

»» BRIDGING FAITHS, BUILDING PEACE

»» JISRA's Transformative Impact Across Plateau and Kaduna Communities



This program combats damaging norms in religious communities, fosters interfaith collaboration, and highlights how diverse religious traditions can unite around a shared vision for a more just and equitable society.



About JISRA

JISRA in Nigeria is a consortium of three international NGOs (Tearfund, Search for Common Ground, and Mensen met een Missie) and six local implementing partners which Search works directly with, Dialogue, Reconciliation and Peace (DREP) and Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN) The JISRA program aims to address and transform Nigeria's intra-, inter-, and extra-religious dynamics to promote Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB).

The activities under the three pathways are interrelated and designed to connect with each other to significantly reduce FoRBs and FoRBs-related conflicts in target locations and foster peaceful co-existence in the Local Government Areas situated in Kaduna and Plateau states.

The program leverages the role of a variety of actors, including religious leaders, young women, and men from different religious and ethnic backgrounds and civil society, to identify, reflect, and build upon specific entry points for interreligious, and extra-religious engagement and promote an inclusive, tolerant, and flourishing society.

Since the start of the project, Search in collaboration with local partners has implemented various activities including training in humanity and respect, forgiveness, impartiality, good neighborliness. Other activities included dialogue forums and networks, advocacy visits and media programs. These engagements with the target population have increased the capacity to intervene in conflict. One of the JISRA participants averted conflict in Kajuru local government because of the knowledge acquired from the training.



BRIDGING FAITH. BUILDING PEACE.



SUCCESS
STORIES





BUILT
FRIENDSHIP

**Across
religious divide**



JISRA **ACTIVITY UPDATE**

Step down training on Common Ground Approach held in Barnawa, Kaduna State brought in Christian and Muslim religious leaders from different communities.



QUOTES

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Before JISRA came to my community, I used to feel uneasy around people of a different faith.

But now, if you ask me to name my friends, the first five I'd mention are Muslims, all because I met them during JISRA's engagements.

Joy Apeh



From Conflict to Accord: Musa Bitrus's Journey of Transformative Conflict Resolution

Musa Bitrus is the district head of Idon Hanya community of Kajuru Local Government Area of Kaduna state. He is also one of the stakeholders on the Joint Initiative for Strategic Religious Action (JISRA) project. Prior to his participation in this project, the distinct head whose responsibility included handling conflict issues in his community did not deploy the win-win approach to conflict resolution.

However, his participation in the JISRA training of relevant stakeholders to champion ForBs at state and local levels and subsequent intra-dialogues organized by the communities increased his knowledge on non-adversarial approaches to conflict resolution. As a result, He was able to resolve a farmland dispute between a farmer and a herder after the issue was withdrawn from the court. According to the District head,

"When the case was withdrawn from the court and brought to my attention, I took the conflicting parties to the farmland and demanded to know the owners of other farmlands sharing boundaries with the said farmland. In that meeting, I discovered the real owner of the land and understood that the land was leased by the owner to the parents of the complainant for use. After this discovery, the complainant pleaded with the owner to allow him continue using the piece of land. To avoid future re-occurrence of such conflict, an agreement was signed by both parties. A copy of the signed agreement was taken to court and another was kept in my office as the district head."

District head of Idon Hanya community, Kajuru LGA of Kaduna State.



A Beacon of Unity in Doruwa Babuje

Meet Paulina Dachollom, an exceptional woman leader who wears multiple hats with grace and resilience. Not only is she the esteemed woman leader of Doruwa Babuje, but she also stands as a steadfast religious actor championing the cause of peace and security within her community. Her unwavering dedication has led to remarkable collaborations that transcend religious boundaries, paving the way for a harmonious and secure environment.

Paulina Dachollom's contributions extend far beyond her title. She has been at the forefront of activities that promote peace and security, catalyzing positive change in her community. Her reports highlight the power of collaboration among stakeholders from diverse religious backgrounds, united by a common goal of addressing issues related to insecurity and early warning responses.

The challenges that surfaced after the implementation of JISRA initiatives in Plateau State underscored the critical need for cohesive action. An attack on Mangu Local Government Area (LGA) heightened tensions and took on a religious dimension, casting a shadow of uncertainty over the neighboring Doruwa Babuje community in Barkin Ladi LGA. In such times of crisis, the ripple effect can often be devastating, with lives and properties hanging in the balance.

In the past, Doruwa Babuje had grappled with the consequences of communal violence. Instances of violence could quickly escalate, leading to loss and suffering. The influx of outsiders seeking refuge often added fuel to the fire, exacerbating the situation. However, a transformative shift was ignited by the collaborative efforts of Christian and Muslim stakeholders within the JISRA project. United by a shared commitment to peaceful coexistence, these stakeholders embarked on a journey of learning and growth. Through comprehensive training sessions conducted by DREP/FOMWAN and DIWA, interreligious leaders were equipped with vital skills in dialogue, conflict management, mediation, advocacy, and the interpretation of religious texts to counter harmful narratives.



Empowered by new found knowledge and a collective change in behavior, the stakeholders forged a bond of trust between Muslims and Christians. This unity laid the foundation for open dialogue within their community, enabling them to preemptively address potential conflicts and take necessary measures to prevent violence. Clear lines of communication, prevention of rumors, and stringent measures against the influx of outsiders were all part of their strategic toolkit.

The results of their collaborative efforts have been nothing short of remarkable. Through their proactive measures and collective commitment, a potentially devastating interreligious conflict was averted. Lives were spared, properties were safeguarded, and social cohesion blossomed across religious lines.

Paulina Dachollom's leadership played a pivotal role in orchestrating this transformation. Her dedication to fostering unity and resilience within her community is a shining example of how individuals can be catalysts for change. As the woman leader of Doruwa Babuje, her impact echoes far beyond her immediate sphere, inspiring others to embrace the values of dialogue, empathy, and collaboration.

Paulina Dachollom's journey stands as a testament to the potential of humanity to overcome challenges, transcend differences, and build bridges that lead to a brighter, harmonious future.

The Power of Equipping Local Leaders with the Skills to Intervene When Mistrust Runs Deep

In Kasuwa Magani, a tense dispute threatened to spiral into another round of intercommunal violence IN Kaduna State. But swift action by a trained peacebuilder kept the situation from exploding.

In July, in Kallah Ward of Kajuru Local Government Area, allegations were making rounds that members of the Adara community had poisoned grazing land, killing several cows belonging to Fulani herders. News of the incident spread quickly, and anger mounted among the Fulani community. Some Fulani community members were ready to retaliate.

The stakes were high. Kasuwa Magani and its surrounding areas have a long history of religious and ethnic tensions. A single spark can ignite a widespread crisis.

Aliyu Abubakar a 35-year-old Muslim, local government worker, and member of the chiefdom council recognized the danger. Drawing on skills from the JISRA project's peacebuilding training, he acted immediately. Aliyu brought the matter to the Sarki (traditional leader), who swiftly referred the case to the police for proper investigation.

By insisting on a formal process, Aliyu Abubakar helped prevent the conflict from escalating into violence. At the same time, he facilitated dialogue between both communities, engaging local leaders, security agencies, and civil society organizations.

The case is still under investigation, but tensions have eased. Fulani and Adara representatives continue to meet, and discussions remain calm.

Aliyu credits his ability to respond quickly and neutrally to the tools he learned through JISRA. "Without that training," he said, "things could have gotten out of hand very fast."

This is the power of equipping local leaders with the skills to intervene. In places where mistrust runs deep, their actions can mean the difference between another crisis and a chance for peace.



QUOTES



I saw people of the Christian faith as enemies and never listened to their opinions. But now, I give them the space to share their views.

The JISRA project has helped me understand the Christian religion and that everyone has the right to practice any faith they choose. I now have Christian friends who even visit me at home.

Rehinat Ismail



How JISRA Ended Religious Divide in Doruwa Babuje

In Doruwa Babuje, Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State, religious differences once divided neighbors.

Today, Muslims and Christians share meals, celebrations, and mutual respect and one woman is helping lead that change.

Fatima Abdullahi Sani is a Muslim woman leader from Barkin LGA, appointed by the District Head to represent women in the palace council.

Before JISRA's arrival, she recalls a community deeply fractured along religious lines. "It didn't matter if you were related or spoke the same language," Fatima said. "If you had a different religion, there were places you could not go. We didn't trust each other, and we didn't live in peace."

Religious crises were frequent. Social interactions were limited. Stereotypes and name-calling were common.

But when JISRA began activities in Doruwa Babuje, things started to shift. Community dialogues, joint events, and inclusive decision-making created new spaces for connection. Men began involving women in community matters, and Fatima was chosen to speak for women's interests at the palace.

Today, the change is visible. "If you ask a child in Doruwa about JISRA, they will tell you they know it," Fatima said with a smile. Muslims and Christians now visit one another during religious celebrations sharing food at Christmas, Sallah, and even Iftar during Ramadan.

It has been more than a year since the last religious crisis in Doruwa Babuje. Respect has replaced suspicion, and relationships are built on shared humanity rather than religious labels.

"JISRA has brought us together," Fatima said. "We now see each other as humans first."



Fatima Abdullahi Sani

"If you had a different religion, there were places you could not go. We didn't trust each other, and we didn't live in peace."

When Anger Rose, Aminu Chose Peace

In Kasuwa Magani, a street dispute between young women nearly reignited religious tensions but swift action from a JISRA-trained peacebuilder turned the situation around.

In late 2023, Helen, an 18-year-old Christian girl, was walking with a friend when a group of Muslim girls mocked them for having low-cut hair. Words quickly escalated into a fight, and Helen was badly beaten.

Aminu Aliyu, a 25-year-old Muslim and active JISRA participant, heard what happened and rushed to help. Drawing on the conflict sensitivity and Common Ground Approach skills he had learned through JISRA training, Aminu took immediate steps to calm the situation. He escorted Helen to the hospital, covered the cost of her treatment, and, after her discharge, bought her a new dress. He personally returned to her home and apologized to her parents.

The danger wasn't over. Some Christian youths, angry about the attack, threatened to take revenge. Determined to stop the cycle before it began, Aminu reached out to other JISRA-trained peacebuilders Rev. Danlami Gajere of DREP Center, Malam Akilu of DIWA, Malama Hauwa Saidu, and Lanti Abubakar of FOMWAN. Together, they met with both sides, urging restraint and emphasizing the importance of living in peace.

The community leader, Mai Unguwa, also stepped in, ordering disciplinary action against the Muslim girls involved in the fight. By combining immediate compassion with strategic mediation, Aminu and his fellow peacebuilders prevented a street fight from spiraling into a larger religious crisis.

"This is what JISRA has taught us," Aminu said. "We don't wait for violence to grow, we act quickly to bring peace."



Aminu Aliyu

**"We don't wait for violence to grow,
we act quickly to bring peace."**



Turning Skills into Action: Advocacy That Strengthened Peace in Kajuru

In Kajuru Local Government Area, two women turned training into action, bringing key community leaders on board with JISRA's mission. Hauwa from Idon Hanya and Lanti from Kasuwa Magani are both Muslims, both married, and both active in improving their communities.

After participating in a JISRA refresher training, they were eager to apply their new skills in advocacy and lobbying.

Their plan was strategic: reach out to influential stakeholders whose support could help strengthen peacebuilding efforts.

They began by sending letters requesting meetings with the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) of the council, the District Head of Kasuwa Magani, Alhaji Ibrahim Abdullahi, and the Local Government Council.

The response was positive, every leader agreed to meet.

When the visits began, Hauwa and Lanti used the techniques they'd learned through JISRA. They spoke with confidence, presented the purpose of the project clearly, and listened attentively to the leaders' concerns.

The results were encouraging. Each office welcomed them warmly, expressed appreciation for JISRA's work, and pledged full support for its activities in the area.

By taking the initiative, Hauwa and Lanti proved that women can play a pivotal role in bridging communities and leadership.

Their success shows that with the right tools, grassroots advocates can open doors, gain allies, and build stronger foundations for peace.

Search Inspires Interfaith Sisterhood and Action in Kaduna South

In Kakuri Gwari/Kakuri Hausa, a diverse neighborhood in Kaduna South LGA often marred by religious tension, two young women have become unlikely ambassadors of peace bridging faiths to build something beautiful.

Joy Apeh, a spirited Christian youth, and Mallama Raihana, a devoted Muslim, met for the first time during a JISRA-supported interreligious training on Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB). What started as a simple greeting soon blossomed into a powerful sisterhood rooted in shared values of dialogue, dignity, and justice.

The Kakuri community has long faced

Together, they co-founded the women's wing of the newly recognized Kakuri Peace and Social Development Initiative (KAPSOD), an interfaith platform now acknowledged by the Kaduna State Government. Their work didn't stop at dialogue.

In March 2025, when a case of gender-based violence (GBV) was reported in their community, Joy and Raihana sprang into action. Leveraging their training and support networks, they referred the survivor to FIDA (International Federation of Women Lawyers), and continue to follow up on the case to ensure justice is served.

interfaith tensions, particularly between young women who often lacked safe spaces for collaboration. But through continuous engagement in religious literacy, Early Warning Early Response (EWER), and dialogue sessions facilitated by the JISRA project, Joy and Raihana discovered a shared mission to unite women across religious divides.



JISRA'S IMPACT

"Our faiths taught us compassion, but JISRA taught us how to act on it together," says Raihana.

Joy adds, smiling, "We're not just friends we're sisters in the struggle for peace."

Today, their story stands as a symbol of hope and possibility that when young women of faith rise together, peace takes root, justice is served, and entire communities begin to heal.

**peace is
possible when
we walk
together.**



Muslim and Christian Neighbors Share an Easter Feast and a Message of Peace

On Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025, the Dorowa Babuje community in Plateau State witnessed a moment of unity that many will never forget. Christians and Muslims sat side by side under the warm sun at St. Michael Primary School not to debate, not to disagree, but to celebrate Easter together. It was the first time such a thing had happened in the community. Thanks to the ongoing interfaith work supported by the JISRA project and led by DREP, what could have been just another holiday became a symbol of peace, shared values, and growing trust between different faiths.

One of the participants, Fatima Sani, a Muslim woman who has been active in the JISRA project, said the celebration opened her heart. "The Easter Feast offered us the opportunity to learn from each other's traditions and appreciate our religious differences," she said. "By doing so, we realized we share more in common than we often recognize."

The day was filled with joy; there were prayers, songs, and reflections from both faiths. Children played, women shared food, and elders offered blessings.

People spoke openly about forgiveness, kindness, and the importance of building a peaceful community together.

For many in the crowd, it felt like the beginning of something new. A Christian youth leader said, "This gathering has shown us that peace is possible when we focus on love, not fear."

Religious leaders from both communities praised the JISRA project for making this moment possible. They encouraged everyone present to keep the spirit of Easter of hope, healing, and harmony alive long after the feast ended.

This celebration was more than a meal. It was a turning point. It proved that when people of different faiths come together with open minds and hearts, they don't just share food; they share the future.



“ The Easter Feast offered us the opportunity to learn from each other’s traditions and appreciate our religious differences. ”

Breaking Fast, Building Peace: How One IFTAR Brought Two Communities Together

On March 23, 2025, something remarkable happened in Plateau State. In the towns of Dorowa Babuje and Daffo, over seventy people—Muslims and Christians alike—came together to share one table, one meal, and one message: peace. For the first time ever in Barkin Ladi and Bokkos LGAs, an interfaith Ramadan Iftar was organized through the JISRA project by FOMWAN. The event brought together youth, elders, women, and religious leaders. It wasn't just about food; it was about building trust, understanding, and unity in a place where religious divides had often caused tension. As the sun set and prayers were shared, participants began to open up to one another. People who once saw each other through the lens of suspicion now sat side by side, passing plates and exchanging smiles.

A Muslim elder said, "This is the first time I've broken fast with my Christian brothers and sisters. It feels like a new beginning."

A Christian woman added, "I never knew how similar our values were until today. We all believe in love, charity, and forgiveness."



The power of the moment wasn't lost on the crowd. The event had created something more than a shared meal; it had created a safe space. Here, people could ask questions, share stories, and break down the walls of stereotype and silence.

"The host communities described the Iftar as a transformational moment," said one of the organizers. "It was not just symbolic; it was deeply emotional and impactful."

What stood out even more was the commitment that followed. Religious leaders pledged to continue working together. Young people and women said they wanted to organize similar events in nearby communities.

The Iftar was proof that peace doesn't always begin with big speeches or grand gestures. Sometimes, it begins with a shared meal and open hearts. Through this event, JISRA helped both Christians and Muslims see each other not as strangers or rivals, but as neighbors with a shared future.

"I never knew how similar our values were until today. We all believe in love, charity, and forgiveness."

Building Bridges in times of conflicts

Aminu Aliyu, a 23 years old from Anguwan Abu- Doka in Kasuwan Magani of Kajuru Local Government Area of Kaduna state, narrated a story of some Muslim boys who beat a Christian girl up on the 20th of February 2023.

The incident happened on 20th February 2023 in Anguwan Kanawa, where a young Christian girl of about 14 years who was passing through Anguwan kanawa community was mocked

by some mischievous Muslim boys because she was on low cut. The young lady was angry and then retaliated, saying to the boys "your fathers also shave their hair". This made the boys so angry that they beat her to pulp claiming that she insulted their parents.

The girl's sister who was with her at the time of the incident ran home quickly and told their family what happened. This prompted some members of Anguwan kanawa community and some adult Christians to rush to the scene armed with weapons and saying, "this is going to be war". Some Muslim boys also came and said they were also ready for the Christians.

Aminu's intervention came into play based on the experiences he had from JISRA training. He said *"Because of the capacity building training on Freedom of Religion and how to foster peaceful coexistence, I quickly ran out to Sarki's house and called the Imam and Pastor's attention who are also part of JISRA Project as religious leaders, they immediately called the police to tackle the problem."*



The victim, the young Christian girl, who was rushed immediately to the hospital has fully recovered. A meeting was held at the Sarki's house after her recovery. Both the girl, the boys, their parents, Aminu and other JISRA participants from Kasuwa Magani had a dialogue according to the learnings of JISRA training. The girl and her family forgave the boys after they apologized.



From Crime to Change: How Ismail Turned a Violent Attack Into a Lesson for Youth

In Badarawa Kwaru, Kaduna State, a violent attack could have ended in fear and mistrust, but quick action from a JISRA-trained peacebuilder turned it into an opportunity for youth education.

In early July, a close friend of Ismail Gunda, a 30-year-old teacher and active JISRA participant, was assaulted in an attempted murder and robbery. The attackers stole phones and money before fleeing.

When Ismail heard the news, he acted immediately. He reported the case to the Joint Task Force (JTF) at their Badarawa Kwaru office, who quickly apprehended the suspects. They were later released on bail but made to sign an undertaking: if any future trouble occurred in the community, they would be summoned, investigated, and held accountable.

For Ismail, this incident underscored the importance of proactive community action. Known in the area for his involvement with JISRA, he decided to address the root causes of youth violence. Together with other JISRA participants -the Badarawa Team he organized a sensitization lecture for young people in the community.

During the session, Ismail spoke about the dangers of drug abuse and the consequences of immoral behavior. Other JISRA stakeholders contributed as well: Uwar Matasan Badarawa Mallama Raihanat discussed proper child upbringing and moral conduct; Sadiya Dahiru spoke on building respectful relationships with non-Muslims; and Maryam Idris emphasized avoiding bad friends and resisting peer pressure.

By responding quickly to crime and turning the incident into a learning opportunity, Ismail and his team not only resolved a crisis, they planted seeds for lasting change in their community.



“I Chose Peace Over Anger”

How Ladi Prevented a Crisis in Her Community

In the quiet farming community of Kwatas in Bokkos LGA, Plateau State, violent clashes between farmers and herders are sadly common. Yet, in the middle of this tension, one woman made a powerful choice that helped keep her community calm.

Ladi Garba is a 38-year-old mother of four. She is not just a farmer, she is also a respected women's leader in her community. Like many others in Kwatas, she depends on her farm to feed her children and earn a living. In October 2024, Ladi planted vegetables on her farm, hoping to harvest them by the end of the year. But one morning, as she walked to her farm, she froze in shock. Cattle had wandered into her land and destroyed her crops.

“I felt heartbroken,” Ladi recalled. “Those vegetables were all I had. I didn't know what to do at first.”

In a place where such issues often lead to violence, Ladi remembered the peaceful conflict resolution training she received through the JISRA project.

“I took a deep breath and said to myself, ‘This is the time to put what I learned into practice,’” she said.

Instead of reacting with anger, she went to the nearby army checkpoint and reported the case. The soldiers responded quickly.

They found the young herder boy just 13 years old, lying weak under a tree. He was sick with malaria and could not control the cattle. The army helped trace the real owner of the animals.

Thanks to Ladi's calm decision, what could have led to a crisis was peacefully resolved. The cattle owner apologized and gave Ladi a small token in compensation.

“I didn't get all my crops back, but I got something more important, which is peace,” Ladi said with a smile.

Ladi's story shows how the JISRA project is changing lives by teaching people—especially women—how to handle conflict peacefully.

“Now I know that anger doesn't solve problems,” Ladi shared. “We can choose peace, even when we are hurt.”

“I didn't get all my crops back, but I got something more important, which is peace,” Ladi said with a smile.



→ **Ladi Garba**

“I took a deep breath and said to myself, ‘This is the time to put what I learned into practice,’”

Youths in Daffo Take the Lead in Keeping Their Community Safe



On February 22, 2025, the palace hall in Daffo community, Bokkos LGA, was filled with energy and purpose. Young people and elders gathered for a special session on Early Warning Early Response (EWER), a peacebuilding step-down training made possible by the JISRA project. The session was more than just a training, it was a turning point. It brought together JISRA partners and officials from the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) to talk about two things that matter deeply: peace and the danger of drug abuse. “You can’t build peace when minds are clouded by drugs,” one NDLEA official told the crowd. “Addiction doesn’t just destroy lives. It weakens our communities and opens the door to violence.”

The message hit home. Many young people listened closely as the facilitators explained how drug users are often used to create trouble. They shared real-life examples of how drug abuse fuels insecurity and makes it easier for bad actors to cause conflict.

One participant stood up and said, “I used to think drug use was just a personal choice. But now I see how it can tear a whole community apart.”

The session wasn’t just about warnings. It also gave the youth tools and knowledge to act. They learned how to spot early signs of conflict and how to report these signs before things got worse. The conversation also touched on the power of interfaith cooperation and personal responsibility in keeping the peace.

By the end of the day, many of the youth made personal pledges.

“I will speak to my friends about staying drug-free,” said a young boy from the community. “We want Daffo to be a place of peace, not pain.”

Thanks to the JISRA project and the support from NDLEA, a new wave of youth leaders is emerging in Daffo—young people ready to protect their future by promoting peace and staying alert to threats before they grow.

This event showed that when you empower youth with the right knowledge, they don’t just learn they lead.

Alhaji Laminga Umar, a resilient individual in his late 50s, stands tall and commanding with his dark complexion. Balancing his roles as both a dedicated teacher and a diligent farmer, he is a beacon of inspiration in his community. With a loving wife and five cherished children by his side, Alhaji Laminga also serves as a respected religious leader in the close-knit Daffo Community of Bokkos LGA.

Alhaji Laminga Umaru became an integral part of the JISRA project, standing as a primary beneficiary and active participant. His affiliation with FOMWAN (Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria) within the Daffo community further solidified his influential role.

The JISRA initiative equipped Alhaji Laminga with the tools to amplify his impact. As a peace ambassador, he effortlessly navigates the religious landscape, bridging gaps and cultivating a culture of tolerance. Alhaji Laminga's journey has been dedicated to transforming individuals into proponents of peaceful coexistence, regardless of their faith.

The core objective of the JISRA project was to harness the potential of diverse stakeholders, including religious leaders from various backgrounds and civil society members. Through training and dialogue, this initiative sought to build bridges between different faiths and promote inclusivity, tolerance, and enduring peace. March 15th, 2023, marked a pivotal moment in Alhaji Laminga's journey. Attending a significant coronation ceremony in Mushere town, Bokkos LGA, he used his platform to champion his cause.

Alhaji Laminga, a dedicated JISRA training participant, proudly represented FOMWAN during the coronation. His message to the community resonated deeply. In his speech he said "Peace be unto everyone, we thank God Almighty for attending this coronation of Ardo at Mushere town. I came here with two caps: *firstly, to witness this coronation and secondly, on the issue of peaceful coexistence. I attended JISRA training which was anchored by FOMWAN, and as a representative of FOMWAN,*

Farmer Inspires Peaceful Coexistence in his Community



I want to tell the Ardo that any community that lacking peaceful coexistence, can achieve nothing. As a leader you are responsible to unite your people irrespective of their religion. Also on the part of arrogant youths, I want to urge the Mushere indigenes and the Fulani indigenes to come together as one in order to achieve peace in the community".

The transformative impact of the JISRA project was evident in Alhaji Laminga's journey.

Empowered by the project's comprehensive training and resource materials, he galvanized fellow community members to join him in pursuing the project's overarching goals. With their eyes fixed on a future marked by enduring peace and harmonious coexistence, Alhaji Laminga and his dedicated comrades commit themselves to a journey of continued engagement and empowerment in their community.

Through Alhaji Laminga Umaru's remarkable efforts, the seeds of change have been sown, flourishing into a garden of unity and hope within the Daffo community. His legacy of unwavering dedication to peace continues to inspire and uplift, creating a ripple effect that extends far beyond the borders of Bokkos LGA.

A Beacon of Peace And Unity in Kwatas Community

Meet Abdullahi Sahihu a 35 years old miner, married with two wives and seven children, residing in Kwatas community in Bokkos LGA of Plateau State. One of the participants who benefited from the JISRA training. Abdullahi was a victim of the crisis that erupted in April 2023. His house and other valuable properties were burnt, and many community members fled and relocated. Abdullahi said, If the crisis were before receiving JISRA training, he would have sought revenge. The JISRA project which is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands seeks to address and transform Nigeria's intra, inter-religious dynamics to promote Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB) and Increase trust, interaction, collaboration, and mutual support between people with different beliefs and different religious communities.

While sharing his experience he said, he used himself as an example and preached the message of peace and forgiveness, drawing from the teachings and learnings he acquired from the JISRA project. "I shared these valuable lessons with my fellow community members, and the result was remarkable". The impact of his commitment to peaceful coexistence has strengthened the cordial harmony between Christian boys and Fulani boys in the neighboring Manja community. Which is the primary goal of the JISRA project "Promoting Freedom of religion or beliefs 9FoRBs)' at the community level. This newfound unity along religious divide was especially evident during mining activities. The youth, regardless of their religious or ethnic backgrounds, mined together without fear of attack from one another.

This mining activity not only promotes unity but also serves as a source of livelihood for women who come to sell food items to the miners at the site.

"I have taken the time to go out to encourage all community members to embrace peace, and the results speak for themselves".



The security personnel commended the youth for their exceptional coordination in maintaining a peaceful environment.

Abdullahi Sahihu's transformation and the positive changes in Kwatas community are a testament to the enduring power of peace and reconciliation and promoting freedom of religion or beliefs, made possible through the JISRA program, implemented by Search for Common Ground in collaboration with its Local partners, DREP and FOMWAN. This has proven that through understanding, forgiveness, and collaboration, we can build a more peaceful future for communities where we work.

The Journey of Mohammed Mohammed, Gindin Akwati Community

The story of the reconstruction of the dilapidated bridge at Gindin Akwati is not just about rebuilding infrastructure; it's a testament to the power of community Peace, Unity and collaboration and the impact it can have on the lives of our children and entire community. It all began with a simple observation: our school children were enduring hardship every day as they traversed the broken bridge, often getting soaked before they even reached the school gates. This daily struggle weighed heavily on our hearts as parents and concerned community members. Determined to make a change,

I took the initiative to rally support for the reconstruction of the bridge. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, three influential partners in our community FOMWAN (The Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria), DIWA and DREP came together as a cohesive force under the umbrella of JISRA. This collaboration was not just about fixing a bridge; it was about fostering social cohesion and unity among our people, a fundamental aspect of the JISRA project.

Zainab Yusuf, a dynamic leader from FOMWAN, played a pivotal role in mobilizing and coordinating the youth for the labour needed for the reconstruction efforts. Her ability to inspire and stimulate the younger generation was instrumental in ensuring the success of the project.

But our success story doesn't end there. Through tireless teamwork and unwavering dedication, we transformed a decaying structure into a sturdy bridge that now serves not only our school children but the entire community and neighbouring areas.

The impact of this project extends far beyond mere accessibility. It has instilled a sense of pride and ownership within our community, fostering a spirit of cooperation and solidarity that will endure for generations to come. Children no longer dread the journey to school; instead, they walk with confidence, knowing that their community stands united in support of their education and well-being.

Moreover, the reconstructed bridge has opened up new opportunities for economic growth and social interaction between different faith believers, facilitating easier access to markets, healthcare facilities, and educational resources. It has become a symbol of peace & Unity, progress and resilience, demonstrating what can be achieved when communities come together with a shared vision and determination (as trained by JISRA partners). As I reflect on this journey, "I am filled with gratitude for the tireless efforts of everyone involved and a renewed sense of hope for the future of our community". The reconstruction of the bridge at Gindin Akwati is not just a success story; it is a testament to the transformative power of unity, compassion, and collective action. This story is contributing to the Pathway 2 (Inter-pathway).

"I am filled with gratitude for the tireless efforts of everyone involved and a renewed sense of hope for the future of our community".



One Woman Bringing together Christians and muslims to build peace in her community

Mrs. Juliana Haruna is a shining example of leadership and compassion within the community of UNGWAN Maisamari.

As a devoted wife and mother of two, she embodies the values of nurturing and care both at home and in her wider community involvement. idated bridge at Gindin Akwati is not just about rebuilding infrastructure; it's a testament Her influence extends beyond her family, as she plays pivotal roles within the Cana Baptist Church and local fellowship. In her capacity as Chairperson of the Peace Group at Cana Baptist Church, Mrs. Juliana Haruna leads by example, advocating for unity and understanding among the diverse groups within UNGWAN Maisamari. Through her dedicated efforts, she fosters dialogue, reconciliation, and cooperation, significantly contributing to peace-building initiatives in the community as a result of the JISRA training attended.

Despite facing initial challenges in her mixed family, Mrs. Juliana took proactive steps to foster inclusivity and understanding. By inviting her Muslim in-laws to celebrate Christmas with her family, she initiated important conversations that broke down barriers and misconceptions, Mrs. Juliana, as the women's leader of the JISRA beneficiary network in her community, plays a crucial role in fostering peace and unity among the communities.

During these discussions, Mrs. Juliana gracefully addressed religious differences using the knowledge gained from the JISRA engagements and training attended, emphasizing shared values and beliefs between Christianity and Islam.

Her efforts bore fruit as one of her in-laws, Saminu, showed a newfound openness to Christianity, even visiting her church, an encouraging step towards interfaith dialogue and acceptance within the family.

Through her dedicated efforts, she fosters dialogue, reconciliation, and cooperation, significantly contributing to peace-building initiatives in the community



Mrs. Juliana's commitment to fostering harmony and understanding has not only strengthened family bonds but has also contributed to broader community goals of promoting interfaith cooperation. Her story serves as a powerful reminder that peace and unity start with small acts of compassion and understanding within our own homes and families.

Mrs. Juliana Haruna's journey is a testament to the transformative power of individuals who lead with empathy, compassion, and a deep sense of purpose. Through her roles as JISRA change maker, a wife, mother, community leader, and businesswoman, she embodies the values of resilience, inclusivity, and solidarity that are essential for building a brighter future for UNGWAN Maisamari and beyond. This story is also contributing to the Pathway 2 (Inter-pathway).

ABOUT SEARCH

Search for Common Ground (Search) is a prominent international non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to transforming the way the world deals with conflict through media, dialogue, and community engagement. Operating across many countries including Nigeria, Search continues to implement interventions across diverse regions in the country since 2004 when TV series programming started and from 2010 physical presence was established enabling the coverage of intervention in many sectors to address the root causes of conflict and foster peaceful co-existence in the Country.



Our Mission:

We transform conflicts so people can live free from violence and realize the benefits of durable peace. We are locally rooted and globally networked. Our unique value lies in the collective impact of our globally integrated team and partners, from those most directly affected by violent conflict in our communities to those with access and influence on the major powers that influence conflict dynamics.

Our Vision

We envision a world where conflict doesn't mean violence, but rather is a source of progress. Our vision is a world where people live in healthy, safe and just societies, where cooperation across differences is a norm. Our vision is of a world where:

Differences stimulate social progress, rather than precipitate violence.

Respect for and cooperation with those we disagree with is considered the norm for individuals, communities, organizations, and nations.

Learn more about Search

Search holds the proud distinction of being the world's preeminent peacebuilding organization. Our mission carries us to the forefront of the most pressing conflicts where we strive to make a profound difference in the lives of millions. As an organization with deep local roots that extend globally, we operate in 33 nations and have had a transformative presence in Nigeria since 2004.

In Nigeria, we are utilizing consensus-based advocacy training, conflict resolution training, human rights monitoring and reporting, and the facilitation of dialogue processes that engage all levels of society.

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OUR CORE VALUES



- We are purposeful in creating a more diverse and inclusive culture at Search
- We know that no one succeeds alone, so we embrace courageous engagement and collaboration
- We listen deeply to new ideas, welcoming multiple and fresh perspectives



- We are hopeful and undaunted by what may seem insurmountable
- We imagine solutions for some of the most complex problems
- We are unafraid to try new things and to experiment



- We take on big challenges
- We are not discouraged by our failures, instead we learn from them
- We prefer action over perfection and we never give up



- We build relationships based on respect
- We seek to understand each others' circumstances and experiences
- We encourage the potential in each person and celebrate their growth and success



- We each have a vital role in achieving the mission of Search
- We take pride in what we can accomplish together
- We are constantly learning, adapting and improving

Transforming the way the world deals with conflict since 1982