CONFLICT RESEARCH NETWORK

Impact Statement



2022 was a busy year for us at the Conflict Research Network West Africa (CORN West Africa). Political violence, armed conflicts and criminal violence continued across the Coastal West Africa and Sahel regions. At CORN West Africa, our mission to provide a platform for researchers within the network to conduct theoretically sound and policy relevant research and contribute to global debates on issues of armed conflicts, political violence, security and peacebuilding started taking root in 2022.

CORN West Africa mobilized researchers within the network to conduct research on "the State of Peace in Nigeria (SOPIN)", a project of the United States Institute of Peace (USIP). SOPIN collects and analyse qualitative and quantitative data on the perceptions of everyday people across Nigeria on their experience of peace in their communities. It is designed to identify drivers of peace that can be reinforced by peace actors, especially policy makers and international partners. Learn more about SOPIN.





We collaborated with the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) to organize a poster session at 2022 WIDER Development Conference with the theme "The puzzle of peace – towards inclusive development in fragile contexts". Learn more about the CORN

West Africa Poster Session at 2022 WIDER Development Conference. (https://www.wider.unu.edu/about) Scholars affiliated with CORN West Africa also presented their research at the panels on armed group dynamics and gender dynamics at the 2022 WIDER Development Conference. Dr. Damilola Agbalajobi, a member of CORN West Africa, presented a paper on "How conflict affect women and how women shape conflict in Nigeria". Dr. Tarila Marclint Ebiede, Co-Founder and Director of CORN West Africa, presented a paper on "The Political Lives of Armed Groups after Conflict: Why Militant Groups Persist in Nigeria's Niger Delta".



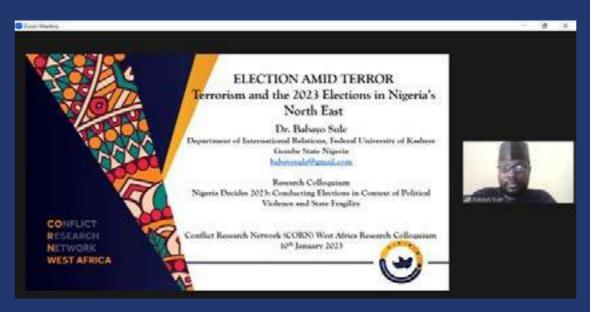
Fostering Research Partnerships



n partnership with the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), CORN West Africa started a new research project on "peacebuilding institutions in Nigeria". The project aims to identify peacebuilding institutions in Nigeria, analyse their activities and explain how they contribute to the reduction of violent conflicts in communities across Nigeria. The project applies a novel process-tracing method using selected case studies in Plateau, Bayelsa, Katsina, Osun, Adamawa and Anambra States. The research project receives methodological and theoretical support from Dr Yf Reykers, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Maastricht University and Dr. Ukowa Ukiwo, Team Lead of the Managing Conflict in Nigeria (MCN) Programme.

partnered with the Managing Conflict Nigeria (MCN) Programme to organize a Research Workshop on Peacebuilding Initiatives in the Northeast: Progress, Problems and Prospects at AUN Hotel, Yola, Adamawa State, from 26-27 October, 2022. Research papers on Counterterrorism and Sexual Violence against Men and Boys in Nigeria, Women and Peacebuilding in the North East, Citizen Led Actions against Insurgency and Violent Extremism in North East Nigeria, Cooperative Security Governance: State Security Providers, Civil Society and Vigilantes in North Eastern Nigeria, Challenges of Deradicalization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Members of JAS in North East Nigeria' and Building Peace from the Lenses of Victims of Terrorism in North East Nigeria were presented at the workshop.

November 2022, **CORN** West launched Africa Research Colloquium on "The NigeriaDecides2023: Conducting Elections in Context of Political Violence and State Fragility". The colloquiumseriesprovidesaplatform for scholars to communicate their research on how armed conflicts and political violence will impact the forthcoming 2023 general elections in Nigeria, what observers should look out for and how stakeholders can improve on Nigeria's democratic experience in the context of political violence and state fragility. The colloquium provides an avenue for communication of state-of-the-art research on political violence and elections in Nigeria to the academic, policy, advocacy, and diplomatic community in Nigeria and beyond. The research colloquium series will end in February 2023.



Dr. Babayo Sule speaking on Terrorism and the 2023 Elections in Nigeria's North East at CORN West Africa's The NigeriaDecides2023 Research Colloquium.

esearchers affiliated with CORN West Africa sustained their efforts to explain the drivers and impact of political violence and armed conflicts and the pathways to peace in West Africa. CORN Members published articles that made outstanding contributions to understanding the different dynamics of the Nigeria's counter insurgency efforts. For example, Nwangwu's coauthored article on 'Boko Haram, security architecture and counterinsurgency in North-East, Nigeria' published in the Armed Forces and Society Journal contextualized how the fragility of Nigeria's security architecture and state security institutions undermines Nigeria's counterinsurgency efforts. Ugwueze, Ngwu and Onuoha's article titled 'Operation safe corridor Programme and Reintegration of Ex-Boko Haram Fighters in Nigeria', published in the Journal of Asian and African Studies Nigeria's counterinsurgency efforts from the lens of the Operation safe corridor programme designed in 2015 to aid the deradicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration of repentant Boko Haram

insurgents. Owonikoko's paper titled ""Take them to Government House or Aso Rock": Community receptivity to reintegration of Operation Safe Corridor's deradicalised Ex-Boko Haram members in Northeastern Nigeria" in Cogent Social Sciences makes sense of how the rejection of ex-Boko Haram fighters by their communities assist in forcing them to return to the insurgent sect thereby complicating and undermining Nigeria's counterinsurgency efforts. The article by Nche, Ugwueze and Ugwu (2022) "As the Israelites in the Land of Egypt, So are We in Nigeria": The Significance of the Exodus Event for Biafra Secessionist Movement" in the Journal of Church and State presents a captivating comparison of the experience of Biafrans in Nigeria with the Israelites in the Land of Egypt. Amaka Emordi also provided an insightful analysis of Separatists agitations in South Eastern Nigeria in her chapter in Mainagwa, J. S. and Ahmadu, H. J. (2021) "Community policing managing the rising waves of armed violence in Nigeria" published by the Taraba State University (TSU) Press.

Research by Members of CORN West Africa

Biafra Niger Delta Boko Haram Insurgency Cults Peacebuilding Farmer Herders Conflict

n the series of articles published on the persistent crisis between Fulani herdsmen and farmers, CORN members in collaboration with their colleagues produced an outstanding article that called for the conceptualization

of herdsmen and farmers crisis as 'ecoviolence', which is a more holistic concept that captures the nuances and contours of the incessant crisis. Dare Idowu's review of Benjamin Maiangwa's 'The Crisis of Belonging and the ethnographies of peacebuilding in Kaduna State, Nigeria also bemoans the use of deficient terminologies that fail to capture the intricacies of the crisis. Another article by Rowland Okoli and colleagues published in Small Wars and Insurgencies interrogate the demise of Idris Derby and expound on its implications for security in the Lake Chad Basin and the Sahel Region . Idowu and Agbalajobi's chapter <u>interrogates herdsmen</u> and farmers crisis in Nigeria in context of the ECOWAS Protocol on free movement.

On armed banditry, Al Chukwuma Okoli and Chikodiri Nwangwu's (2022) article on "Organized Crime-Terror Nexus: Interrogating the Linkage Between Banditry and Terrorism in Northern Nigeria" is particularly insightful in its interrogation of the nexus between banditry and terrorism in Northern Nigeria. Their article published in the Journal of Asia and African Studies argues that although Boko Haram

and its sister sects have engaged in armed banditry there has been mutual co-option by both groups. Okoli and Abubakar's (2021) article published in the Journal of Asian and African Studies conceptualized 'Crimelordism' as the new phase of armed banditry in Nigeria. Youth gangs and cult groups and the COVID-19 pandemic also received significant attention by Researchers within the network. For example, Tade and Akeredolu (2022) analysed the atrocities committed by the Badoo cult gang and the victimization experiences in Lagos, Nigeria. In an article co-authored by Babayo Sule, it was shown that the outbreak of the COVID 19 led to increased security challenges in Northern Nigeria, with specific increase witnessed in the North Western region. A new volume co-edited by Tarila Marclint Ebiede explored the <u>non-violent social na</u>vigation of how youth in conflict affected societies.

To sustain our impact and improve on our work, CORN West Africa has a new team made up of young and experienced researchers in West Africa. We are also very proud to announce that we now have an International Advisory Board made up of distinguished scholars and policy makers in the field of conflict and peacebuilding. Learn more about our management team and international advisory board.







with Plateau State Peacebuilding Agency.



CORN West Africa Researcher conducting KII with Community Leader in Khana, Rivers State.









REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF CONFLICT RESEARCH NETWORK WEST AFRICA LTD/GTE

We have examined the Financial **CONFLICT** Statements of RESEARCH **NETWORK WEST** AFRICA LTD/GTE for the period ended 31st December 2022 which prepared has been under historical cost convention accounting policies and in line with the minimum requirements for IFRS for NPOs.

Responsibilities of Directors

In accordance with the provisions of section 385 and 386 of the C7ompanies and Allied Matters Act 2020, the Company's Directors are responsible for the preparation of annual financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the period ended and its profit for the period then ended and comply with the requirements of the Act.

Responsibilities of Auditors

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Opinion

In our opinion, the company is going concern and representations

have been received from appropriate persons.

our opinion the Financial Statements which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 31st December 2022, the Statement Comprehensive of Income. Statement of Cash Flows Statement of changes in fund for the year then ended 31st December 2022, as set out on pages 9 to 12 and the statement of notes and accounting policies to the financial statements give a true and fair view of the company's position as at 31st December 2022 so far as appears from our examination of the Company's records made available to us.

OTA UMA & CO

(Chartered Accountants)
Abuja, Nigeria.

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28th April 2023.

Financial Stewardship

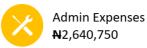
Statement of Activities



Grants **N**18,555,950



Project Expenses N17,320,127





Finance Cost (N57,209)



Exchange rate gain N2,640,750



Accumulated Fund N1,243,231

Cash Flow Statement



Income over Expenditures N1,243,231



Non-Cash movement items No.000



Increase in Payables N1,050,000



Net Cashflow from Investing activities (N40,000)



Net Cashflow from Financing activities N1,206,200



Cash & Cash Equivalent N3,465,431

Statement of Financial Position

Non-current Assets N34,000

Current Assets N3,465,431

Total Assets N3,499,431

Non-current Liabilities (N1,106,200) Current Liabilities (N1,050,000)

Net Assets Net Assets

