COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF A ONE-DAY CAPACITY BUILDING FOR COMMUNITY OBSERVERS ON EARLY WARNING AND EARLY RESPONSE, ORGANISED BY CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC)/TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL IN NIGERIA (TI-NIGERIA) WITH SUPPORT FROM OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION AFRICA (OSF-AFRICA) HELD AT CITY GREEN HOTEL ON 24TH OCTOBER, 2023.

PREAMBLE:
CISLAC/TI-Nigeria with support from Open Society Foundation Africa (OSF-Africa) organised one-day Capacity Building for Community Observers on Early Warning and Early Response. The Workshop aimed at building the capacity of community observers in the North East for more collaboration, communication, coordination and collective support for early warning and conflict prediction mechanisms, which are central in conflict prevention. It had a technical session with presentation titled: “Building Resilience in Communities through Effective Early Warning System” by Prof. Jude Momodu. It was attended by over 20 participants including Community Observers, PWDs, Women and Civil Society groups. After brainstorming exhaustively on various thematic issues, the following observations and recommendations were made:

OBSERVATIONS:

1. As conflict fragility spreads rapidly across Nigeria, the North East region is bedeviled by the growing activities of banditry and other armed opposition groups with an increasing threat to lives and property, hence the imperative of a multi-dimensional approach to internal security giving cognizance to Community participation.

2. The proactive role of Community Observers is key in building collective conflict sensitivity and resilience—a critical element in Early Warning and Early Response systems and processes.

3. Proactive information provision to the wrong channel results in leakages exposing reporting individuals/community to reprisal attacks, while discouraging active participation and efficient workability of the response system.
4. Delay in prioritizing prevention over response has resulted in continuous conflict escalation and a major threat to human existence and overall socio-economic development.

5. Proactive effort towards Early Warning Early Response must duly observe risk knowledge, risk monitoring and warning services, risk dissemination and communication and response capacity for long-term, Early Warning analysis and operational prevention.

6. Effective Community-Based Early Warning and Early Response systems for conflict prevention and management must take into cognizance, information anticipation, preventive strategies, procedural identification, emotional management, and inclusive dialogue.

7. Unattended social inequality, collapse in governance, ineffective communication, and anti-social behavior are identified conflict indicators at all levels.

8. Conflict insensitivity at the community level coupled with poor upbringing at the individual level are major threats to proactive efforts at building synergy in reporting conflict signals.

9. Disproportional allocation of security personnel for political and other uses results in personnel shortage at response institution levels.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

We, the participants recommended as follows:

1. Intensify focus on conflict prevention to explore a diplomatic approach to variety of measures that complement Early Warning and Early Response system.

2. Identify conflict indicators through proactive monitoring of political, economic, personal security, military build-up and expenditures, social, environment to enhance coordination in Early Response.
3. Harness the critical roles of CBOs in protection, monitoring, advocacy, socialisation, social cohesion, intermediation and facilitation, and service protection to support collective and timely response.

4. Building synergy among community actors to encourage efficiency in conflict prevention and management through adequate capacity building to enhance individual/institutional knowledge as well as communication and dissemination.

5. Identify structural and proximate signals in conflict monitoring process at community levels to elicit proactive reporting for timely response at institutional levels.

6. Formation of a well-informed and formidable community network with coordinating body to complement intelligence gathering process for accurate information provision on Early Warning signals.

7. Proactive strategy to ensure adequate protection of Community Observers and other conflict information sources to encourage continuous reporting of conflict signals.

8. Establish a functional Situation Room as a proactive Early Warning/Early Response structure to efficiently operationalise related Laws; with proper integration of existing network of observers at community levels into the reporting structure of Situation Room.

9. Adequate personnel recruitment to boost human resource allocation across Response institutions to enhance response efficiency.

**NEXT STEP:**

- Cascade training to the staff and peace actors under Community Peace Practitioners (CPP) as well as the community.

- Support for Needy Children and Women Initiative to create more community network on EARLY WARNING EARLY RESPONSE (EWER) and cascade training to colleagues institutional level and members of
To urges Local Government, particularly youth, women groups, traditional ruler and community.

- Advocacy Nigeria to cascade sensitisation awareness across educational institutions with targeted collaboration with the Schools Counsellors.

- International Rescue Mission to engage early awareness and sensitization in the state.

- PLWD representative to cascade lessons learnt among People Living with Disabilities.

- CPP (Mubi LG) to engage sensitisation at Secondary and Primary institution levels.

- Adamawa Awareness Forum will raise awareness on the impact of drug abuse among the youth in Adamawa state.

- Agaji Global Unity Foundation to cascade lessons learnt to members within the organisation.

- Peace and Security Network to enhance collaboration to activate collective actions towards EW.

- Deputy Chief Imam (Yola South) to cascade awareness on EARLY WARNING EARLY RESPONSE (EWER) among followers.

- Community Leader and Chairman of Ward Heads of Yola to organise a sensitisation on EARLY WARNING EARLY RESPONSE (EWER) among community leaders and Ward Heads in Adamawa state.

- Muri Organisation to raise awareness on Drug abuse among the youth leveraging social media platform.
• Village Head (Bole) representative to ensure weekly follow-up activities on the implementation of EARLY WARNING EARLY RESPONSE (EWER) within the community using local language.

• Clear View Integrity Foundation to organize Social media engagement on EARLY WARNING EARLY RESPONSE (EWER).

Signed

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