OPEN KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

PROJECT REPORT

PROJECT TITLE:

VOICES OF PEACE FELLOWSHIP

Location:
Northeastern Nigeria

Executive Summary

The Voices of Peace Fellowship is a reintegration and peacebuilding program that empowers at-risk and marginalized youth in Northeast Nigeria, a region affected by violent extremism, poverty, and social exclusion. The fellowship specifically targets young people who were previously associated with social ill groups, risky behaviours, or negative peer influences and supports their transformation into agents of peace, leadership, and civic responsibility.

Through four interconnected phases such as Preparation & Onboarding, Core Fellowship Training I & II, and Reintegration & Sustainability—the project supported 24 participants to transition from vulnerability to leadership and community service. From June to September 2025, the fellowship delivered intensive capacity-building workshops on trauma healing, mediation, digital storytelling, and civic leadership. Participants gained psychosocial resilience, digital literacy, and advocacy skills. The project culminated in a Graduation and Launch of the Youth Peace & Skills Network (YPSN), a sustainable alumni platform for ongoing mentorship and advocacy.



IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW

Project Phase	Key Activities	Duration	Main Outputs
Phase 1: Preparation & Onboarding	Stakeholder engagement, selection, and orientation of youth fellows. Translation of manuals into Hausa.	Month 1	24 participants selected, oriented, and equipped with training resources.
Phase 2: Core Fellowship Training I	Workshops on conflict resolution, trauma healing, and nonviolent communication.	Month 2	Fellows trained in mediation, empathy, and dialogue
Phase 3: Core Fellowship Training II	Leadership, storytelling, and digital literacy training. Foundational literacy support.	Month 3	Fellows produced 5 storytelling media pieces and improved literacy scores by 30%.
Phase 4: Reintegration & Sustainability	Graduation, YPSN launch, radio jingles on peacebuilding, and community dialogues.	Month 4	Fellows graduated; YPSN established; 3 radio campaigns aired.





TRAININGS CONDUCTED

Training Title	Objectives	Facilitator	Participants	Outcomes
Orientation & Onboarding	Introduce fellows to OKDI, project goals, and participation expectations.	OKDI Project Team	24	Fellows fully oriented and committed.
Conflict Resolution & Mediation	Strengthen peace mediation and conflict management capacity.	Peacebuilding Expert, OKDI	24	Fellows improved dialogue and negotiation skills.
Trauma Healing & Psychosocial Support	Address trauma and strengthen mental resilience.	Psychologist, OKDI	24	80% of fellows reported improved emotional well-being.
Nonviolent Communication & Dialogue Facilitation	Build nonviolent communication and community dialogue skills.	Local Mediators, OKDI	24	Fellows facilitated practice dialogues confidently.
Leadership & Civic Engagement	Develop civic responsibility and leadership competence.	OKDI & Community Leaders	24	Fellows exhibited improved self-leadership and teamwork.
Storytelling & Media for Peacebuilding	Teach creative communication through storytelling, photography, and radio.	OKDI	24	5 storytelling projects published.
Literacy & Digital Skills	Improve literacy, reading, writing, and digital usage.	OKDI Trainers	20	Fellows' average test scores increased by 30%.











Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Results

A. Output Indicators

Indicator	Target	Achieve	Status
Number of youth participants recruited	20	24	Exceeded target
Number of training sessions conducted	7	7	Achieved
Number of community advocacy campaigns	3	3	Achieved
Number of media outputs produced	3	5	Exceeded target
Number of awareness programs broadcasted	2	3	Exceeded target





B. Outcome Indicators

Indicator	Baseline	Endline	% Change	Observation
Participants' literacy levels	45%	75%	+30%	Improved comprehension and communication.
Emotional resilience and coping	40%	80%	+40%	Marked improvement in psychosocial stability.
Confidence and leadership skills	35%	85%	+50%	Fellows demonstrated active leadership roles.
Community perception of participants	Low acceptance	Moderate to High	—	Stigma significantly reduced through advocacy.



Key Achievements

- 24 youth participants graduated with new vocational, digital, and leadership skills.
- 5 storytelling pieces produced and shared publicly to promote positive narratives and peacebuilding.
- Youth Peace & Skills Network (YPSN) launched to ensure post-project sustainability.
- 3 campaigns aired, amplifying reintegration awareness and reducing social stigma.
- Stakeholder collaboration fostered between traditional institutions, civil society, and local government.






SUSTAINABILITY AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The newly launched Youth Peace & Skills Network (YPSN) serves as the sustainability arm of the fellowship. It will continue mentorship, peer learning, and advocacy, with OKDI providing technical guidance and access to future opportunities.







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About OKDI

The Open Knowledge Development Initiative (OKDI) is a youth-led nonprofit organization committed to empowering individuals and communities through access to knowledge, open data, civic participation, and digital innovation. We work to promote transparency, social justice, digital rights, and inclusive development—particularly among underrepresented groups including women, persons with disabilities, and young people from marginalized communities.

Through our programs and advocacy efforts, OKDI fosters meaningful participation in democratic processes, champions human rights both online and offline, and builds the capacity of youth and grassroots actors to lead change in their communities.



OUR VISION

We envision a more informed, empowered, and accountable society that transcends boundaries.



OUR MISSION

We are dedicated to empowering communities with the tools, knowledge, and voice they need to drive positive change.

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