



Academic Associates Peace Works (AAPW) Fact Sheet

About Us

Academic Associates Peace Works (AAPW) is a Nigerian non governmental organisation formed in 1992 in Lagos, Nigeria. In the last 32 years, AAPW has pioneered peacebuilding initiatives in Nigeria and Ghana following its commitment to foster a culture of understanding and cooperation between communities. With dedication to education and advocacy, we empower individuals and communities with the tools and knowledge necessary to promote conflict resolution, reconciliation, and sustainable peace.


Mission

To build capacities for managing conflicts through studies, intervention and peace awareness in the society.


Objectives

- Build awareness of the need and possibilities of peace in society.
- Empower individuals and groups in building peace, through training and networking.
- Develop the framework for the peace process through action-oriented research and intervention in current or potential conflicts.

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What We Have Done

2022

Research on the Impact of the 2022 Flood on Piracy and Crime

The project which was funded by the University of Copenhagen Department of Political Science, explored the nexus of natural disaster and maritime crime in Bayelsa State.

2016 -2021 **NIGER DELTA DIALOGUE**

Implemented in nine (9) States in the Niger Delta, the 5-year project was funded by the European Resources for Mediation Support. The core of the project was to create a safe space for dialogue between the Federal Government of Nigeria and the people of the Niger Delta Region in order to reach peace and development initiatives.

With the coming together of a wide spectrum of stakeholders to discuss key issues in the Niger Delta and holding high the phrase “*Safe Space*”, AAPW sought ways to ensure the de-escalation of the conflict in the Niger Delta and return of stability in the region.

This effort to stem conflict led to the publication of the book “*Insecurity in the Niger Delta*”, funded by the European Union (EU).

2007-2019

Towards Non-violent Elections Activities

Funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) in 2007 and 2011, and Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND) in 2015 and 2019, the project was conceived following AAPW’s decision to stem violence before, during and after elections.

AAPW’s drive birthed the consolidation of its Peace Committees into a Community Stakeholders Network (CSN) model that includes a wide variety of people who have roles in preventing election violence, particularly in the Niger Delta.



What We Are Doing



Blue and Green Economy Project

Advancing Community Capacity to Mitigate Climate Change Impacts and Develop Blue and Green Economy in the Niger Delta is a Danish funded project that aims to promote sustainable practices in marine and terrestrial environments, emphasizing conservation, resource management, and development of communities in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria.

The project involves engaging target communities in Bayelsa and Delta States, incorporating traditional knowledge and incorporating modern approaches to mitigate climate change impacts. This is because mitigating climate change impacts in the Niger Delta is crucial due to the rising sea levels, coastal erosion, flooding, and extreme weather events which are threats to livelihoods, infrastructure and the overall wellbeing of communities in the region.

By implementing mitigation strategies such as sustainable agriculture, renewable energy adoption, ecosystem restoration and efficient resource management, the negative consequences of climate change can be lessened and communities can become more resilient.



A Community-Centred Approach to Transforming Criminality and Violence in the Niger Delta

Search for Common Ground (Search), in consortium with AAPW, Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND), and Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN), has resumed a project aimed at fostering inclusive community security approaches to address the systematic drivers of violence and criminality in Bayelsa, Delta, and Rivers States.

AAPW is saddled with the responsibility of initiating dialogues at state, regional and national levels as part of efforts for the successful implementation of the project.



C7 West Africa

The Coping with Climate Change as a Cause of Conflict in Coastal Communities of West Africa is a project being implemented by AAPW and other partners including Fondazione Accademia Italiana della Marina Mercantile (Italy), Health of Mother Earth Foundation (Nigeria), and West African Network for Peacebuilding (Ghana) with support from the European Union (EU).

AAPW is working at community level to mitigate the negative effects of climate change as well as community conflicts which may arise as a result of these negative impacts.



Milestones

To date AAPW has conducted over 400 training workshops, written 3 books and numerous papers on community conflicts and security, with increasing emphasis on the Niger Delta since 1998. With funding from the British Council/DFID, it undertook multiple interventions in some of the hottest conflicts in Nigeria. These interventions birthed the books: *“Community Conflict in Nigeria”* funded by British Council and *“Conflict and Instability in the Niger Delta: the Warri Case”*, funded by the US Institute of Peace.

Our biggest achievement yet is the Ceasefire in August 2016, when the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) declared a unilateral ceasefire and agreed to negotiations with the Nigerian government. This accomplishment was built on the contacts AAPW made during the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) process in Rivers State in 2004-2005. AAPW's contribution continued through 2007 following the reorientation work with Niger Delta militants and youths till present.

AAPW was instrumental in the brokering of peace between three (3) conflicting boundary communities including Oluasari, Elemesagama and Soku of Rivers and Bayelsa States. The 2002/2003 Peace Accord was initiated over the communities' claim of the Soku Gas Plant.

Our success story extends with our 2-year Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme (NSRP) project in Ughelli North LGA of Delta State which focused on community sensitization against militancy.

