

# PEACE BREEDERS

System and Structure Strengthening Approach Against Radicalisation to Violent Extremism (SARVE III PROJECT)

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**PEACE BREEDERS** is the official e-newsletter of the System and Structure Strengthening Approach Against Radicalisation to Violent (SARVE III) Project, funded by Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF)

SARVE III radio listening session in Tagarji community, Nasarawa LGA, Kano State



## WHAT IS NEW?

In the period under review, ActionAid Nigeria, through the SARVE III project, trained 22 media professionals in Kano and Kaduna State on Media Advocacy for Fiscal Responsibility and Good Governance to PVE. The training was in partnership with Global Peace Development (GPD) in Kaduna state and Dispute Resolution and Development initiative (Formerly Democratic Action Group) DRDI-DAG in Kano state.

Also, ActionAid Nigeria SARVE III project with funding from GCERF handed over vocational skills starter pack and equipment worth N100,000,000 to 600 youths and women in Kano and Kaduna States. Selected recipients from 12 communities across 6 LGAs in Kaduna State were trained in cattle rearing, tailoring, poultry, and piggery. While selected recipients from 12 communities across 6 LGAs in Kano State, were trained in tailoring, rice processing and groundnut oil processing.

## EDITORIAL TEAM

**Andrew Mamedu** – Country Director | **Funmi Olukeye** – Director, Organisational Effectiveness | Suwaiba **Muhammad Dankabo** – Deputy Country Director/Director of Programmes | **David Habba** – Humanitarian & Resilience Manager | **Oluwakemi Akinremi-Segun** – Communications Coordinator | **Aliyu Adamu** – SARVE III Project Coordinator | **Victory Idogho** – SARVE III Project Communications Officer.

### CONTRIBUTORS:

Victory Idogho | Abdulbaki Muhammad | Teresa Usman | Jamila Musa | Courage Galah Righteousness.

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AAN colleagues during the commemoration of the International Day for Preventing Violent Extremism

## #PVEDay

A Renewed Commitment to Preventing Violent Extremism

The SARVE III project commemorated the 2024 International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism with her partners in Kano and Kaduna State. The event raised awareness about the threat of violent extremism and strengthened the community's resolve to address the conditions that contribute to it. Recognising that violent extremism poses a

serious threat to peace and security, and it affects people of all ages, cultures, religions, and nationalities

ActionAid Nigeria calls for continued collaboration and renewed commitment to preventing violent extremism, fostering peace, and ensuring security for all.



AAN Staff during the commemoration of the International Day for Preventing Violent Extremism



SARVE III 2024 media participants during an interactive session.

# MEDIA ADVOCACY

*A Panacea for Fiscal Responsibility and Good Governance to PVE*

Through years of experience working in poor and vulnerable communities, ActionAid Nigeria recognizes starkly how violence stalls development efforts, with severe negative impacts on children, young people, women, and men. Leveraging its strong grassroots approach in community engagement and in-depth knowledge of the complexities of violence and its drivers, ActionAid Nigeria continuously supports and protects vulnerable communities. Hence, the project was specifically designed to radically address the key drivers of violent extremism in Kano and Kaduna states.

In light of this, ActionAid Nigeria, through the SARVE III project, directly engaged with the media in Kano and Kaduna states, recognising the strong linkages between good governance and peacebuilding, as well as the key roles played by the media in promoting good governance. This effort is part of the project's endeavour to equip relevant stakeholders with the necessary information and capacity to respond to, withstand, and overcome the impact of adverse violent extremism where and when it may occur.

It was in pursuance of this goal that the media training on Strengthening Media Advocacy for Fiscal Responsibility and Good Governance to PVE was conceptualised.

*"The 2024 SARVE III media training has opened my eyes to how the media can effectively track State and Federal Government budget actuals and allocations. I wish I had received this training before now."* - **Rymboxx, Correct FM**

Within the first, second, and third phases of the

SARVE project, ActionAid Nigeria trained a total of 172 mid and high-level media professionals in Kogi, Nasarawa, Kano, and Kaduna states. The trained media professionals are members of the JAVE (Journalists Against Violent Extremism) network supporting AAN in preventing and countering violent extremism.

ActionAid Nigeria facilitated the media training in partnership with Global Peace Development and Dispute Resolution and Development Initiative.



Group photograph of SARVE III 2024 media participants



Ibrahim Baba Yahaya, during an interview in Kofa Community, Kano State.

## A CHANGE OF DECISION

Through the SARVE III Community Radio Listening Session

*"I had initially refused to send my daughters to school because I believed it was a waste of time and resources. However, after listening to the importance of girl child education on the radio programme broadcasted on Freedom Radio, I gained a better understanding of the role of an educated woman in society. I personally registered all my three daughters in school."*

**Ibrahim Baba Yahaya, Kofa Community, Kanostate.**

The radio listening session has attained giant stride by increasing awareness/sensitisation to

grass root communities on preventing violence extremism and promoting peaceful coexistence. This has played a vital role in resolving inter and intra communal conflicts. The radio listening session has also fostered change of perspectives among community members.

The together for peace weekly radio programme is aired on two Radio Stations in Kano (Freedom Radio and Arewa Radio) and two stations in Kaduna states. (Alheri Radio and Correct FM)





Fatima Isah Hamza, facilitating a peace club session in Government Girls Arabic Secondary School, Tundun Murtala, Fagaryi Community.

# PEACE CLUB;

An Antidote for Violence Extremism

The establishment of peace clubs across 36 secondary schools in Kano State aimed to contribute to the psychosocial and emotional healing of students who have experienced exclusion and cultural impunity has fostered positive outcomes. It is on this glaring success that Kano state government has now adopted and replicated peace club across all the schools in the state.

*"My mother and father had a clash because of money requested by my mother. I spoke to my mother while playing her favorite Quranic recitation, explaining to her that my father misunderstood the purpose of the money. This calmed her down. When my father returned, I told him about my excellent grades in school that day which drew his attention and made him happy. I then explained the reason for the money requested by my mother. He apologised to my mother and gave her the money. He*

*embraced her and they were happy"* **Fatima Isah Hamza**, President of Peace Club, Government Girls Arabic Secondary School, Tundun Murtala, Fagaryi Community.

Fatima has not only influenced students in her school to embrace peace but has also stepped down knowledge acquired during peace club sessions in resolving conflict between her parents at home. The peace club is an established structure by System and Structure Strengthening Approach against Radicalization to Violent Extremism (SARVE III) project in Kano and Kaduna state.

*"I am happy because of the changes happening in my home and I asked my daughter for the reason, and she told me that they were taught in peace club to be ambassadors of peace in their school, homes and community"* **Fatima's mother**.



Silhouette of Rambo (pseudo name) during an interview in Gama community, Kano State.

# SANDS OF IMPACT

*From breaking the law to defending the law - The power of Radio Listening Session*

**R**ambo (pseudo name) was a young man deeply entrenched in the vices of drug abuse and alcoholism in Gama Community. He destroyed properties and terrorised his community, vandalising schools, offices, and anywhere he felt he could find money to buy intoxicating substances to satisfy his desires.

Rambo was a menace until he encountered the members of the Gama Community radio listening session. They convincingly invited him to attend the radio listening session to see if he would like it, while his impact was poised to strike. He attended the session on the day the topic centered on the impacts of drug abuse. Moved by the topic, he began attending other sessions, and his behavioural change became

evident.

After listening to the session on empowerment, he realised that to overcome these vices completely, he needed financial empowerment to meet his daily needs. Rambo decided to start selling charcoal to meet his daily needs.

Seeing his change and effort, he was employed as a security guard for Government LEA Secondary School Gama, where the Gama Radio Listening Session is held, to help watch over the school premises and water the flowers. Expressing enthusiasm, **Rambo said**, 'I'm grateful to Allah for the opportunity to live a different life. I'm grateful to ActionAid, GCERF, and the SARVE III project for coming to our community and changing lives.'



Rambo (pseudo name) carrying out his security job at Government LEA Secondary School, Gama, Kano State.





Junaidu Khalil, Vigilante representative and CART member, Getso Community during an interview.

## CART IN ACTION:

*A Pathway of Peace*

**G**etso Community has been ravaged by herders and farmers crisis for over 5 years. Every year, herders and farmers clashed over cattle destroying farmlands during grazing.

Following the introduction of the Community Action and Response Team (CART) in Getso Community by the SARVE III project, the team swung into action to address the issue.

Junaidu Khalil the Vigilante representative while speaking on the efforts made to resolve the herders/Farmers crisis, recounts how CART invited the community leaders and leaders of the Fulani Elders, religious leaders, security agencies and other corresponding members to

a discussion on ending the crisis. The general discussion came after they met with leaders of the herders and the farmers individually.

In his remark, Junaidu said the fallout of the meeting was that farmers should harvest their crops within an agreed timeframe concluded by both parties after which the herders are free to take their castle for grazing.

In his final words **Junaidu Khalil said** *“Thank God for ActionAid that brought about CART. Since the meeting with the herders and farmers, we had not had any clash and farmers whose crops are destroyed is most likely because they did not harvest within the agreed time.”*



Close up photograph of Gambo (pseudo name) showcasing his hand product.

## FROM A MENACE TO AN ENTREPRENEUR

*"I began sinking into the vice of drug abuse because of peer pressure. I saw my friends' taking drugs and I didn't want to be left out, I would go out to meet them where they usually stay and gradually, I began to take gradually until it became difficult to stop" said **Gambo (pseudo name)**.*

Gambo (pseudo name) a member of Gama Community was sinking in the vice before the intervention of CART. Gambo found himself perpetually in the midst of other young men who were abusing drugs and could not stop after a while.

Speaking of his transformation, He said the members of CART and religious leaders approached them and spoke to them through the leaders of their group.

After continuous sensitisation, Gambo gradually stopped taking drugs and constituting menace. He then proceeded to register in Kano State Polytechnic to further his education.

He currently sells caps and cattle. These he uses to support himself and his extended family.



Amina Abdillahi, a member of SARVE III Women Safe Space during an interview in Bichi Community, Kano State.

## SAFE AND EMPOWERED

*Through the Woman Safe Space*

*“Before being introduced to the woman safe space in my community, I had engaged in several failed businesses, and I really wanted to make a difference for myself but didn’t know how. I heard that I could acquire an entrepreneurial skill from the women safe space. So, I joined the women safe space to be empowered” - Amina Abdillahi, Bichi Community.*

Amina a member of Bichi community Women Safe Space recounts how she became a member. she joined the Woman Safe Space primarily to become empowered to help her family. She was invited to the group during the period Bichi Women Safe Space were teaching members how to process groundnut into oil and Kuli-kuli a local snack.

Amina participated in the training, learnt, and decided to put to practice the skill. She started

the business with three (3) modules of groundnut, and she has since grown the business within the last one year.

Amina Abdullahi makes an average off 5,000 weekly, and processes at least 40 modules of groundnut every two weeks.

She has empowered 10 women with the knowledge of groundnut processing, and she feels that every woman deserves a chance to acquire productive skills and contribute to the growth of the society. She also added that she has been able to support her family with the income from her business and ventured into buying and selling livestock.

She appreciates ActionAid Nigeria for introducing the women safe space to their community.



Participants at the SARVE III iftar interfaith dialogue in Kano State

# INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

*A Means of Harnessing Violence Extremism*

Extremist groups often exploit religious sentiments to promote their violent ideologies. ActionAid Nigeria SARVE III project in partnership with Dispute Resolution and Development initiative (Formerly Democratic Action Group) DRDI-DAG organised an interfaith dialogue and iftar to provide a counter narrative by emphasising the shared value of compassion, tolerance, and peace that are central to Islam and other faith/traditions.

The dialogue had in attendance religious leaders and scholars from various faith/traditions, members of religious communities

including churches, mosques and other places of worship, youth, CSO working on interfaith and peace building initiatives, and the Government.

Participants attested to the fact that through showcasing the universal principles of love and harmony, we can challenge the divisive rhetoric of extremists and promote a message of unity. Also, by breaking down barriers and dispelling misconceptions, we can cultivate a culture of inclusivity and solidarity that is essential for preventing the marginalisation and radicalisation of vulnerable communities.



Participants at the SARVE III iftar interfaith dialogue in Kano State

# PEACE AMBASSADORS SPOTLIGHT.

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*I established literacy class for women and girls where I teach them how to read and write in order to reduce their vulnerability*

**Fatima Idris Peace champion Gama Community**

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*As a result of my engagement during the radio listening session programme, I was able to rehabilitate a drug addicted youth, he stopped taking drugs and is now self-reliant and riding keke napep*

**Imran Muhammad Radio listening session facilitator Tagarji Community**

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“

*I use the knowledge and skills gained from SARVE III together for peace radio programme to sensitise my younger brother who dropped out from school and left the family house, presently he is now in school and started a business for self-reliance and as well back to the family house*

**Sumayya B Isma'il Peace champion Danzabuwa Community.**

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*I registered a young orphan in school who ran out of her guardian's house due to maltreatment. In the quest of reducing her vulnerability, I personally supported her education*

**Umar Nasir Kofa Secretary CART Kofa Community.**

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*I encouraged pregnant women in my community to go for antenatal, and I paid the medical bills of 3 women who could not afford to pay their antenatal and delivery fee*

**Hajara Umar Sale Women safe space facilitator Kofa community.**

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Beneficiaries of the SARVE III livelihood starter's pack in Kano State

# COUNTERING VIOLENCE EXTREMISM

*Through Livelihood and Skill Empowerment*

**W**ith Kano State's 27.36% unemployment rate and 32.06% underemployment rate and Kaduna state recording the second highest rate with 72.8% according to the Quarter 3 of 2023 report of Nigeria Bureau of Statistics (NBS), youths of these states stand the risk of being vulnerable. Given this, ActionAid Nigeria took steps in reducing the vulnerability of these youths, through the provision of vocational skills training to boost their income generation, making them entrepreneurs and a panacea in the prevention of violent extremism in Kano and Kaduna State.

Vocational skills starter pack and equipment worth **N100,000,000** was given to **600 youths and women in Kano and Kaduna State**. Beneficiaries were trained in cattle rearing, tailoring, poultry, and piggery from 12 communities in 6 local government areas of Kaduna State. While in Kano, beneficiaries were trained across 3 vocational skills namely: tailoring, rice processing, Groundnut Oil processing from 12 communities in 6 local government areas which are Gwale, Nasarawa, Bichi, Gwarzo, Bebeji, and Tudun Wada.



# PHOTO REEL



Group photograph of participants at the SARVE III Theory of Change (ToC) training in Abuja.



Award of Excellence presented to Suwaiba Mohammad Dankabo, Deputy Country Director, ActionAid Nigeria as a peace ambassador in Kano State during the 2024 International Women's Day.



Group photograph of participants at the launch of SARVE III livelihood skill/ starter's pack in Kano and Kaduna State



Participants at the SARVE III one day facilitators interactive session in Kaduna State

# SARVE III

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Following successes recorded in the first (SARVE I) and second (SARVE II) phases of the project in Kogi and Nasarawa states respectively as well as current trends in the Northwest region of the country, ActionAid Nigeria has received more funding from the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) to continue the implementation of the third (3rd) phase of the SARVE project in partnership with Democratic Action Group (DAG) in Kano and Global Peace Development (GPD) in Kaduna states.



The project is a 36-month project aimed at strengthening community resilience against violent extremism across



24 communities in 12 LGAs in Kano and Kaduna States.



The project will reach **36,000** direct beneficiaries: **18,200** youths (12,600 male and 5,600 female), **4,160** women; **7,320** men and **6,320** in-school children (3,160 male and 3,160 female)



**129,360** indirect beneficiaries (40,200 female and 89,160 male)



System and Structure Strengthening Approach  
against Radicalisation to Violent Extremism Project,  
SARVE I and II are proudly funded by



# GCERF

Global Community Engagement  
and Resilience Fund

# actionaid



### Abuja

ActionAid Nigeria  
Plot 477, 41 Crescent,  
off Sa'adu Zungur Avenue  
Gwarimpa, Abuja.



### Lagos

1A, Adeboye Solanke Street  
Off Allen Avenue (behind  
Zenith Bank)  
Ikeja, Lagos.  
Tel: +2348126644268



Borno Office  
Old G.R.A. Beside  
Lodge 7, Maiduguri.



nigeria.actionaid.org



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