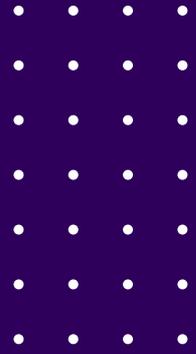


Empowering Communities for Peace



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



**Consolidating Peace:
Advancing the Implementation of Youth
and Women Peace and Security Agenda**

**PUBLISHED
JANUARY, 2026**

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
List of Acronyms and Initialism	3
Message from the Board Chair	4
Executive Director's Corner	5
About BBFORPEACE	7
Overview of Our Projects in 2025	8
Organisational Sustainability Initiatives	23
Partners Events Attended in 2025	25
Advocacy Visits Carried Out in 2025	33
Lessons Learnt	36
Award and Recognition	37
Board of Trustees	39
Board of Executives	40
Our Partners	41
Social Media Handles	43
Contact	

List of Acronyms and Initialism

AGFCS	Action Group on Free Civic Space
AU	African Union
AU-EU	African Union-European Union
BBFORPEACE	Building Blocks for Peace Foundation
COMESA	The Common Market of Eastern and Western Africa
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
GPPAC	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IPCR	Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution
LAPA	Local Adaptation Plan Action
LGA	Local Government Area
P/CVE	Prevention/Countering of Violent Extremism
PWDs	People with Disabilities
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
YAL	Youth Action Lab

Message from the Board Chair



This 2025 Annual Report on “Consolidating Peace: Advancing the Implementation of Youth and Women Peace and Security Agenda” is a testament to who we truly are: a vibrant grassroots civil society initiative with tall national, regional, continental, and global ambitions to be at the forefront of promoting peace and security in Africa. We do not take this ambition lightly; we approach it with our full commitment that the task of consolidating peace is too important- perhaps even dangerous- to be left in the hands of African government and intergovernmental institutions alone. It is a responsibility we take on with diligence and vigilance, making sure that we contribute to and leave a legacy of sustainable peace building in the different places and contexts that we operate in.

In all that we do at Building Blocks for Peace Foundation (BBFORPEACE) in Nigeria and across Africa, we are committed to amplifying the voice and agency of local communities- making sure that no group or constituency, no matter how distant from the epicentre of power and authority they might

be, contributes to and benefits from the authoritative allocation of values and opportunities. We pride ourselves to be attentive and sensitive towards the plights of the most vulnerable in our society; and that the success or failure of any intervention would depend on how they are acknowledged and mainstreamed in peace and security decisions and provisioning

While this report presents our modest stewardship in 2025, our hope is that it will already set the tone for what we intend to do in 2026, and in the coming years. As the Board Chair, it has been my delight working with a crop of enthusiastic and motivated young people who, rather than give up on society as a growing number of their peers are doing, are constantly renewing and rededicating themselves to the tasks of promoting peace and security in Africa. They give me confidence, in ways they cannot imagine, that the rosy future we all look forward is achievable. I would like to seize this opportunity to thank the Executive Director, Rafiu Adeniran Lawal, and his team; and our ever-growing partners and benefactors for believing in and working with us last year.

We look forward to working more with you all in 2026 towards achieving a peaceful, stable and prosperous Africa.

Prof. Charles Ukeje, mni
Board Chairman

Executive Director's Corner



As we reflect on the past year, I am very proud as the Executive Director of Building Blocks for Peace Foundation, to share how our collective resilience, partnerships and commitment have shaped milestones that continue to define our journey forward.

At the beginning of the year 2025, which was themed ‘Consolidating Peace: Advancing the Implementation of Youth, Women Peace and Security Agenda’, we had committed and set out to increase our support for youth and women building blocks for peace across communities in Nigeria and beyond. This report shows that we kept our commitment

From Brussels to Banjul, Nairobi to Bishoftu, Kampala to The Hague, Oslo to Addis Ababa, Niamey to Amman, Freetown to Accra, Ibadan to Makurdi we worked alongside local and international stakeholders, shaping policies, empowering youth, amplifying youth and women’s voices, and celebrating their resilience.

In 2025, we launched our regional office in Benue State, Northcentral Nigeria, continued to co-implement the Connection for Peace project in Niamey, Niger Republic, successfully organised the second edition of West Africa Peace and Security Dialogue (WAPSeD) with participants coming from across West Africa among other activities.

Midway, our feeds carried the pride of recognition, as our organisation was honoured with the National Youth Development Award 2025 by the Federal Ministry of Youth Development, Abuja.

In this annual report, I invite you to relive these moments with us, and to look ahead with renewed energy towards advancing Youth, and Women Peace and Security across Africa and beyond.

I thank our board of trustees under the leadership of Professor Charles Ukeje, our staff, partners, donors, and everyone who has been at the heart of the work that we do.

Together, we are building a world where there is peace, justice, and respect for human rights in Nigeria, Africa, and across the board.

Rafiu Adeniran Lawal
Executive Director, BFORPEACE.



About Us

i. History

Building Blocks for Peace Foundation (BBFORPEACE) is a youth-led network/non-governmental organisation working on Conflict Prevention, Prevention of Violent Extremism, Peacebuilding, Accountability Governance, Climate Action and Sustainable Development. The organisation was incorporated with the Corporate Affairs Commission in Nigeria in 2017.

The organisation, founded by Mr. Rafiu Adeniran Lawal, began with its youth programme known as Nigeria Youth 4 Peace Initiative in 2016, a movement of young people who were dissatisfied with the increasing participation of young people in violent extremism, caused largely by the massive socioeconomic and political deprivation in their communities, and the subsequent exclusion of youth from the decision-making process and were committed to advocating for the meaningful and effective engagement of youth in the peacebuilding process.

ii. Vision

A world where there is peace, justice, and respect for human rights with youth and women meaningfully engaged in the peace and development processes.

iii. Mission

We work towards the achievement of a peaceful society through innovative approaches such as policy advocacy, community dialogue, education, training, workshops, radio/TV presentations, sports, research, community sensitisation, social media engagement, and arts to mention a few.

iv. Core Values

Our Core Values include Inclusion, Tolerance, Accountability, Gender Sensitivity, Transparency, Pluralism, Volunteerism, Diversity, Non-Partisanship, and Integrity.

vi. What We Do



**CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND
PEACEBUILDING**



**PREVENTION/COUNTERING OF
VIOLENT EXTREMISM**



**GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRATIC
TRANSITIONS**



**EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**



CLIMATE SECURITY

Overview of Our Projects in 2025

In 2025, Building Blocks for Peace implemented the following projects.

*West Africa Peace and Stability Programme (GPPAC West Africa Regional Coordination).

*Advancing the Implementation of Youth, Peace and Security in Nigeria.

*Strengthening Local Leadership in WPS and YPS in Conflict and Post-Conflict Settings (Benue State).

*Digital Innovation for Youth Led Peacebuilding.

*Nigeria Civic Space and Security.

West Africa Peace and Stability Programme

Activity 1. Inception Meeting/Launch of the Connection for Peace Project in Niamey



BBFORPEACE together with local partner, LAC-LAC Network convened an inception meeting in Niger Republic to launch the project titled ‘*Connection for Peace: Powerful Local Peacebuilding and Policies*’.

Connection for Peace: Powerful Local Peacebuilding and Policies (2024–2031) is an 8-year programme funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).

The project aims to strengthen locally led peacebuilding and ensure that national, regional, and global policies are grounded in local realities and expertise.

The meeting brought together government representatives, civil society, youth and women groups, UN agencies to align on project goals, review the current peace and security landscape, and contribute to a baseline study.

Activity 2. West Africa Peace and Security Dialogue (WAPSeD) 2025



West Africa continues to grapple with serious challenges including violent extremism, farmer-herder clashes, maritime piracy, poverty, youth unemployment, and transnational crime. The resurgence of military coups in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Guinea has further undermined democratic governance and heightened regional insecurity.

In response, BBFORPEACE, LAC-LAC Network, Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) West Africa, the Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR), Society for Peace Studies and Practice as part of the Connection for Peace project organised the second edition of the West Africa Peace and Security Dialogue (WAPSeD) under the theme “*Reimagining Peace and Security in West Africa: Local Solutions, Regional Solidarity and Global Partnerships.*”

The two-day dialogue provided a safe and inclusive platform for policymakers, peacebuilders, and civil society actors to reflect, collaborate, and develop actionable strategies for conflict prevention and sustainable peace across the region.

Objectives

The dialogue was aimed at collectively co-creating solutions to the myriads of peace and developmental challenges confronting West Africa and strengthening the capacity of CSOs and peacebuilding practitioners in the region to lead peace actions.

Project Outcomes

Outcome 1: Enhanced stakeholder understanding of regional peace and security dynamics

Results

- 80% of participants reported an improvement in their understanding of key peace and security challenges in West Africa through post-dialogue evaluation.
- Increased quality of participant contributions during plenary and group sessions, reflected in evidence-based analysis and context-specific recommendations.
- Interviews conducted showed a measurable increase in knowledge of locally led and preventive peacebuilding approaches.

Outcome 2: Strengthened collaboration and coordination among peacebuilding actors

Results:

- 5 new partnerships and commitments were established among CSOs, networks, and institutions represented at the dialogue.
- Ongoing co-developement initiative with Nigerien partners within few months of the dialogue.

Outcome 3: Increased capacity of CSOs and peacebuilding practitioners

Results:

- 75% of participants reported increased confidence in applying conflict analysis, advocacy, and locally driven peacebuilding tools.
- Participants demonstrated improved capacity to articulate policy-relevant recommendations during simulations, breakout sessions, or group work.
- Post-dialogue feedback indicated intent by participants to integrate acquired skills into their organisational or community-level interventions.

Outcome 4: Co-creation and adoption of a regional policy report

Results:

- A jointly developed and validated policy report produced and endorsed by dialogue organisers and participants.
- Policy recommendations reflected inputs from diverse stakeholders, including CSOs, youth, women, and regional practitioners.
- Dissemination of the policy report to regional bodies, national policymakers, and development partners.

Activity 3. Training for CSOs on Conflict Sensitivity Peacebuilding and Project Management



West Africa continues to face significant peace and security challenges, shaped by political instability, socio-economic pressures, and historical legacies. Recent military coups in Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger have disrupted governance and weakened democratic institutions, while Nigeria and neighboring states remain affected by the Boko Haram insurgency and ISWAP.

Despite ongoing interventions, conflict-sensitive approaches to peacebuilding remain underutilised. To address this gap, BBFORPEACE, Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) West Africa, organised a two-day capacity building on the theme: ‘Conflict Sensitive Peacebuilding and Project Management’ on 20–21 May 2025, aimed at fostering inclusive, context-driven, and sustainable peace strategies.

Objectives

- To enhance conflict sensitivity in peacebuilding interventions to ensure they do not inadvertently fuel tensions.
- Strengthen the capacity of peace actors, including civil society, government, and local communities, to integrate conflict sensitivity into their work.
- Promote inclusive peace processes that amplify the voices of marginalised groups, including youth, women, and displaced communities.
- Foster regional collaboration among GPPAC West Africa members to share best practices and jointly implement peacebuilding strategies.



Outcomes

Outcome 1: Peace actors integrated conflict-sensitive approaches into their peacebuilding work

Results:

- 75% of participants demonstrated increased knowledge of conflict-sensitive peacebuilding through pre- and post-training assessments.
- 60% of participating organisations have applied conflict analysis and “Do No Harm” tools in the design or revision of their peacebuilding projects.
- Participant developed action plans that included clearly identified conflict risks and corresponding mitigation measures.

Outcome 2: Strengthened regional collaboration among GPPAC West Africa members

Results:

- 2 joint initiatives, learning exchanges and collaborative actions initiated among GPPAC West Africa members.
- Increased frequency of communication and coordination among members, evidenced by joint meetings and shared platforms.
- Documentation of shared best practices and lessons learned circulated within the GPPAC West Africa network.

Strengthening Local Leadership in WPS and YPS in Conflict and Post-Conflict Settings (Benue State)

Activity 1. The Launch Of BBFORPEACE Regional Office and Project



On 5th August 2025, we reached another significant milestone in our peacebuilding journey with the official launch of our Regional Office in Makurdi, Benue State, and we also unveiled a 12-month project titled “Strengthening Local Leadership in Women and Youth Peace Programs in Conflict and Post-Conflict Contexts.”

The office launch which was led by the Director General of the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Dr Joseph Ochogwu, brought together 60 key stakeholders from diverse sectors, including government representatives such as the Federal Ministry of Youth Development, Benue State Peace Commission, Benue State Ministry of Youth,

civil society leaders, youth advocates, and traditional and religious authorities.

This gathering marked a pivotal expansion of BBFORPEACE’s grassroots peacebuilding efforts, establishing Benue State as a regional hub for community engagement and peacebuilding in North-Central Nigeria.

The office opening is an avenue for continuous empowerment of grassroots actors through targeted training, mentorship, and resource support, especially of young people and women.

Activity 2. Localisation Workshop on Youth, Peace and Security in Benue State



Globally, the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security in 2015 marked a turning point in recognising the important role of young people as positive contributors to sustainable peace.

It was on this basis that the Building Blocks for Peace Foundation (BBFORPEACE) in partnership with the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) and with support of the Peace and Stabilization Operations Program (PSOP) of Global Affairs Canada, on 6th – 7th August 2025, organised a two-day Localization Workshop on Youth Peace and Security in Makurdi, Benue State.

The workshop brought together 66 participants from diverse sectors, including young women and young men from the Benue State government, civil society leaders, youth advocates, academic institutions, security agencies, peacebuilding networks and the traditional authority.

Objectives

- To enable participants, particularly young women and men, to analyze conflict dynamics in Benue State from diverse perspectives, highlighting the unique roles, needs, and contributions of youth and women in peace processes.
- To build participants' awareness of the global and national frameworks on Youth, Peace, and Security, and how these can be contextualized and applied within Benue State.
- To introduce participants to the principles, methods, and strategies of advocacy, empowering them to effectively engage with policymakers, government stakeholders, and communities on youth-inclusive peace and security issues
- To guide participants through the process of localizing the YPS agenda by developing a state-level strategy that reflects the specific realities, priorities, and aspirations of young people and women in Benue State.

Outcome 1: Youth and women participants increased their knowledge of Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) frameworks and conflict dynamics in Benue State

Results:

- 80% of participants scored higher in post-workshop knowledge assessments on UNSCR 2250, Nigeria's YPS NAP, and Benue-specific conflict dynamics.
- Participants correctly identified key conflict drivers and youth/women roles in group exercises and plenary discussions.

Outcome 2: Youth and women participants acquired practical advocacy skills to engage state-level decision-makers on YPS issues

Results:

- 70% of participants were able to develop clear advocacy messages and engagement plans targeting Benue State institutions.
- Participants demonstrated the ability to design policy-focused advocacy actions during simulations or group work.

Outcome 3: A draft Benue State Youth, Peace and Security localisation strategy was developed

Results:

- A draft YPS localisation strategy for Benue State was produced at the end of the workshop.

Outcome 4: Multi-stakeholder coordination on youth-inclusive peacebuilding in Benue State was strengthened

Results:

- Institutional commitments by key stakeholders to support YPS localisation and implementation at State level.
- Establishment of a State-level YPS coordination or working group involving youth and women representatives.



Activity 3. Workshop on the Impact of Climate Change on Peace and Security in Benue State

Climate stress acts as a “threat multiplier” in Nigeria’s Middle Belt, intensifying competition over land and water. Violence has surged, leaving Benue among the worst affected states, with nearly half a million people displaced. Women and children bear disproportionate burdens, facing poverty, food insecurity, and heightened risks of gender-based violence.

Against this backdrop, BBFORPEACE and GNWP, with support from PSOP convened a two-day workshop for young people to explore the climate–security nexus in Benue. With strong representation from young women, the sessions focused on conflict-sensitive adaptation, protection of displaced populations, and tools for early warning and action.

Objectives

- To enhance understanding of the climate-security nexus in Benue State by equipping participants with knowledge on how climate change impacts livelihoods, fuels conflict, and undermines peace.
- To strengthen the capacity of young women and other key stakeholders to design and advocate for gender-responsive, climate-resilient peacebuilding strategies.
- To foster collaboration across government, civil society, and communities to co-create practical, locally driven solutions and a framework for joint action on climate change, peace, and security.



Outcomes

- 80% of the young women demonstrated an increased capacity and improvement of skills and confidence to actively contribute to climate-resilient peacebuilding initiatives in their communities.
- A set of practical, community-driven recommendations and a draft framework for collaboration on climate, peace, and security were developed for follow-up action

Activity 3: Localization Writeshop and Inauguration of Local Steering Committee on Youth, Peace and Security in Benue State



Recognising the need to contextualize YPS at the sub-national level, we partnered with the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) and the Peace and Stabilisation Operations Program (PSOP) of Global Affairs Canada to organise a groundbreaking YPS Localisation Writeshop in Benue State.

A key outcome from the previous activity organised was the creation of a Local Steering Committee (LSC), which brought together youth groups, civil society, women's organisations, government representatives, and traditional and religious leaders to drive YPS efforts in Benue.

To strengthen this committee, BBFORPEACE has started organising a participatory writeshop designed to enhance members' understanding of the YPS agenda, sharpen their documentation and communication skills, and support the development of context-specific action plans for the state.

Objectives

- To enhance the writing and communication skills of local steering committee members to effectively articulate YPS issues and solutions.
- To enhance the knowledge of the Local Steering Committee on the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda.
- Develop a roadmap and action plan for the operationalization of the YPS localization process in Benue State.

Results

- A consolidated Terms of Reference for the LSC was developed.
- An agreed roadmap/action plan for implementing the YPS localization process.
- Strengthened capacity of LSC members in YPS communication, advocacy, and documentation.
- Improved synergy and collaboration among LSC members and other stakeholders.

Nigeria Civic Space and Security

Activity 1: Capacity-Building Training for Youth Activists on Cybercrime Law, and Safe Use of Social Media and Internet for Civic Space



BBFORPEACE and World Impact Development Foundation (WIDEF) hosted a two-day capacity-building training on cybercrime laws and safe digital engagement.

This initiative, supported by the Action Group on Free Civic Space (AGFCS) aims to equip youth activists with the knowledge and tools to navigate online spaces responsibly, strengthen WAYPAN, and safeguard democratic participation across the region.

Objectives

- Enlighten youth activists on the content and effects of cybercrime laws on civic space and freedom of expression
- Engage youth activists on safe use of social media and the internet for activism on good governance and democratic strengthening
- Strengthen the capacity of youth platforms for the defence of civic space and free speech.

Outcome 1: Youth activists increased understanding of cybercrime laws and their impact on civic space

Results:

- 80% of participants demonstrated improved knowledge of cybercrime laws through pre- and post-training assessments.
- Participants accurately identify key legal risks and protections affecting online activism.
- Discussions and exercises among participants reflected rights-based analysis of civic space.



Outcome 2: Youth activists adopted safer and more effective digital practices for advocacy

Results:

- 70% of participants have reported using safe social media and internet practices in their activism post-training.
- Participants developed digital safety and online engagement plans for personal or organisational use.
- Increased confidence in navigating digital platforms safely, as measured by post-training surveys.

Outcome 3: Regional youth network (WAYPAN-Nigeria) strengthened for collective action on civic space

Results:

- Active participation of youth activists from across Nigeria in joint sessions and follow-up coordination.
- Mechanisms for collaboration within WAYPAN, such as group communication channels and shared action plans were adopted.
- Commitments made towards joint advocacy campaigns and actions defending youth civic space across Nigeria



Advancing the Implementation of Youth, Peace and Security in Nigeria

Activity 1. Training For Young People on Transforming Narratives and Advocacy for Youth, Peace and Security



Building Blocks for Peace Foundation in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Youth Development, Nigeria, supported by the Nigeria Youth Futures Fund, organised a “Two-day storytelling and advocacy training” targeting youth from all six Area Councils of the FCT. The training was designed to empower young people to transform narratives and effectively champion the YPS agenda at local and national levels

Objectives

- Empower youth with storytelling and advocacy skills to reframe negative narratives around youth and security.
- Introduce participants to the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda and Nigeria’s National Action Plan (NAP).
- Strengthen youth capacity to engage with policymakers and lead peacebuilding actions in their communities.
- Promote positive youth representation and inclusion in peace and security discourses at the FCT level.



Outcome 1: Improved Knowledge and Understanding of the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda

Results:

- Young people from the six Area Councils of the FCT demonstrated increased understanding of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, including UNSCR 2250, the African Union Continental Framework, and Nigeria's National Action Plan on YPS.
- Pre-training assessments showed limited awareness of YPS, while post-session reflections indicated 80% improved familiarity with YPS pillars, objectives, and implementation pathways.

Outcome 2: Strengthened Youth Capacity in Peacebuilding, Conflict Transformation, and Advocacy

Results:

- Participants increased their knowledge and skills in conflict transformation, peacebuilding approaches, and strategic advocacy.
- Participants developed practical advocacy skills, including issue identification, stakeholder mapping, strategic engagement, and monitoring.

Outcome 3: Shift in Youth Perceptions and Narratives around Peace and Security

- The training showed increased positive shift in how participants perceive the role of young people in peace and security.
- Through storytelling and narrative transformation sessions, participants challenged stereotypes framing youth as perpetrators of violence and reframed youth as peacebuilders, leaders, and change agents.

Outcome 4: Increased Youth Awareness of National Policy Frameworks and Entry Points for Engagement

Results:

- Participants gained a clearer understanding of Nigeria's National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security and identified concrete opportunities for engagement at community, Area Council, and national levels.
- Youth participants identify policy gaps, implementation challenges, and developed action plans for influencing YPS localisation processes.

Outcome 5: Establishment of a Pipeline for Sustained Youth Engagement in Peacebuilding

Results:

- Participants were enrolled into a three-month online fellowship on Youth, Peace and Security.
- Graduates of the fellowship were inducted into the Champions of Peace Initiative, ensuring continued advocacy, mentorship, and technical support.



Raising the Next Generation of Peacebuilders



In a world where social justice, tolerance, and mutual understanding have become highly valued, it is crucial to inculcate in individuals the principles of peace and conflict resolution from an early age.

Through the #1000 Kids for Peace project, we empower learners/children with the skills and values necessary to promote peace and resolve conflicts nonviolently within their communities, Nigeria, and the global community.

Also, through this project, every year, we reach about 1000 children and teenagers in primary and secondary schools across Nigeria to instill in them a sense of social responsibility and the importance of peacebuilding and peaceful coexistence.

Project Objectives

- To equip Learners with the essential social skills and values required to become ambassadors of peace in any community they find themselves.
- Acquaint them with basic conflict resolution skills.
- Introduce and train them to become champions for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Project Outcomes

1. Students demonstrate improved social and interpersonal skills that enable them to contribute positively to peacebuilding efforts and responsibly engage in social and cultural roles within their communities.
2. Students have a strengthened understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals, fostering the development of informed global citizens equipped to promote inclusive, peaceful, and sustainable societies.

ORGANISATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AND STRENGTHENING INITIATIVES

1. Learning Exchange Program (LEP) in Accra, Ghana,



BBFORPEACE participated in the 2025 Learning Exchange Program (LEP) in Accra, Ghana, organized by Spaces for Change through its Civil Society Resource Hub CSR-Hub for West Africa initiative.

The LEP places senior management staff of very promising organisations with highly established organisations with strong organisational systems and procedures.

2. BBFORPEACE Organised Mental Health and Wellbeing Training for Staff

In 2025, we held a mid-year retreat themed ‘Protecting Impact: Mental Wellness and Balance in the Nonprofit Space.’ The training focused on helping our staff balance mental wellness with work life, manage stress, and build resilience.

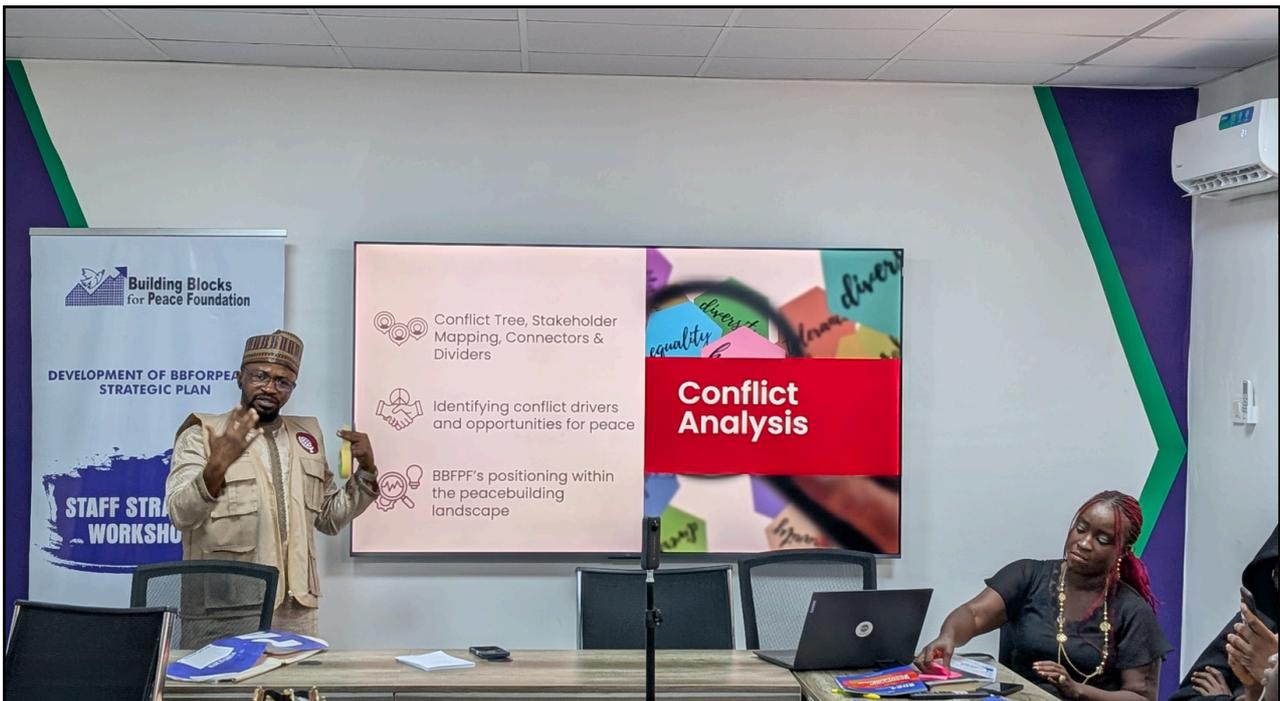
BBFORPEACE was matched with Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP).

The one-week LEP provided BBFORPEACE with the opportunity to observe and learn from ACEP's management structures, internal governance, policies, and administrative procedures, with the aim to adopt and strengthen our established organisational system.

As an organisation that recognises that staff wellbeing is central to our mission, we remain committed to creating safe spaces and offering programs that support productivity and holistic wellness. This training was supported by the AU-EU Youth Action Lab and the Global Democracy Coalition.



3.BBFORPEACE Commenced the Development of a Five Year Strategic Plan (2026-2031)



As part of activities under the AU-EU Youth Lab project, the Building Blocks for Peace Foundation (BBFORPEACE) has commenced the development of its strategic plan. This was kickstarted with an inception staff strategy workshop which brought together over 15 team members, comprising both past and current staff of the organisation.

Discussions during the workshop centred around our journey since establishment, looking at our wins and challenges and lessons, context and conflict analysis, SWOT analysis, envisioning a clear, actionable roadmap that would guide BBFORPEACE's goals, priorities, and decisions for the next coming years.

Partners Event Attended

BBFORPEACE Celebrated with Spaces for Change at 13!



BBFORPEACE joined Spaces for Change in Lagos, Nigeria, to celebrate its 13th anniversary through an intergenerational dialogue themed “Wisdom from the Taproot.”

The conversation brought together civil society leaders across generations to reflect on the state of Nigeria’s civic space.

BBFORPEACE Attended the Human Capital Development Youth Conference

In April 2025, we were in Accra, Ghana, to participate in the ECOWAS Human Capital Development Youth Conference.

During the conference, we highlighted the works that we do with young people and women and how we are catalysing youth's ideas into realities through our small-scale grants and mentoring programs in West Africa.

Young activists engaged veteran advocates on lessons from past struggles, including defending free speech, resisting military repression, and building broad, nationwide movements to protect civic freedoms.



Reflective Seminar on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) National Action Plans in Addis Ababa



BBFORPEACE participated in a reflective seminar on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) National Action Plans in Addis Ababa, convened by ACCORD, the African Union, and COMESA.

The event marked key milestones for the YPS agenda and provided a platform for countries to review progress and share lessons.

BBFORPEACE Attended Consultative Workshop on Policing Protest Toolkit

BBFORPEACE joined civil society actors at a consultative workshop on the Policing Protest Toolkit organised by the Nigeria Network of NGOs and supported by Heinrich Böll Stiftung.

The workshop focused on developing an accountable, rights-respecting framework for managing protests in Nigeria.

BBFORPEACE contributed insights from Nigeria's YPS National Action Plan and reaffirmed its commitment to advancing youth-led peace and security efforts across Africa.



BBFORPEACE Joined Young Researchers' Foundation Training in Uganda



Building Blocks for Peace Foundation, represented by our Programme Director, joined the AU-EU Youth Lab Young Researchers Foundation Training in Entebbe, Uganda. Facilitated by Restless Development, the training strengthened youth leaders' capacity to design and implement research that reflects the realities of youth-led initiatives.

This engagement reflects BBFORPEACE's commitment to empowering young people as leaders in peacebuilding and equipping them with the knowledge and tools to drive sustainable development in conflict-affected communities.

BBFORPEACE Attended SPSP 19th Annual Conference

BBFORPEACE participated in the 19th General Assembly of the Society for Peace Studies and Practice (SPSP) in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria joining peace experts, security actors, academics, and civil society to discuss emerging peace and security challenges in Nigeria and West Africa.

The gathering provided an important platform for dialogue and partnership-building.



BBFORPEACE Attended 2nd EU Youth, Peace and Security Conference in Brussels, Belgium



From 10–14 November 2025, Building Blocks for Peace Foundation joined over 150 youth peacebuilders worldwide at the 2nd EU Youth, Peace & Security Conference, marking the 10th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 2250.

BBFORPEACE Attended Counter Terrorism Training



BBFORPEACE joined diplomats, government officials, civil society, and regional actors in Accra, Ghana for the GCTF West Africa Capacity-Building Meeting hosted by UNODC. The discussions focused on strengthening community-driven, prevention-focused approaches to terrorism and violent extremism, exploring local drivers, resilience initiatives, community–security relations, and governance roles.

BBFORPEACE Attended YPS Reflection Meeting in Banjul The Gambia



BBFORPEACE delegate joined a two-day Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) reflection meeting in Banjul, The Gambia.

Organised by Peace Hub The Gambia, KAS, and the African Union, the workshop focused on strengthening national and regional approaches to YPS, emphasizing effective implementation, monitoring, and sustainability.

The dialogue brought together government, civil society, and development partners from across Africa to share experiences and advance National Action Plan commitments.

BBFORPEACE contributed to discussions on progress, achievements, and strategies to deepen youth-led peacebuilding across the continent.

BBFORPEACE Participated in the Africa Climate Academy

BBFORPEACE's Program Officer, Samson Shabu joined the second cohort of the Africa Climate Academy in Accra, Ghana, hosted by the Africa Center for Energy Policy. The academy fostered new perspectives on climate change, energy transition, and security, equipping participants with tools for sustainable solutions in Africa.

It also provided a platform to share insights from BBFORPEACE's climate security project in Nigeria, reinforcing the organisation's commitment to knowledge-driven leadership in tackling climate and emerging security challenges.



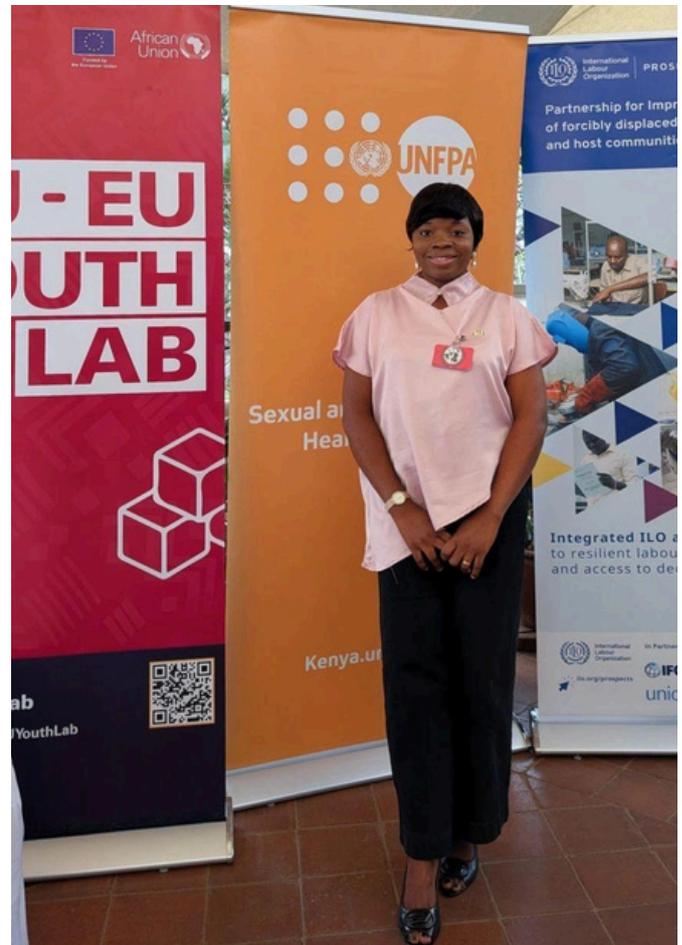
BBFORPEACE Attended YPS Workshop in Sierra Leone and Kenya

BBFORPEACE joined stakeholders in Freetown to support the launch of Sierra Leone’s National Youth, Peace and Security framework, building on UNSCR 2250 (2015) and the AU Continental Framework (2018).

As a continental leader in the YPS agenda, BBFORPEACE reaffirmed its commitment to empowering young people and driving regional and global advocacy for inclusive peacebuilding.

Similarly, to mark the year 2025 International Youth Day tagged Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond, on August 12, 2025, BBFORPEACE joined the United Nations Office, Youth groups, and other CSOs, in Nairobi, Kenya, to celebrate the works of young people in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The event was also an avenue for us to amplify some of the challenges that young people are faced with, and we co-created the ways forward.



BBFORPEACE Attended AU-EU Youth Action Link and Learn Meeting in Ethiopia



From December 8–10, BBFORPEACE, as a Specialised Digital Grantee of the AU-EU Youth Lab, joined the Link & Learn Event in Bishoftu, Ethiopia.

The gathering brought together 96 grantees from 17 countries, with participants representing 26 nations across Africa and Europe.

The event fostered international learnings, cross-regional partnerships, co-creation of solutions, and reflection on achievements, while amplifying the collective voice of young changemakers driving social development.

BBFORPEACE remains committed to empowering youth, strengthening advocacy, and advancing sustainable impact in Africa-EU policy spaces.

BBFORPEACE Engaged Global Agenda for Peace



As GPPAC'S regional secretariat in West Africa, BBFORPEACE joined peacebuilders worldwide in Amman, Jordan for the 2025 International Steering Group Meeting of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC).

The gathering examined the evolving global

West Africa YPS Forum

BBFORPEACE was in Ghana to participate in the West Africa Youth4Peace Forum. Together with other young peacebuilders, we engaged in rich and deeply relevant discussions, highlighting the critical pathways for effective Youth, Peace and Security agenda implementation, the importance of meaningful youth consultations in National Action Plan (NAP) processes, and the need for institutional commitment to youth-inclusive peacebuilding.

This activity was organised by the United Network of Young Peacebuilders.

peacebuilding landscape and the role of civil society in tackling emerging challenges. It also provided a platform to set collective priorities for the GPPAC network, continuing the vision established with its Global Action Agenda at the UN General Assembly in 2005.



Courtesy and Advocacy Visits in 2025

Advocacy Visit to the Federal Ministry of Youth Development, Abuja



Members of our Team visited the Federal Ministry of Youth Development Nigeria, and we were received by the Director of Network and Social mobilisation Department.

During the discussions, we commended the Ministry for the works that they are doing to advance the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda in Nigeria, especially through the implementation of Nigeria's National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security.

Similarly, we took the time to share our ongoing work and proposed creative strategies for strengthening the Youth, Peace and Security agenda in Nigeria.

The meeting ended on a positive note as the Ministry reassured us of their support as we continue mobilising and empowering young people for peacebuilding.

Advocacy Visits to Peace Stakeholders in Benue State



BBFORPEACE visited the Benue State Peace and Reconciliation Commission to advance collaboration on sustainable peace and youth empowerment. Welcomed by the Commission's Director General, discussions highlighted opportunities for joint action in conflict prevention, community resilience, and inclusive governance.

Similarly, we paid an advocacy visit to the Makurdi Local Government Traditional Council in Benue State. During the visit, we informed the council of our established presence in Benue State and shared details of our ongoing project, "Strengthening Local Leadership in Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security in Conflict and Post-Conflict Settings



Working Visit to Peace Institutions in Oslo, Norway



Our executive director commenced his working visit to Oslo, Norway by participating in the Young Human Rights Activists Week themed 'Youth Activism in Troubled Times'.

The conference which brought together peace activists from Nigeria, Sudan and Mozambique together with Norwegian partners from the academics, politics and civil society was an address the state of global peace and renew the call for internationalism.

Meeting on the Localisation Agenda

We were represented by our Executive Director in the Hague, Netherlands, where we joined other peacebuilding partners to collaboratively advance the development of an INGO assessment tool to create space for conversations on equitable partnerships and the advancement of locally led peacebuilding. By identifying key quality standards of a locally led peacebuilding approach, the tool is intended to help actors regularly reflect on ways of working and holding one another accountable to the principles of localisation.



During the conference, our director shared BBFORPEACE's perspectives and ongoing work on youth led peacebuilding, gender justice and the role that Norway can play in supporting peace and security in Africa.

During his visit to Norway, he also engaged partners like the Nobel Peace Center, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Karibu Foundation and the Norwegian Institute for Internal Affairs.



This initiative, spearheaded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands, Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, Robert Bosch Stiftung Peace Nexus Foundation is designed to move the localisation agenda from rhetoric to action.

Lessons Learnt from Work in 2025

- Awareness of national frameworks on peace and security among youth cannot be assumed.
- Confidence-building is as important as knowledge transfer when working with youth and women.
- Time constraints and politically fluid context require adaptive implementation and planning.
- The fast-paced nature of project implementation highlights the importance of adequate staffing and flexible planning mechanisms to maintain quality implementation under tight timelines.
- Leadership and political instability highlight the need for flexible stakeholder engagement strategies and multiple entry points when working with government institutions.
- Targeted capacity-building can rapidly close knowledge gaps.
- Government and local authorities' partnership is key for ownership and sustainability.



- The importance of clear communication during project implementation cannot be overemphasised. Especially in the logistics note, it helps participants to be informed of their expectations in the training such as transport reimbursement, per diems, etc. Knowing all these also influences participants participation in subsequent trainings.
- Early mapping and engagement with stakeholders reduce the time spent on follow-ups before project implementation.

Award and Recognition

BBFORPEACE Received National Youth Development Award 2025



In November 2025, Building Blocks for Peace Foundation received the National Youth Development Award 2025 from the Federal Ministry of Youth Development in recognition of its outstanding contributions to youth empowerment and peacebuilding in Nigeria.

The award, presented during the 2025 Africa/National Youth Day celebration by the Minister of Youth Development, Mr. Ayodele Olawande, highlights the impact of BBFORPEACE youth-led initiatives in promoting non-violence and social development.

BBFORPEACE remains committed to working with the Federal Ministry of Youth Development and other government agencies in supporting young people and advancing inclusive, community-driven peace efforts.

BBFORPEACE Executive Director Recognised as a Pioneer Leader on Youth, Peace and Security in Africa

8 PIONEERS

Rafiu Lawal



*“The exclusionary realities faced by youth are **undeniable**. Young people are inherently peaceful, not predisposed to violence; those who engage in violent acts often do so under adverse circumstances. It is the responsibility of the State to address these conditions and ensure an inclusive environment for all.”*

Bio:

- Founder and executive director of the Building Blocks for Peace Foundation (2016)
- Regional Representative for the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) in West Africa
- Previously Regional Coordinator of the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY) in West and Central Africa

Achievements on YPS:

- Contributed to developing and implementing Nigeria’s 2021 National Action Plan on Youth, Peace, and Security.
- Co-edited the book “Connecting and Amplifying Voices of Youth Building Peace in Nigeria” (2020).
- Founded Building Blocks for Peace Foundation (2016), an NGO that has mobilized over 15,000 young people across West Africa in peacebuilding, counter-extremism, and governance accountability.



In 2025, our Executive Director, Rafiu Adeniran Lawal was honoured with the award of a pioneer leader of the YPS agenda in Africa.

This recognition took place in Nairobi during the Continental Stocktaking on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) in Africa, marking the agenda’s 10th anniversary.

Recognised as a pioneer leader, Mr. Lawal has dedicated his career to mobilising and empowering young peacebuilders, founding BBFORPEACE in 2016, which has engaged over 15,000 youth across West Africa

His leadership spans international advocacy missions, contributions to Nigeria’s National Action Plan on YPS, and co-editing influential publications on youth peacebuilding.

This recognition underscores his unwavering commitment to advancing youth inclusion in peace and security across Africa.

The recognition was organised by UNFPA West and Central Africa and UNDP Africa.

Board of Trustees

The board of trustees is the highest decision-making body of the organisation. It oversees and supervises the activities of the organisation. Board members in 2025 were.

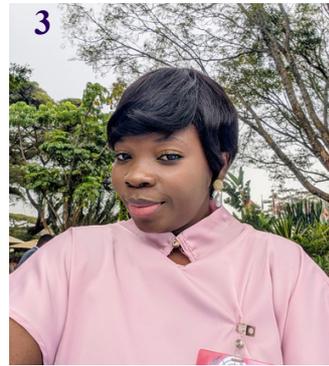
1. Professor Charles Ukeje (Board Chair)
2. Princess Moyinoluwa Olubunmi Falowo (Member)
3. Rafiu Adeniran Lawal (Board Secretary)
4. Mrs Lanata Abdullahi (Member)
5. Mautin Akapo, ACA, ACTI (Member)
6. Olayinka Risikat Lawal (Member)

Board of Executives

These are the staff of the organisation. They are responsible for the day-to-day running of the organisation. Our staff in 2025 were;

1. Rafiu Adeniran Lawal- Executive Director
2. Stephanie Effevottu Efetobor - Director of Programs
3. Anthonia Folashade Lawal - Communications Manager
4. Samaila Sabo - Finance Officer
5. Eseimkumo Albert Tony - Project Officer (Youth, Peace and Security)
6. Samson Shabu - Project Officer (Research and Advocacy)
7. Mercy Oyip - Admin/Wellbeing Assistant
8. Comfort Ayua-Project Intern

Board of Executives



Our Partners in 2025

At Building Blocks for Peace Foundation, we worked with local and international development partners, national civil society organisations and private groups, Embassies, and government agencies which has been one of the keys to our success in 2025. We look forward to expanding, strengthening, and building more partnerships in the coming years.



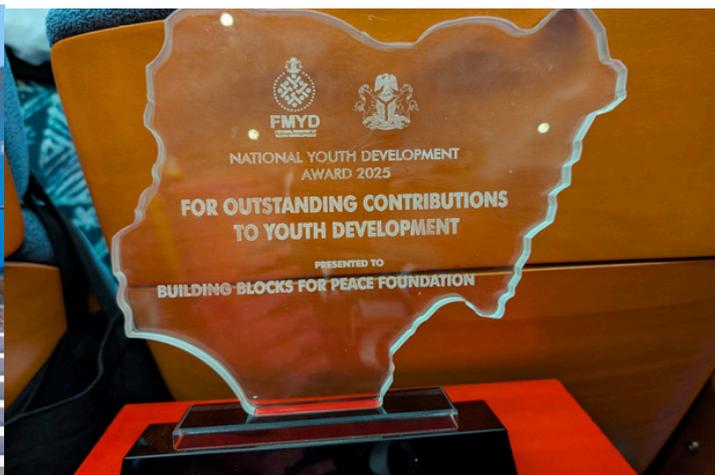
Empowering Communities for Peace

We are Grateful

to all our Partners, Supporters and Collaborators in 2025



Photo Gallery



Social Media Handles

We invite you to kindly follow us across our socials for real-time updates about the work that we do.

LinkedIn: Building Blocks for Peace Foundation

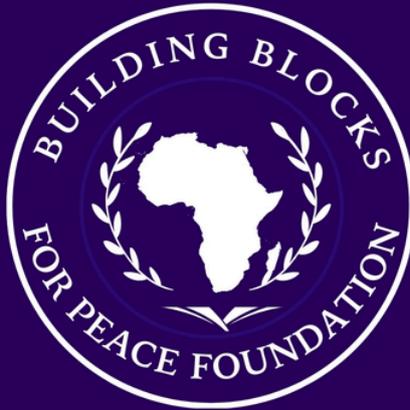
Facebook: Building Blocks for Peace Foundation

Instagram: bbforpeace

X: bbforpeace

YouTube: bbforpeace17

*In line with our evolving identity, the Building Blocks for Peace Foundation adopted a new logo in January 2026. Its presence in this report reflects our renewed vision and commitment to advancing peace and development in Nigeria, Africa, and across the globe



Empowering Communities for Peace

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