

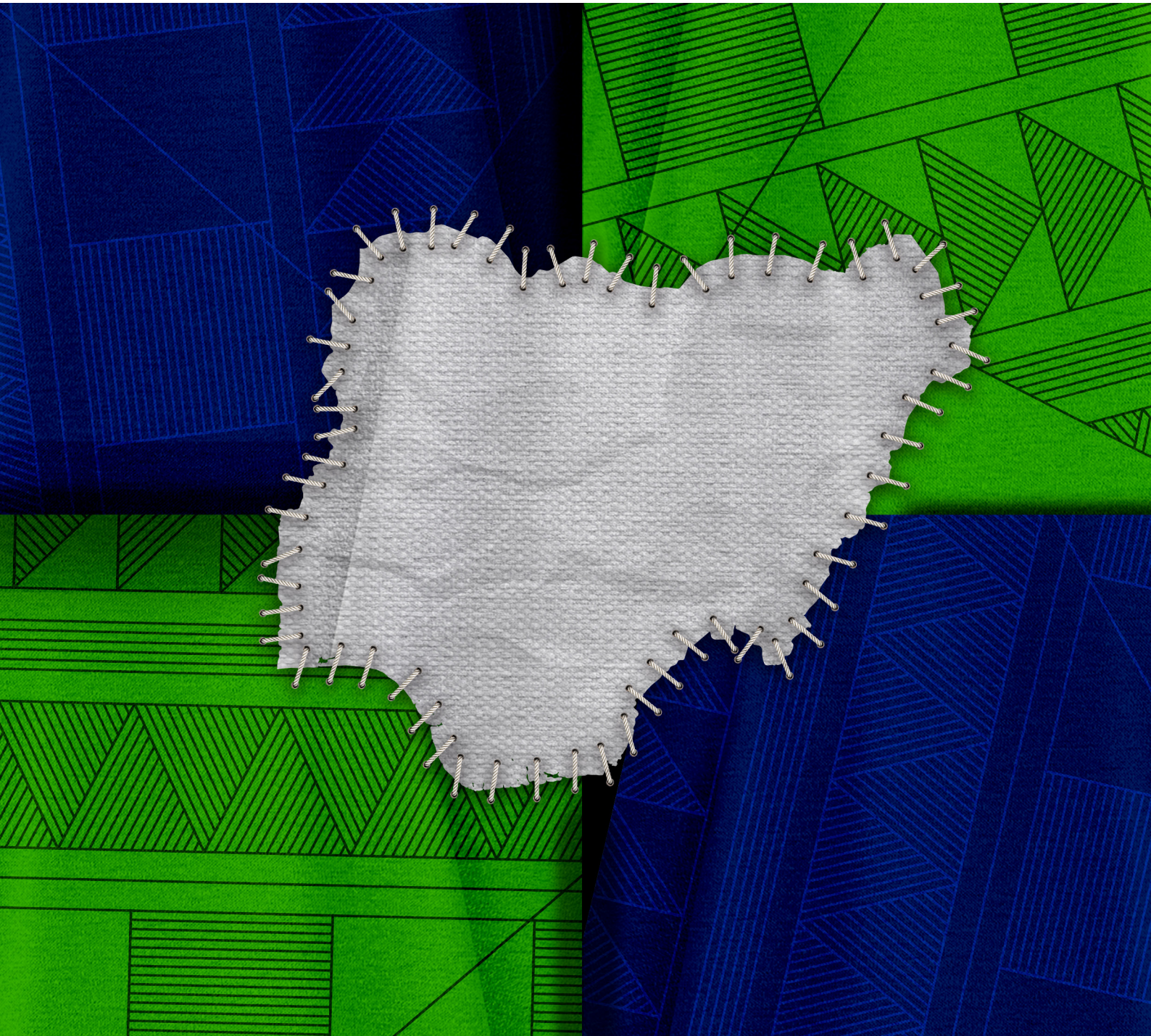


OSPRES

Office for Strategic Preparedness & Resilience
(National Early Warning Centre of Nigeria)

THE CONCORD INITIATIVE

Building Sustainable Peace in Nigeria



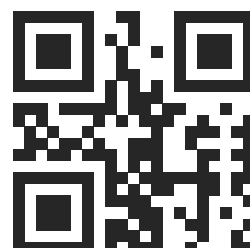
The Concord Initiative:

Building Sustainable Peace in Nigeria

©Office for Strategic Preparedness and Resilience (OSPRe)/
National Centre for the Coordination of Early Warning
and Response Mechanisms (NCCRM) 2024

The Nexus
Plot 145, Tarkwa Close, Off Monrovia Street, Wuse II Abuja

www.ospre.gov.ng

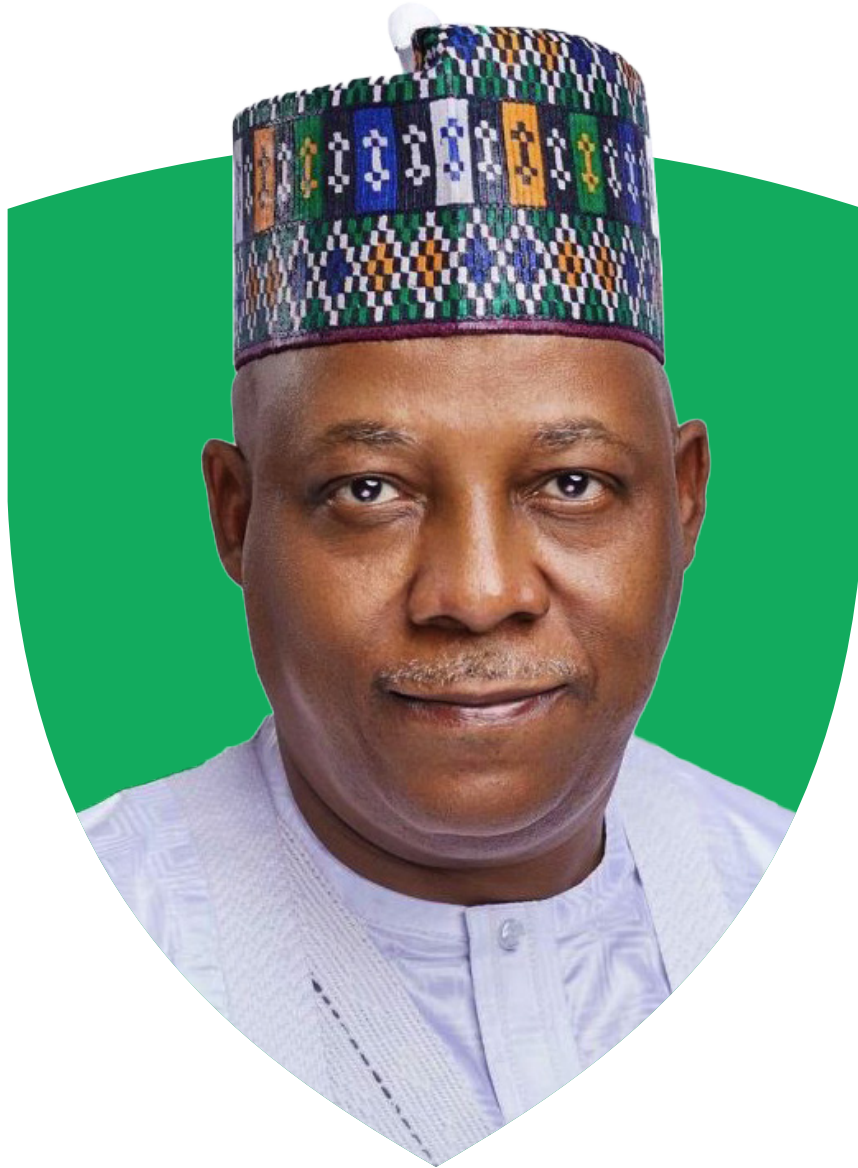




His Excellency

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR

PRESIDENT, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



His Excellency

Senator Kashim Shettima, GCON

VICE-PRESIDENT, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



We must renew our focus on **conflict prevention**. Indeed, addressing the root causes of conflicts is often the first step towards **providing long-term solutions**. Clearly, some of the root causes of conflicts are social in nature, including poverty, hunger, ignorance, inequality and exclusion, as well as other forms of injustice.



His Excellency, Senator Kashim Shettima, GCON

Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria
Address at the General Debate of The 79th Session
of the United Nations General Assembly, New York.

September 2024.

About OSPRE

The **Office for Strategic Preparedness and Resilience (OSPRE)** is Nigeria's centre for the coordination of early warning and response mechanisms.¹ It was established in June 2022 pursuant to Article 58 of the Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Article 16 of the 1999 Protocol on the Mechanism relating to Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security. It is domiciled in the Office of the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

OSPRE seeks to work with all levels of government, civil society, the private and non-profit sectors and individual citizens to make our institutions and communities more prepared for and resilient to threats to human security. As part of its mandate, OSPRE addresses threats to social cohesion, seeks to prevent grievances and disputes from escalating into conflict and supports local peace-building and conflict prevention initiatives. In addition to promoting conflict transformation, transitional justice, communal recovery and early responses to crisis, it supports efforts to mitigate the risk of conflict reversion in areas impacted by violence.

¹The Office for Strategic Preparedness and Resilience (OSPRE) is also known as the National Centre for the Coordination of Early Warning and Response Mechanisms.

Foreword

Nigeria is Africa's fourth largest economy with a GDP of \$252 billion.² Its economy is mostly propelled by oil exports, rendering it susceptible to global oil price changes. Despite this, Nigeria has a growing services industry, a young population, and immense potential for economic diversification.³

With more than 200 million people, Nigeria is Africa's most populous country and its largest democracy. With more than 300 ethnic groups, over 500 languages, and a plurality of religious traditions, it is also one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world. However, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), 63 percent of persons living in Nigeria (133 million people) are multidimensionally poor⁴ - reflecting a huge footprint of human insecurity.

Nigeria has one of the youngest populations in the world and a median age of 18.1 years. About 70 percent of the population is under 30, and 42 percent is under the age of 15.⁵ By 2050, Nigeria's population is projected to hit 400 million. Given its demographic dynamism, the government is confronted by the challenge of providing adequate opportunities for self-actualization for a youthful population and guaranteeing growth for the diverse communities.

This intersection of diversity, deprivation and demography is the primary driver of fragility. In conditions of competition for scarce resources, issues of identity become more salient and fault lines are inflamed. Ethnic, sectarian and partisan allegiances become more volatile because these identities are the axes of resource competition in a heterogeneous society. Consequently, Nigeria's conflict landscape is characterized by communal tensions, resource-driven strife, and insurrectionary tendencies of varying degrees of intensity undergirded by generational angst.

Emergent frontiers of strife such as the digital domain and social media, the preponderance of climate change-induced shocks and sexual and gender-based violence have all assumed an intensified saliency. In addition, the security environment features the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, the growing prominence of armed non-state actors and a preponderance of ungoverned spaces – swathes of land where the formal authority of the Nigerian state is notional at best or has been outrightly supplanted by armed groups. In sum, elevated threats to public safety are an unprecedented test of the government's capacity to secure the Nigerian people.

As Nigeria grapples with the convergence of threats to human security and fragility risks, there is a consensus that addressing these challenges requires the application of the full spectrum of national power and a whole-of-society approach. This connotes a greater emphasis on the judicious deployment of non-kinetic resources to complement the use of kinetic tools. At the highest levels of executive decision and policymaking, the Government of Nigeria recognizes the need for a more holistic approach to addressing conflicts.⁶

² <https://businessday.ng/news/article/africas-gdp-giants-top-10-largest-economies-of-2024-imf/>

³ <https://businessday.ng/news/article/africas-powerhouses-10-largest-economies-on-the-continent-in-2023/>

⁴ (<https://nigerianstat.gov.ng/news/78>)

⁵ <https://theconversation.com/nigerias-growing-population-can-be-an-advantage-with-better-data-and-a-policy-focus-on-young-people-209530#>

⁶ Remarks in Kano; July 16, 2023 (<https://dailytrust.com/no-military-solution-to-north-west-crisis-shettima/>)

Enthroning sustainable peace and inclusive security requires multidimensional engagements around the establishment of local early warning and response mechanisms, the reclamation of ungoverned spaces through the restoration of local governance structures and civil authority, the strengthening of community resilience, creating an enabling socio-economic environment for self-actualization and strengthening local and national capacities for the delivery of justice, healing and reconciliation.

OSPRE's efforts in this regard are informed by our mission of promoting human security in Nigeria, particularly the pursuit of the freedom from fear. To this end, our work straddles the intersection of security, peace and development. In the domain of peacebuilding, we lay emphasis on preventive engagements aimed at dispelling the spectre of conflict built on an interdisciplinary understanding of the remote and proximate causes of strife.

This document is inspired by Nigeria's commitments to the interconnected objectives of the **ECOWAS Vision 2050**, the African Union's **Silencing the Guns** initiative and its **Agenda 2063**, and the United Nations **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

The name CONCORD itself reflects the strategic approach to building sustainable peace, the constellation of actors and partnerships convened for this cause, and the end-state of harmonious co-existence to which we are committed.

Chris Ngwodo

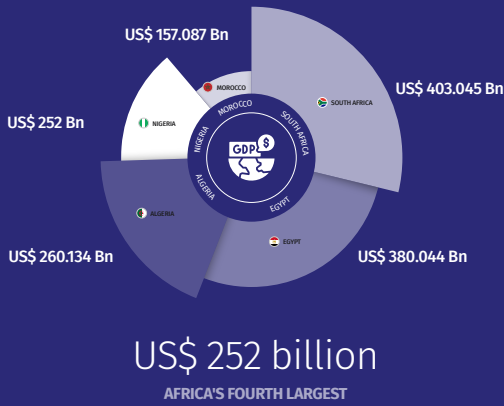
DIRECTOR GENERAL, OSPRE

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris Ngwodo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Nigeria at a Glance

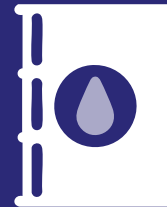
Economic Overview:

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)



Economy Key Driver

Oil Exports



1.8 million barrels per day
AS AT DECEMBER 2024

Demographics

Population



Over 200 million
AFRICA'S MOST POPULOUS

Diversity



300+ ethnic groups



500 languages

Youthful Population



Median age 18.1,
70% under 30

PROJECTED TO REACH 400 MILLION BY 2050

Social Challenges

Poverty



63% of the population live in multidimensional poverty

133 MILLION PEOPLE OUT OF AN EST. 200 MILLION

Conflicts



Communal tensions, resource-driven strife and insurgencies

THREATS: TERRORISM, ARMED GROUPS, UNGOVERNED SPACES

Table of Contents

About OSPRE

Foreword

The Concord Initiative.....	1
Methodology/Mode of Operation	1
Expected Outcomes.....	2
Theory of Change	3
The Intersection of Peace and Development	3
Sustainable Peace is an Intergovernmental Undertaking	4
Sustainable Peace is a Whole of Society Undertaking	5
Sustainable Peace is a Locally Generated Outcome.....	5
Mapping the Terrain: The Geography of Conflict.....	6
A New Cartography of Conflict	6
Operative Pillars of the Concord Initiative	7
Synergizing Local Early Warning and Response Mechanisms	8
Subnational Local Observatories and Watchtowers	9
Strengthening Local Governance	10
Objectives of the SPARCS Programme	11
Building Community Resilience	12
Expected Outcomes.....	13
Delivering Justice and Healing	14
Components.....	15
Damage Assessment	15
Psychosocial Interventions	15
Livelihood Recovery.....	15
Justice Delivery.....	15
Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration	15
Advancing the National Peace Policy.....	15
Partners	17

The Concord Initiative



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

GOAL 16 OF THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

The Consortium for Conflict Resilience and Development (CONCORD) is the flagship peacebuilding programme of the Office for Strategic Preparedness and Resilience (OSPRE). It is the vehicle of a whole-of-society effort to develop and strengthen our national capacity to foresee, forestall, make ready for, respond to and recover from conflict.

Inaugurated in December 2022, CONCORD is designed to optimize the operations of critical national and subnational institutions and to facilitate and sustain strategic and multilevel exchanges among practitioners in the peace, human security, early warning, response and development sectors in Nigeria. It prioritizes filling capacity gaps, addressing discrepancies between theory and practice and forging strategic partnerships between state and non-

state actors across the domains of peace, security, and development.

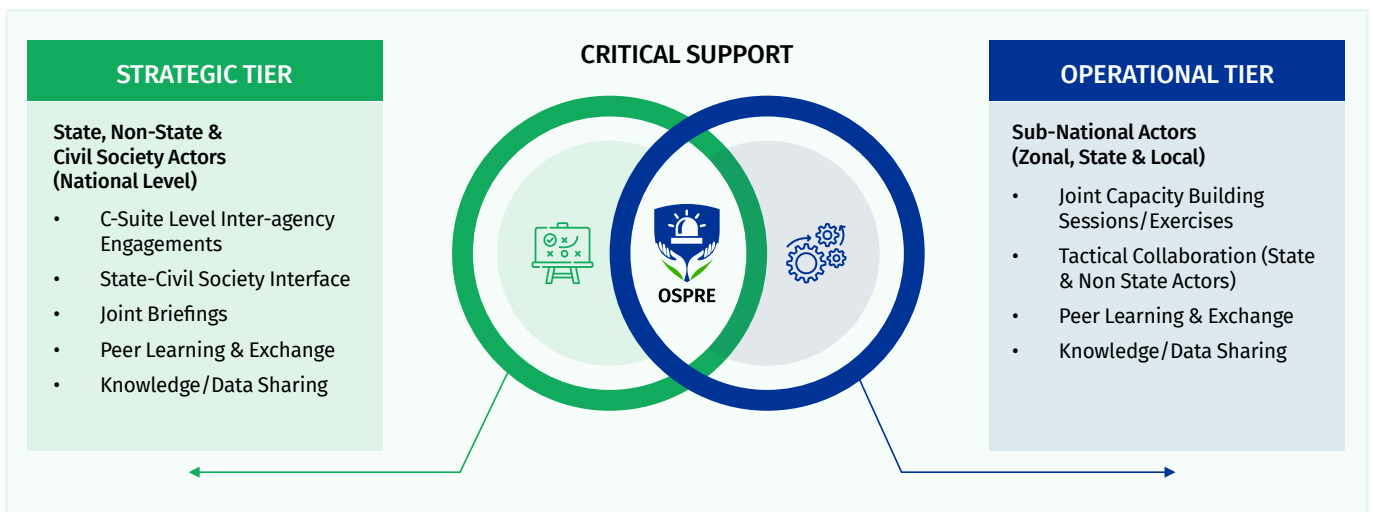
The timely apprehension of early warning signals and the prompt activation of early response measures will ensure adequate conflict prevention, conflict transformation, peacebuilding, and programming for sustainable development in Nigeria.

CONCORD is a peer learning and exchange network that brings together both state and non-state actors operating in the early warning, early response, development, and peacebuilding sector. It is designed to serve as a community of practice and the fulcrum of a national peace architecture.

Methodology/Mode of Operation

The Concord Initiative will function at both strategic and operational tiers by promoting C-suite-level understanding among state and non-state early warning and response actors and also deepening tactical collaboration by these actors on the ground.

FIGURE 1: The Concord Initiative Chart



Expected Outcomes

- Development of nodes and assets of the national peace architecture
- Reactivation of dormant and under-utilized early warning and response capacities.
- National mobilization of early warning and early response assets.
- Establishment of strategic clusters of actors within subnational and local contexts.
- Promotion of coherence within the early warning and early response sector for stronger representation in the national peace and security sector.

CONCORD is consistent with the New Agenda for Peace unveiled by the Secretary General of the United Nations in 2023 which calls on member states to “prioritize prevention” and to “invest politically and financially in prevention”⁷



⁷ “A New Agenda for Peace,” Our Common Agenda Policy Brief 9 (United Nations) p.11

Theory of Change

Security is not military hardware, though it may include it. It is not military force, though it may encompass it. Security is development and without development there is no security.

ROBERT MCNAMARA

Various early warning, early response and peacebuilding structures are operated by state actors and civil society organizations at national, state and communal levels. However, their valiant efforts are plagued by a host of challenges including the lack of interface between early warning institutions and early response institutions, the absence of adequately resourced response capacities arising typically from the fact that the investment of resources in response actors is often not supported by any empirical assessment of needs and vulnerabilities. In

addition, there is often a lack of synergy between various actors, particularly the federal actors and state government actors and insufficient interface between state actors and civil society actors which also manifests as poor civil-security relations.

Consequently, the various early warning and response actors tend to operate in isolation and are largely unconnected from each other, rendering the footprint of their impact far less effective than their efforts deserve.

Consequently, the Concord Initiative works to bridge:

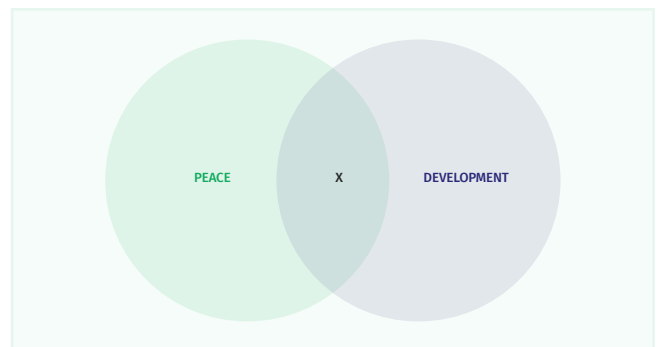
- 1 The gap between various early warning systems;
- 2 The gap between early warning and early response institutions;
- 3 The gap between the national and subnational actors;
- 4 The gap between state actors and non-state actors/civil society; and
- 5 The gap between peace practitioners and development actors.



CONCORD is founded upon four conceptual and theoretical principles namely:

The Intersection of Peace and Development

The National Security Strategy mandates key institutions to “identify and address the root causes of...conflicts.”⁸ A truly comprehensive approach to peacebuilding must address the material and socioeconomic conditions that sustain conflict. This calls for peace and security actors to apprehend the nexus between peacebuilding, conflict transformation and socioeconomic engineering.



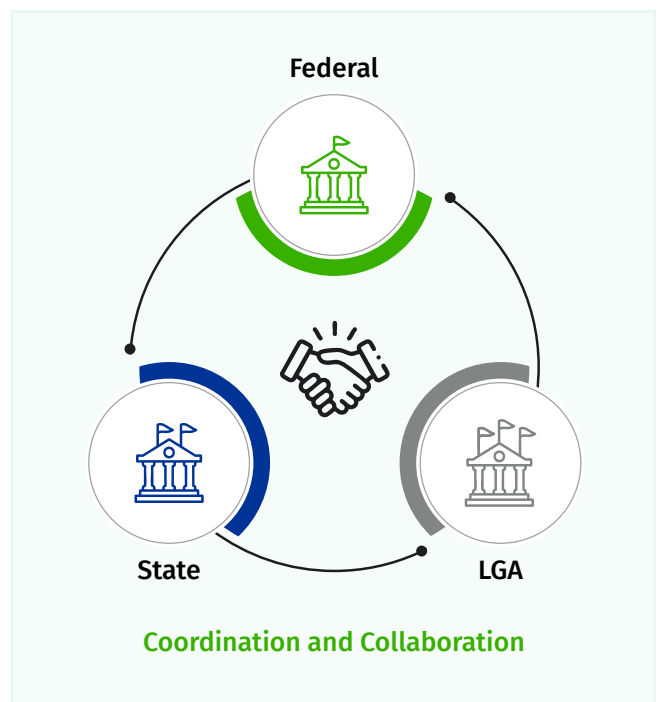
⁸ National Security Strategy (Federal Republic of Nigeria; 2019) p. 45



Consequently, OSPRE through CONCORD seeks to address the fundamental drivers and the factors of structural violence that fuel chronic unrest. This approach is consistent with the African Union’s **Silencing the Guns by 2030** Agenda which recognizes, among other things, economic, social and governance challenges and sets out measures to address these, such as creating a conducive environment and incentives for investment and reducing vulnerabilities to livelihoods from climate change.⁹

Sustainable Peace is an Intergovernmental Undertaking

Because Nigeria is a federation, the task of promoting peace and security is diffused across a multiplicity of governmental jurisdictions. The pursuit of sustainable peace therefore requires coordination, collaboration and synergy between various national and subnational actors whose mandates overlap and interact. This necessarily implies close cooperation between federal, state, local and communal level actors. To this end, OSPRE has forged both horizontal and vertical partnerships with institutions such as Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) as well as state peace commissions and local government authorities. OSPRE also prioritizes strengthening subnational peace actors as they constitute the layer of the peace architecture closest to affected communities.



⁹ <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2023-03/silencing-the-guns-in-africa.php>



Sustainable Peace is a Whole of Society Undertaking

In principle, the primary responsibility for securing the citizenry lies upon the state. However, in practice, the promotion of peace and public safety requires a partnership of actors including a broad range of non-governmental actors, civil society and community-based organizations. OSPRE seeks to mobilize the broadest possible network of relevant actors and stakeholders to collaboratively engage the nexus of security, peace and development. This is rooted in the recognition that peacebuilding is a participatory undertaking. To this end, youth groups, women's groups and people living with disabilities, and all stakeholders regardless of gender, age, ethnic origin and sectarian persuasion are given voice and place in the fashioning of local peace architectures.

Sustainable Peace is a Locally Generated Outcome

Politics is local. So are conflict and insecurity. Our conflict prevention and response measures must be correspondingly localized. Peace requires the inclusive and sustained engagement at the grassroots of all actors. It calls for the broad-based participation of citizens and communities and their primacy in driving the mechanisms that ensure peace and public safety. OSPRE seeks to build the capacity of local governance institutions and is committed to pursuing the broadest range of inclusion in its support of local peacebuilding, security and conflict prevention initiatives.

Mapping the Terrain: The Geography of Conflict

In administrative and political terms, Nigeria is a federation of 36 states and 6 geopolitical zones. However, in reality, the footprint of violent conflict and insecurity is not consistent with the jurisdictional delineations of states or the notional demarcations of geopolitical zones. Armed groups do not stay within defined state boundaries or national borders; they frequently transcend them.

For this reason, jurisdictional limitations are often a constraint on efforts to promote peace and security. Authorities, state actors and to a lesser extent, civil society organizations, are typically hamstrung by administrative and political geography. Conversely, hostile non-state actors operate unimpeded by these constraints utilizing either ancient trade routes or clandestine corridors, thereby establishing geographies of conflict. In the international context, transnational organized crime, cross-border banditry and regional insurgencies follow this dynamic.

Authorities have responded by establishing institutions that strengthen cross-border cooperation on defense, peace and

security such as the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and the Regional Intelligence Fusion Unit (RIFU). Addressing Nigeria’s internal geography of conflict requires a similar approach – strengthening collaboration between local institutions and deepening synergies between peace and security actors across various boundaries and jurisdictions. This is what OSPRE is seeking to achieve through the Concord Initiative.

A New Cartography of Conflict

Although OSPRE’s subnational engagements under the Concord Initiative are organized across the nation on a zonal basis, the clustering of participant states is only nominally based on Nigeria’s geopolitical zones. In practice, the workshops are organized to reflect geographies of conflict – the clustering of contiguous states is based on a common conflict and security environment and shared threats to peace that cut across inter-state boundaries.

The categorization of target states emanates from OSPRE’s national scoping study, which identified and classified

FIGURE 2: Map of Nigeria showing states grouped by geopolitical zones

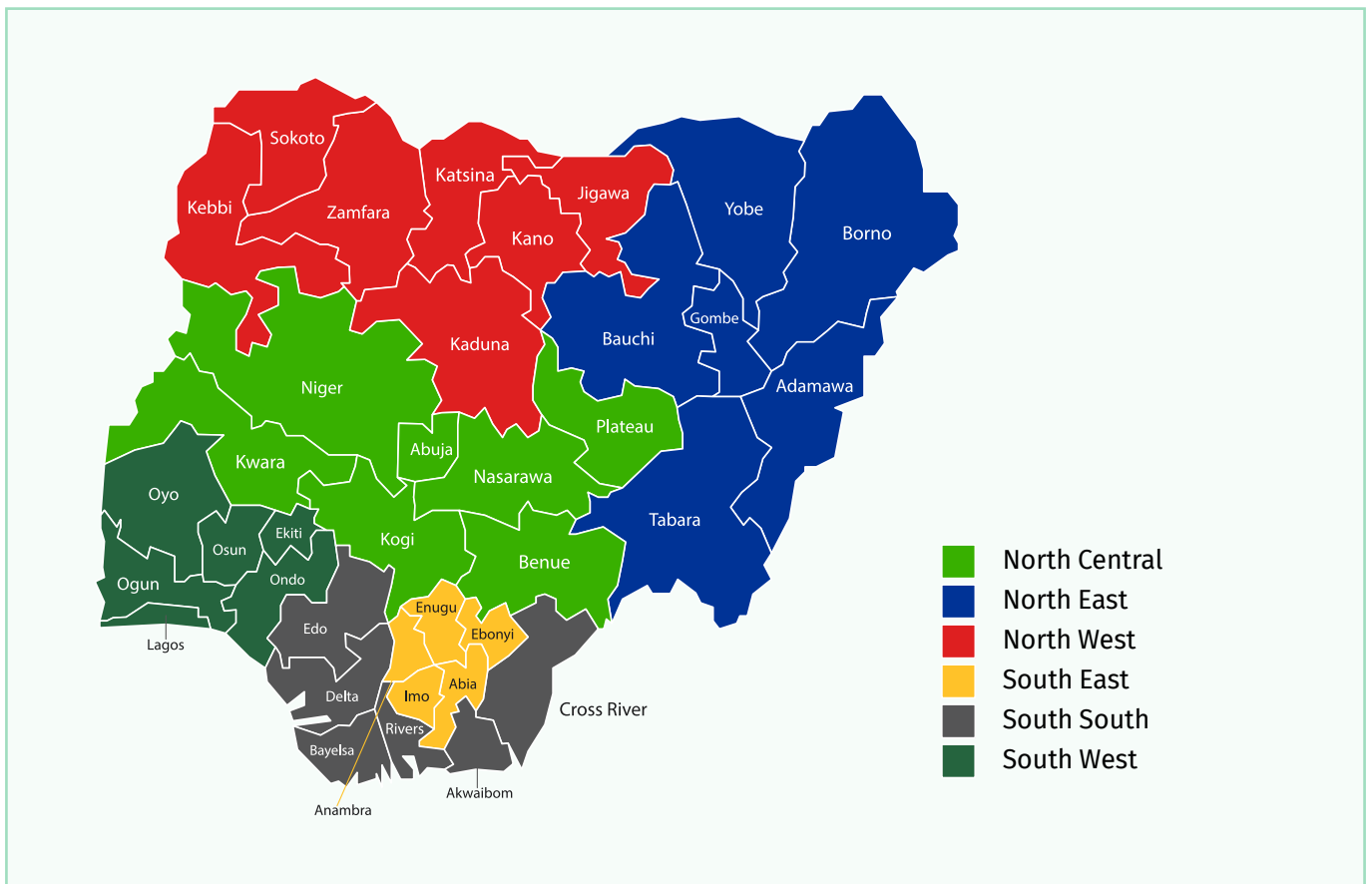


TABLE 1: Conflict Clusters of States in Nigeria

CLUSTERS	STATES
North-East	Borno, Adamawa & Yobe
North-East	Bauchi & Gombe
North-Central I	Benue, Nasarawa & Taraba
North-Central II	Kogi & Kwara
South I	Akwa-Ibom & Cross River
South II	Bayelsa, Delta, Edo & Rivers
North-West	Zamfara, Sokoto, Katsina, Kebbi & Niger
South-East	Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu & Imo
Kano	Kano & Jigawa
Kaduna	Kaduna
Plateau	Plateau
Lagos	Lagos
South-West	Oyo, Osun, Ogun, Ekiti & Ondo

congruent conflicts into sub-national geographies/clusters across Nigeria. These conflict geographies were further refined at the Inaugural Strategic Workshop of CONCORD initiative that held at Abuja in December 2022.

Consequently, as part of its mission, CONCORD seeks to establish within these designated subnational clusters, local networks of resident early warning, early response, development, and peacebuilding actors. In so doing, OSPRE’s approach is not to reinvent the wheel but to utilize, reactivate and optimize already existing early warning and peace structures.

In mapping the conflict theatres, certain states have been clustered together while others have been categorized individually due to the specific complexity of their local peace and security environments. The clustering and categorization of states under the Concord schema is without prejudice to any bespoke interventions that might be specifically undertaken in any given state by OSPRE.

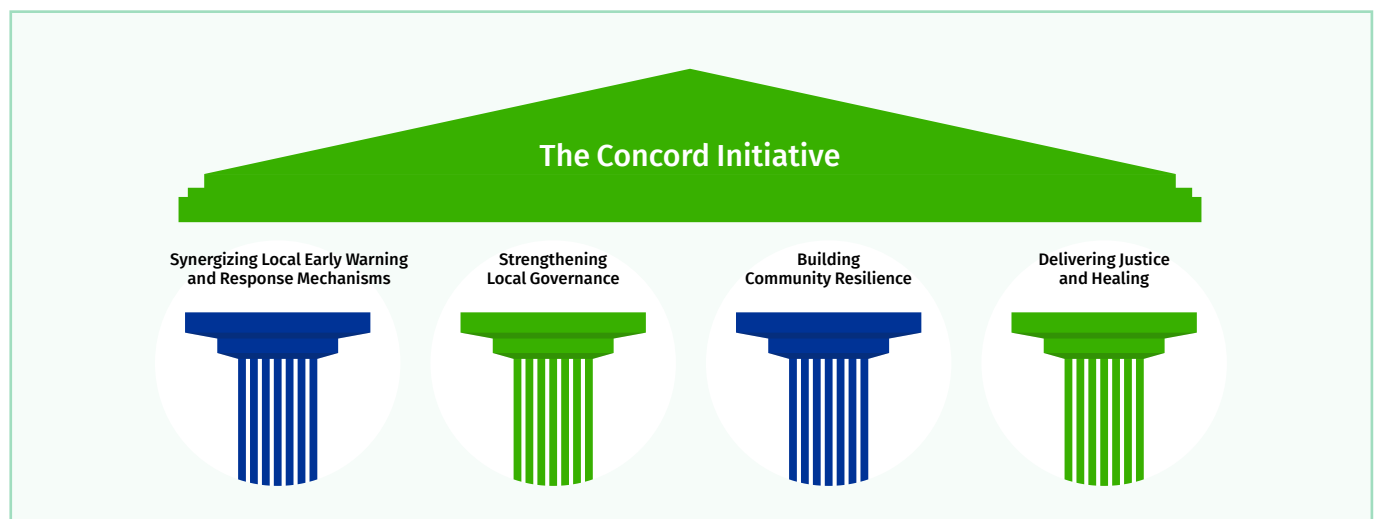
OSPRE’s approach is not to reinvent the wheel but to utilize, reactivate and optimize already existing early warning, response and peacebuilding structures.

Operative Pillars of the Concord Initiative

The Concord Initiative is founded on the following operative pillars:

- Synergizing Local Early Warning and Response Mechanisms
- Strengthening Local Governance
- Building Community Resilience
- Delivering Justice and Healing

FIGURE 3: Operative Pillars of the Concord Initiative



Synergizing Local Early Warning and Response Mechanisms



Effective peacebuilding and conflict prevention require enhanced national and subnational capacities to anticipate and proactively address risks before they become manifest perils by strengthening the early warning and response institutions.

Despite the presence of various early warning and response actors in the field, their operations are often conducted in isolation and lack the impact that would be fostered by

close collaboration. The disconnect between early warning and response actors breeds a sense of demoralization. Early warning and response capacities which are diffused across federal, state and local levels of governance are also largely under-utilized. In addition, the efforts of these actors are plagued by capacity deficits and disparities in operational competencies that limit the effect that they could otherwise have.

CONCORD therefore seeks to:

- Enhance institutional early warning and response capacities at the national and sub-national levels.
- Bridge the gap between various early warning and early response actors to ensure that they no longer operate in isolation.
- Create vertical and horizontal linkages between state and non-state actors at national and subnational levels to promote interdependence and synergy.
- Provide a platform for peer learning, sharing of perspectives and facilitate the distribution of critical support resources to raise the capacity and performance of actors across board.
- Bridge the gap between early warning actors and early responders to ultimately reduce the time between warning and response and enhance preparedness and proactivity.
- Strengthen partnerships between stakeholders and actors for effective concerted action.
- Strengthen medium to long-range conflict forecasting capabilities at national and subnational levels.

Subnational Local Observatories and Watchtowers



CONCORD works to strengthen the competencies of local actors and link these actors in local early warning, early response and peacebuilding networks. These workshops will focus on enhancing the capabilities of selected federal and state government agencies as well as civil society groups and community-based organizations to undertake early warning, early response and peacebuilding, while connecting them to civil society organizations active in the

same sector and locale. Once established, these networks become local observatories and watchtowers monitoring the peace and conflict dynamics in their areas and providing anticipatory intelligence to drive pre-emptive action. These networks are organized to reflect geographies of conflict – the clustering of contiguous states based on a common conflict and security environment and shared threats to peace that cut across inter-state boundaries.

CONCORD’s subnational cluster framework is consistent with the overall goal of the ECOWAS Early Warning and Early Response Strategic Actions Plan 2022 – 2026 – “a fully decentralized, integrated, and effective early warning system.”¹⁰

¹⁰ Early Warning and Early Response Strategic Actions Plans 2022 – 2026 (ECOWAS Early Warning Directorate 2021) p.25

Strengthening Local Governance

Nigeria is a nation of vast and diverse geographical landscapes. However, its development and security provisioning are uneven, with significant portions of its landmass lacking effective government presence and oversight. These ungoverned spaces have become

sanctuaries for non-state actors engaged in organized crime, banditry, and terrorism. These areas, often beyond the reach of effective governance and law enforcement, pose significant threats not only to the neighbouring regions but also to national and international security.



There is a recognition that this vulnerability can only be sustainably addressed by revitalizing local government authorities which are the third tier of Nigeria's three-tier federal structure. The Federal Government has led the way in its commitment to stronger local governance by securing a landmark Supreme Court judgment in July 2024 affirming the financial autonomy of Nigeria's 774 local government councils.¹¹

CONCORD is currently strengthening localised early warning and response structures by creating synergies of actors at

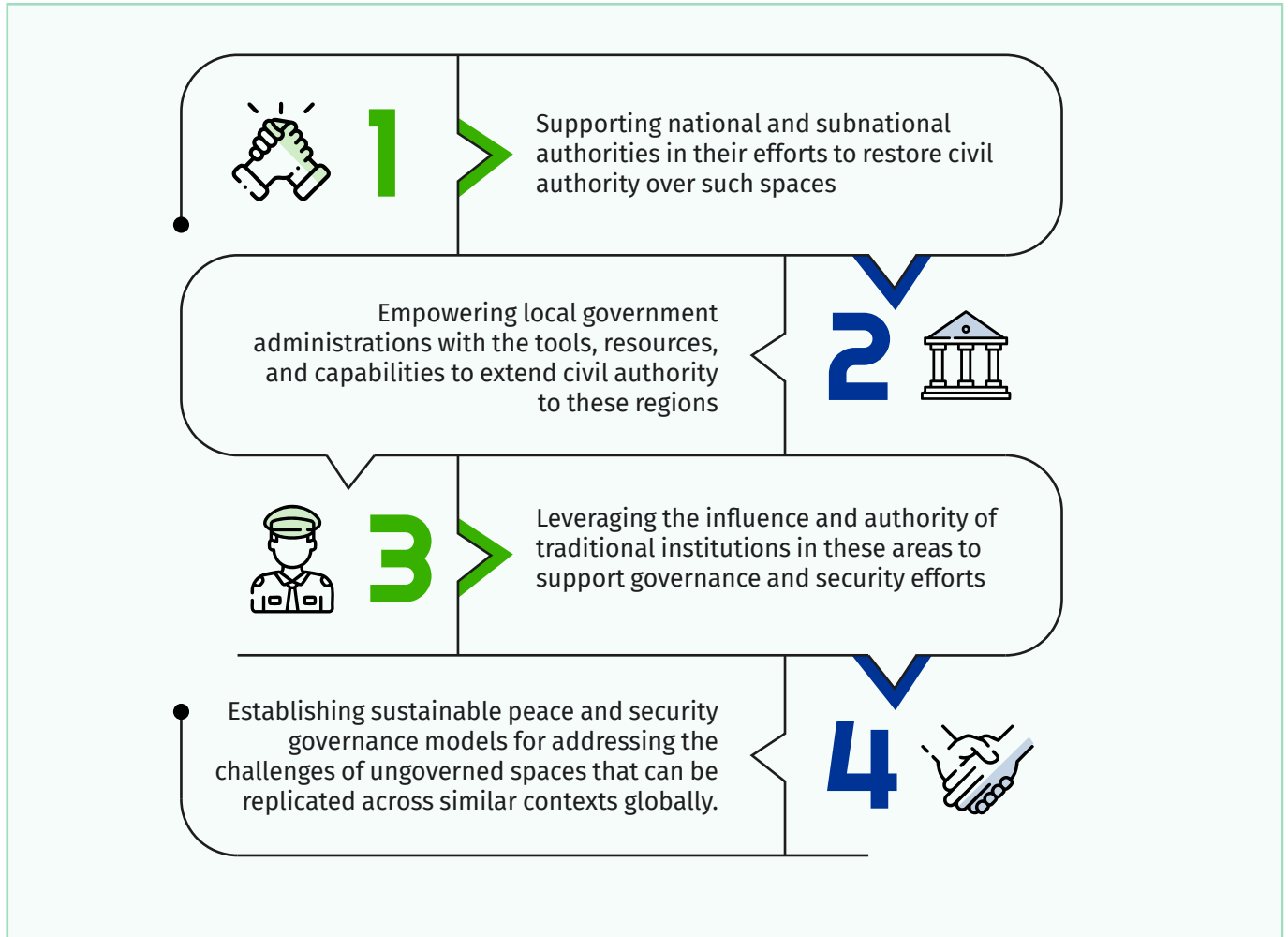
the community, ward, and Local Government Area (LGA) levels. It has spawned the Safety, Peace and Resilience in Communities (SPARCS) programme, to build the crisis prevention and response capacities of local government authorities. The programme is active in four states namely Anambra, Benue, Katsina, and Plateau, where two Local Government Areas each serve as the anchor sites for implementation in the first phase. SPARCS is designed to serve as the model of an effective subnational peace and public safety architecture embedded in local governance structures.

¹¹ "Supreme Court Ruling on LG Autonomy: A Win for Democracy," (<https://www.thecable.ng/supreme-court-ruling-on-lg-autonomy-a-win-for-democracy/>) July 17, 2024

Objectives of the SPARCS Programme

- Supporting national and subnational authorities in their efforts to restore civil authority over such spaces;
- Empowering local government administrations with the tools, resources, and capabilities to extend civil authority to these regions;
- Leveraging the influence and authority of traditional institutions in these areas to support governance and security efforts; and
- Establishing sustainable peace and security governance models for addressing the challenges of ungoverned spaces that can be replicated across similar contexts globally.

FIGURE 4: Objectives of the SPARCS Programme



Building Community Resilience

Most conflict-affected communities are helpless and paralysed, reeling from the onslaught of violence, while traumatized and vulnerable populations are left to cope with the hardship and the burden of precarious survival. There is a need to protect these communities from the devastation of violent conflict and other hazards by building societal resilience.

Resilience has become the all-embracing term used to describe the capacity to withstand shocks, survive crises, adapt to volatility, and bounce back with enhanced faculties. It refers to the state of human, organizational or societal capacity to cope with, overcome or transform all such factors and forces that threaten the existence or realization of desired ends.



In the context of a volatile peace and security environment, building community resilience requires the creation of local structures that not only help communities address the immediate impact of violent conflicts and natural hazards, but also reduces the prospects of the emergence of potential adversity. It involves investment in communal capabilities for engaging in resistance, maintaining functionality, and undertaking adaptive learning.

The pursuit of resilience is consistent with the National Counter Terrorism Strategy (NACTEST) of which preparedness and readiness “to manage and minimize the consequences of a terrorist attack where it cannot be stopped and increase resilience for an immediate recovery from the aftermath of an attack”¹² – is a cardinal pillar. The National Crisis Management Doctrine is Nigeria’s strategic response plan for crises, which pursuant to NACTEST seeks “to mitigate the impact of terrorist attacks by building resilience and

¹² “National Counter Terrorism Strategy (NACTEST) 2016 (Office of the National Security Adviser; Federal Republic of Nigeria 2016) p.31

redundancies to ensure continuity of business.”¹³

OSPRE’s raison d’être for building Nigeria’s societal resilience is drawn from a key objective of the National Security Strategy which is to “foster a culture of preparedness and resilience within our strategic institutions and build the resilience of our communities against the risks and hazards that pose the greatest threats to the Nigerian people while actively reducing our vulnerabilities.”¹⁴

OSPRE through the Concord Initiative, undertakes the development of local/community resilience strategies

with relevant stakeholders and enhances the resilience structures and capacities of crisis-affected local communities. OSPRE brings together government, non-governmental and community-based organizations with relevant mandates, with the aim of building their capacities on a train-the-trainer basis. Leveraging the National Crisis Management Doctrine¹⁵ and allied policy tools, OSPRE is committed to building the crisis resilience, response, and preparedness of affected communities within each of its designated conflict clusters.

Expected Outcomes

- Forging partnerships of all relevant agencies and groups with related mandates and capacities for societal resilience;
- Enhancing citizens’ awareness of their environment and the capacity of communities to respond to identified hazards;
- Improving the capacity of communities to reduce their vulnerabilities;
- Reducing the incidence of violent conflict by increasing social mobilization; and
- Reduced human and material losses from violent conflict and physical hazards.



¹³ “National Crisis Management Doctrine (Office of the National Security Adviser; Federal Republic of Nigeria)

¹⁴ National Security Strategy (Federal Republic of Nigeria; 2019) p.2

¹⁵ The National Crisis Management Doctrine is Nigeria’s strategic crisis response and management plan launched in 2021.

Components

Damage Assessment

The National Security Strategy mandates key institutions to “ensure that social programmes are also targeted at rebuilding conflict-affected communities as a demonstration of our commitment to peacebuilding.”¹⁹ To this end, OSPRE and its partners will undertake assessments to ascertain the quantitative and qualitative costs of conflict in affected communities and provide data that will inform compensatory packages and allied recovery interventions, including welfare and reconstruction initiatives aimed at vulnerable persons.

Psychosocial Interventions

CONCORD works with partners to address the psychological trauma resulting from exposure to violence and insecurity, including sexual and gender-based violence in conflict-affected communities.

Livelihood Recovery

CONCORD supports efforts to address the recovery of communal economies and livelihoods in areas impacted by conflict through vocational skills acquisition programmes, apprenticeship and occupational support schemes, access to credit, reconstruction of economic infrastructure and the empowerment of enterprise.

Justice Delivery

CONCORD seeks to strengthen the capacity of subnational institutions to effectively deliver justice, healing and reconciliation. It works with partners to promote transitional justice (through formal constitutional and traditional models) to address large-scale and systematic violations of human rights in conflict-affected communities, without which, de-escalation and healing are impossible. It also supports efforts to strengthen subnational judicial capacities to ensure that accountability is upheld in the aftermath of conflict.

Given that judicial institutions in conflict-affected localities are typically either partially or completely destroyed, it is imperative to strengthen the communities' capacity for alternative dispute resolution. CONCORD works to empower a corps of mediators drawn from across all sides of the divides within the affected communities to serve as the fulcrum of early warning, conflict prevention, reconciliation, and remediation structures.

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration

Uncritically applying solely kinetic options and the strictest provisions of the criminal justice system to what is a multidimensional crisis of conflict and criminality will lead to generational attrition. It is necessary to seek the reformatory objective of justice in respect of certain categories of criminal liability while providing an exit ramp for gang members that are seeking ways out of the subculture of violence and crime. At the strategic and policy level, OSPRE supports efforts to create national standards for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and the utilization of a broad range of options, including non-custodial sanctions in dealing with low-grade offenders, while reserving proportionate penalties for the perpetrators of atrocities.

Advancing the National Peace Policy

Various countries have opted for strategic, long-term, and preventive approaches to peacebuilding, while jettisoning the reactive gestures that have been the norm. These approaches have borne fruit by enhancing peace and stability. In 2011, the Ghana National Peace Council Act (2011) helped the country peacefully navigate a transition from one political party to another and prevent election-related violence. In 2015, Kenya launched a National Policy on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management.²⁰ In South Africa, the infrastructure for peace created in the early 1990s has been considered a successful model to help build a new social contract. The United Kingdom

¹⁹ National Security Strategy p. 46

²⁰ Olalekan A. Babatunde, “The Case for a National Peace Policy in Nigeria,” July 1, 2023 (<https://www.thecable.ng/the-case-for-a-national-peace-policy-in-nigeria/amp/>)

assessed that it saved GBP 3.16 to every GBP 1 spent on their 2018 Serious Violence Strategy.²¹ Malawi launched its National Peace Policy in 2017.²²

In 2012, the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) developed a carefully crafted peace policy through a broad-ranging consultative process and a collaborative engagement from local to national levels, as well as from state and civil society actors, with the aim of addressing the deep-rooted causalities which drive tension and conflict. The draft policy which emerged from an exhaustive process did not secure the approval of the Federal Executive Council at the time.

OSPRE is committed to supporting the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) in developing a National Peace Policy as the framework for a coherent, participatory and coordinated approach to conflict prevention, peacebuilding and conflict management in Nigeria.



Damage Assessment

Focus: Quantify and qualify the costs of conflict in affected communities.

Objective: Inform compensatory packages, recovery interventions (welfare, reconstruction), and support vulnerable populations.



Psychosocial Interventions

Focus: Address psychological trauma from violence and insecurity (including sexual and gender-based violence).



Livelihood Recovery

Focus: Restore communal economies and livelihoods.

Methods: Vocational training, apprenticeships, credit access, infrastructure reconstruction, and enterprise empowerment.



Justice Delivery

Focus: Strengthen subnational justice systems for effective justice, healing, and reconciliation.

Methods: Promote transitional justice (formal and traditional), strengthen judicial capacities, and empower community-based mediation.



Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR)

Focus: Reformatory justice and exit ramps for gang members.

Methods: National DDR standards, non-custodial sanctions for low-level offenders, and proportionate penalties for serious crimes.



Advancing the National Peace Policy

Focus: Develop a comprehensive, participatory, and coordinated framework for conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and conflict management in Nigeria.

Objective: Learn from successful peacebuilding models in other countries (Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, UK, Malawi).

Approach: Support the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) in developing and implementing a National Peace Policy.

²¹ Celine Monnier, "Four reasons why the New Agenda for Peace should focus on Nationally-led Violence Prevention Strategies," (<https://cic.nyu.edu/resources/four-reasons-why-new-agenda-for-peace-should-focus-on-nationally-led-violence-prevention-strategies/>)

²² National Peace Policy (Government of Malawi 2017)

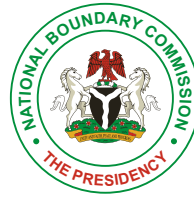
(https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/mw/UNDP_Malawi_National-Peace-Policy.pdf)

Partners

OSPPE collaborates with a number of local, national, regional and global partners, and is open to cross-cutting collaborations in the furtherance of its mandate.



IPCR



Co-funded by
the European Union



Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



UK Integrated Security Fund



OSP

Office for Strategic Preparedness & Resilience
(National Early Warning Centre of Nigeria)