



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES
THROUGH PEACEBUILDING IN
NIGERIA

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The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been a key player in peacebuilding and community stabilization efforts in Nigeria, addressing the root causes of conflict and supporting recovery in communities affected by violence and displacement. Over the years, IOM has implemented several impactful projects that have significantly contributed to reducing violence, promoting social cohesion, and restoring stability, particularly in regions affected by resource-based conflicts and communal clashes.

One of IOM's flagship initiatives is the **COMITAS Project**—Contributing to the Mitigation of Conflict between Farmer and Herder Communities in Adamawa and Taraba States. This project focused on mitigating the recurring conflicts between farmers and herders, who have long clashed over access to land and water resources. Through COMITAS, IOM facilitated inter-community dialogues and strengthened traditional conflict resolution mechanisms, fostering cooperation between farmers and herders. The project also established peace committees to mediate local disputes, restoring trust and promoting sustainable management of shared natural resources. By addressing the root causes of tension, the COMITAS project successfully reduced incidents of violence and improved social cohesion in the targeted states.



Through infrastructural projects like the construction of a pedestrian bridge and solarized boreholes in Adamawa state, community resilience has been strengthened and is symbolic of the peaceful coexistence between farmers and herders in the community. ©IOM2024 / TAGHWO Ovie



Inter-communal conflicts are especially harsh on women and children who are 80% of displaced individuals according to an IOM DTM report in 2019. The impact of the COMITAS project has helped in restoring peace in communities facing protracted inter-communal crises. ©IOM2024 / TAGHWO Ovie

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Currently, IOM is expanding its peacebuilding efforts to regions experiencing increasing instability, particularly in the North West. This region has been severely impacted by banditry, communal violence, and criminal activities, resulting in widespread displacement and heightened insecurity. In Katsina State, IOM is leading the EU-funded project “Conflict Mitigation and Community Reconciliation in Northwest Nigeria”, which focuses on enhancing peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts in conflict-affected communities. This project builds the capacity of local peace committees, strengthens local governance structures, and promotes community-driven conflict resolution. By engaging traditional leaders and local government officials, the project ensures that communities are equipped to address the underlying causes of conflict and are better prepared for long-term peace and reconciliation.

In addition, IOM is implementing the UN Peacebuilding Fund (UNPBF) project “Strengthening Local and State Level Peace Architectures for Peacebuilding and Prevention in Katsina and Kaduna States of North West Nigeria.” This initiative seeks to strengthen local peacebuilding mechanisms by fostering social cohesion and promoting inter-communal dialogue. The project supports grassroots conflict prevention and dispute resolution, with a focus on rebuilding trust between ethnic and religious groups. It also integrates livelihood support to address the economic drivers of conflict, providing vulnerable communities with

the resources they need to rebuild their lives and reduce the risk of further violence.

Looking ahead, IOM is committed to deepening its work in peacebuilding and community stabilization across Nigeria. As new conflicts emerge, often linked to climate change, resource scarcity, and displacement, IOM’s future efforts will focus on addressing these evolving challenges. The organization will continue working closely with state and federal governments to ensure that peacebuilding efforts are supported by inclusive, long-term policies that promote sustainable development and conflict prevention.

IOM’s extensive experience, operational capacity, and strong relationships with local authorities, traditional leaders, and international donors position the organization as a key actor in Nigeria’s peacebuilding landscape. By integrating conflict resolution, livelihood restoration, and governance support, IOM remains dedicated to creating a peaceful and resilient future for Nigeria’s most vulnerable communities. Through its holistic approach, IOM ensures that peacebuilding is not only about resolving immediate conflicts but also about addressing the root causes of violence, fostering inclusive development, and supporting communities to thrive in the long term.



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