<b>OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS</b>			
41	Dr Garba Abari	National Orientation Agency (NOA)	Abuja
42	Princess Nana Yakubu	National Orientation Agency (NOA)	Abuja
43	Justin Uwanumowye	National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)	Abuja
44	Dr. Michael O. Mbata	National Directorate of Employment (NDE)	Abuja
<b>SECURITY AGENCIES</b>			
45	Edomwoyi Omondun	Nigerian Correctional Service	Abuja
46	Rose O. Oji	Nigerian Correctional Service	Abuja
47	Ekumbe Mfawah	Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps	Abuja
48	Dan Samuel O.	Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps	Abuja
49	SGT. Anciboji Elijah	Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps	Abuja
50	R.S Bello	Nigerian Air force	Abuja
51	LT.Cdr AOC Ehanmo	Nigerian Navy	Abuja
52	Magaji Usman	Nigeria Police Force	Abuja
53	Mike T. Kassa	National Drug Law Enforcement Agency	Abuja
54	FATI WAKIL	Department of State Security Services	Abuja
55	Brigadier General TY Maina	DHQ (OPSC)	Abuja
56	Tejumola Bello	DHQ (OPSC)	Abuja
<b>STATE MINISTRIES</b>			
57	Hon Zuwaira Gambo	Borno State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development	Borno
58	Hon Lami Ahmed G.	Adamawa Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development	Adamawa
<b>LGAs</b>			
59	Alh. Aminu M. Maifata	Chairman, Lafia LGA, Nasarawa State	Nasarawa
60	Hon Onoja James	Rep Chairman, Igalamela/Odolu LGA, Kogi state	Kogi
<b>TRADITIONAL LEADERS</b>			
61	HRH Alhaji Abdulrazaq Sani	The Ohimegye of Koton -Karfe	Kogi
62	Hajiya Zainab Ibrahim	Wokiliya of Igu, Koton - Karfe	Kogi
63	Barr. Husaini Yahaya Saidu	Secretary to Council of the Ohimegye	Kogi
64	Lawan Babagana Kiare	Rep of Emir of Damaturu	Damaturu
65	Muhammed Nasir	Emir of Damaturu Entourage	Damaturu
66	Babagana Lawan	Emir of Damaturu Entourage	Damaturu
<b>PAVE General Assembly and Other Selected CSOs</b>			
67	Lizzy Igbine	NIWANFA	FCT
68	Jaye Gaskia	Praxis Centre	FCT
69	Cliff Guy	Women Environmental Programme	FCT
70	Henry N. Ijomah	Lux Terra leadership Foundation	FCT
71	Okeke Robinson	Lux Terra leadership Foundation	FCT
72	Dr G. Shajobi Ibike	Faculty of Law, UniAbuja	FCT
73	Audu Liberty Oseni	MAWA Foundation	FCT
74	Gbenro Olajuyigbe	Emergency & Risk Alert Initiative	FCT
75	Ibekwe Rosemary	LP	FCT
76	Albarka Haruna	Community Advocates for Sustainable Development	Borno



77	Innocent Edemharia	Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ)	Benin, Edo State
78	Ahmed Bolori	Exit Lane Initiative	Borno
79	Ifedola Ikeji	PIBCID	Kogi
80	Ebruke Esike	Global Peace Development	Lafia, Nasarawa
81	Emmanuel Okolo	Beacon Youth Initiative	Lafia, Nasarawa
82	Iveren Jenny Igbudu	Gender Awareness Trust	Kaduna
83	Omokuwa Yamah	Rapporteur	FCT
84	Jamil Mustapha	Coalition for Security and Peace in Northern Nigeria	Kaduna
85	Mustapha Muhammad	Democracy Action Group	Kano
86	Achenyo Alfa	Rapporteur	FCT
87	Michael Sodipo	Peace Initiative Network	Kano
88	Farida Haruna Jaktu	Women and Child Initiative	Kano
89	Hamza Aliyu	Initiative for Grassroots Development	Kogi
90	Idris Miliki Abdul	Centre for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution	Kogi
91	Idris Ozovehe Maraina	Renaissance Care and Empowerment Foundation	Kogi
92	Austin Agbanyi	Alexandar Foundation for Children and Women	Plateau
93	Frank Orumgbe	Capacity Enhancement and Manpower Development Foundation	Asaba, Delta State
94	Maryam Aje	Waka Multi -Purpose Cooperative Society	Damaturu - Kano
95	Dauda Muhammad Gombe	North East Youth Initiative Forum	Damaturu - Kano
96	Abdullahi Dahiru Bula	Civil Society Network on Peace	Yobe
97	Nathaniel Awuapila	WANEP	Benue
98	Mairo V. Bello	Adolescent Health & Information Projects (AHIP)	Kano
99	Teresa Ojochogwu Usman	Activista Nigeria/Nurul Huda International Academy	Gombe
100	Henry Chinweuba	Calistus Foundation	Enugu
101	Nkem Temple	Initiative for Ideal Development and Emancipation Leadership in Nigeria	Abia
102	Nonso B.C Maduka	Bensther Development Foundation	Enugu
103	Patience Jacob	NBS	Lafia, Nasarawa
104	Esther Akaa	The Voice	Lafia, Nasarawa
105	Lilian Okonkwo Ogabu	NAWOJ Deputy President	RIVERS
106	Nnana Mercy	SWOFON	FCT
107	Comfort Sunday	SWOFON	FCT
108	Adelaine Olaide	NILOWV	FCT
109	Lois Auta -Innocent	Network of Disabled Women	FCT
110	Martha Obaje	Network of Disabled Women	FCT
111	Deborah Alegbemi	CWEENS	FCT
112	Faith Aigbe	FAITH AIGBE FOUNDATION	FCT
113	Aigbe S.M	FAITH AIGBE FOUNDATION	FCT
114	Sule Aigbe	FAITH AIGBE FOUNDATION	FCT
115	Samuel Aigbe Sule	FAITH AIGBE FOUNDATION	FCT
116	Ify Eneanya	Foundation for the Support of Indigent Communities (FoSIC)	FCT
117	Olanike Timipa -Uge	TEENAGE EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT NETWORK (TEENAGE Network)	FCT



118	Amb. Rosemary Chikwendu	MY TAKE INITIATIVE (MTI)	FCT
119	Prof Ahmed Dogarawa	Resource persons	Zaria
120	Stephania Jumai Salami	Progressive Community Support Forum	FCT
121	Dr Hassana Ibrahim Waziri	University of Maiduguri	Borno
122	Prof Mohammed Tabiu (SAN)	BUK, Kano	Kano
123	Rev Tizhe Joseph Kwaha	CAN Secretary, Borno State	Borno
124	Sheikh Saadu Ngamdu	JNI State Secretary, Borno	Borno
125	Khadija Adams Sadiq	Women in Da'awa	Yobe
126	Marie -Anne Abaagu	WEP	FCT
127	Damaris Uja	WEP	FCT
128	Marie Enegwea	League of Women Voters	FCT
129	Dau Houyalwa	BUK	Kano
<b>Media</b>			
130	Tarka'a David	Leadership News	Abuja
131	Adeola Tukur	Blueprint	Abuja
132	Chuks Oyema	Authority Newspaper	Abuja
133	Okodili Ndidi	Nation	Abuja
134	Umeh Kanayo	Guardian	Abuja
135	Emmanuel Onana	N/Telegraph	Abuja
136	Linus Aleke	N/Pilot	Abuja
137	Eromose Fortune	Vanguard	Abuja
138	Mathew Sylvester	Punch	Abuja
139	Kiceli M.	Sun	Abuja
140	Joke Falayu	Guardian	Abuja
141	Abbas Jimoh	Daily Trust	Abuja



## APPENDIX B

## AGENDA

TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR/PRESENTER
09:30am – 10:00am	Registration	AAN/ONSA
10:00am – 10:10am	National Anthem	NOA
10:10am – 10:20am	Welcome Address	<b>Ene Obi,</b> Country Director, AAN
10:20am – 10:30am	Open Remark	C CTC ONSA
10:30am – 10:45am	Goodwill Message	<b>Sarah Le Mesurier.</b> Country Manager, GCERF  <b>DG, NOA</b>  <b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</b>  <b>ED, Women Environmental Programme (WEP)</b>
10:45am – 11:00am	Group Photo	All
11:00am – 11:30am	Assessing the Role of Religious, Community and Traditional Leaders on PCVE Implementation in Nigeria: 2017 till Date	Prof Ahmed Dogarawa
11:30am – 12:00pm	Panel Discussion	<b>Panelist:</b> 1. Prof Ahmed Dogarawa 2. Prof Mohammed Tabiu (SAN) 3. CAN Chairman Borno 4. JNI State Secretary, Borno 5. Khadija Adams Sadiq 6. FIDA State Chairperson, Adamawa
12:00pm – 12:30pm	Assessing the Role of CSOs on PCVE Implementation in Nigeria: 2017 till Date	Dr Hassana Ibrahim Waziri
12:30pm – 1:00pm	Panel Discussion	<b>Panelist:</b> 1. Dr Hassana Ibrahim Waziri 2. Ene Obi, Country Director, AAN 3. DG, NOA 4. Jaiye Gaskiya 5. ED, WEP 6. H Strategic Communication ONSA
01:00pm – 01:10pm	Recommendations	1. Samuel Ikani, Manager, IASL, AAN 2. Rapporteur
01:10pm – 01:20pm	Closing Remark	H PCVE ONSA
01:20pm – 02:20pm	Lunch	All





## APPENDIX C

### SARVE II PROJECT BACKGROUND

**S**ystem and Structure Strengthening Approach against Radicalization to Violent Extremism (SARVE II) project is a three-year project funded by Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) to establish and consolidate existing structures and practices within the context of prevention and response framework in project communities, among youth and women groups to tackle violent extremism and foster peaceful co-existence. The project being implemented with Participation Initiative for Behavioural Change in Development (PIBCID) in Kogi State and Global Peace Development (GPD) and Beacon Youth Initiative (BYI) in Nasarawa State is supporting youths, women to engage actively with social and economic activities while also working with state and local government, ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), traditional rulers, religious leaders, security agencies to create linkages and opportunities for young men and women.

### OUTCOME

Decreased vulnerability of at -risk young men and women

Community Systems and structures to address Violent Extremism are strengthened

Improved enabling environment for Preventing Violent Extremism exists







WITH FUNDING FROM



# GCERF

Global Community Engagement  
and Resilience Fund



[www.nigeria.actionaid.org](http://www.nigeria.actionaid.org)  
[www.pibcid.org.ng](http://www.pibcid.org.ng)  
[www.globalpeacedev.org](http://www.globalpeacedev.org)  
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