

**2021 Report of the Activities of the UNESCO Chair on Peace and Citizenship**  
**(2020) ABUAD (1392)**

The Chair's activities in the year 2021 include the following:

1. Nigeria EndSARS Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding (NECTAP)
2. Breaking the cycle of violence in Ekiti State (BIVES)
3. Community Engagement and Accountability Training for NGO and community people
4. Pieces of training on Negotiation, mediation, communal conflict transformation, and Peacebuilding

**1. The Nigerian EndSARS Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding (NECTAP) Project**

The project brought together experts in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), conflict transformation, and Peacebuilding across Nigeria to transform the conflict between the government and the EndSARS protesters. The Chair successfully mobilized experts from various parts of the country and they received the initiative very well and participated.

**2. Breaking the Cycle of Violence in Ekiti State BIVES**

The breaking Infrastructure of Violence in Ekiti State (BIVES) Programme commenced with a baseline study on the infrastructure of violence in Ekiti State in September 2020.

In 2021, data were collected through interviews, focus groups, and document reviews. A key finding of the study is that the infrastructure of violence in the state mainly comprises the unholy alliance between politicians and public road transport workers. This is most evident during the electioneering period.

The politicians find a fertile recruiting ground for political thugs among road workers who are later rewarded for their services through political appointments, contracts, recognitions, and monthly salary payments from public funds. This has encouraged a thriving career choice in political thuggery and violence entrepreneurship, which though has been part of Nigeria's politics from its inception, has now become more conspicuous and celebrated in the Nigeria polity.

Nigerian youths, especially, those engaged in the public transport system, now consciously aspire to choose this career path by outdoing themselves in acts of violence to impress their clients.

It is on these premises that BIVES was conceived to begin to break the infrastructure of violence in Ekiti State by turning the main agents of violence in the state into agents of peace. BIVES, therefore, aims to achieve its goal by supplanting the culture of violence among public road transport workers (PRTWs) with a culture of peace in Ekiti State. This way it will deprive politicians of their recruiting grounds for political thuggery. It will show potential thugs why and how a culture of investment in peace yields better dividends for all than investment in violence.

BIVES was both timely and strategic as Ekiti State will be preparing for its elections in 2022.

#### What we have done so far

We have initiated talks with the three main groups of PRTWs which are the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria (RTEAN), and the Okada and Tricycle Riders of Ekiti State in our dear State. All were receptive to the BIVES Initiative.

#### Activities

- i. Sensitize and Train the State Executives of each group on the Culture of Peace
- ii. Appoint Afe Babalola Ambassadors of Peace among the top Executives.
- iii. Train some key individuals as Peace Educators for their members
- iv. Have Executives of each group sign a Peace Agreement (which will include avoidance of all forms of violence and employing conflict resolution/transformation mechanisms rather than violence in conflict within and outside their groups).

### **3. Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)**

A 3-day intensive workshop on Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) was conducted for NGO workers and community people from across Ekiti State in June 2021

#### **4. Pieces of training on Negotiation, Mediation, Conflict Transformation, and Peacebuilding**

Hundreds of university students (both undergraduate and postgraduate) and professionals from security agencies, NGOs, CBOs, and the private sector were trained in negotiation, mediation, conflict transformation, and peacebuilding. The pieces of training took place in Ado-Ekiti and Abuja. The pieces of training were conducted both online and in-person.