



**PROGRESS REPORT**  
**MAY 2021**

The month of May has been a time of rigorous organisation and execution of planned activities and events. Although the COVID 19 pandemic is still waging its war, life as we knew it is slowly creeping on us and we must quickly adjust to the new normal.

In view of this almost all CYPAN activities for the month of May has remained online with little to no physical engagements in some countries. St. Vincent and Grenadines has had to fight COVID as well as survive a natural disaster and this has greatly affected its ability to organise events for its members. South Africa though enjoys some level of freedom to organise events that members can physically interact at though this comes with restrictions and adherence to all protocols.

### **EFFECTS AND RESPONSES TO COVID 19 PANDEMIC AND NATURAL DISASTERS**

COVID 19 has hit quite a number of nations badly. Recovery has been slow and there seems to be no end in sight, the virus just keeps spreading. But because life must go on as we can't be in lockdowns, containments and curfews forever.

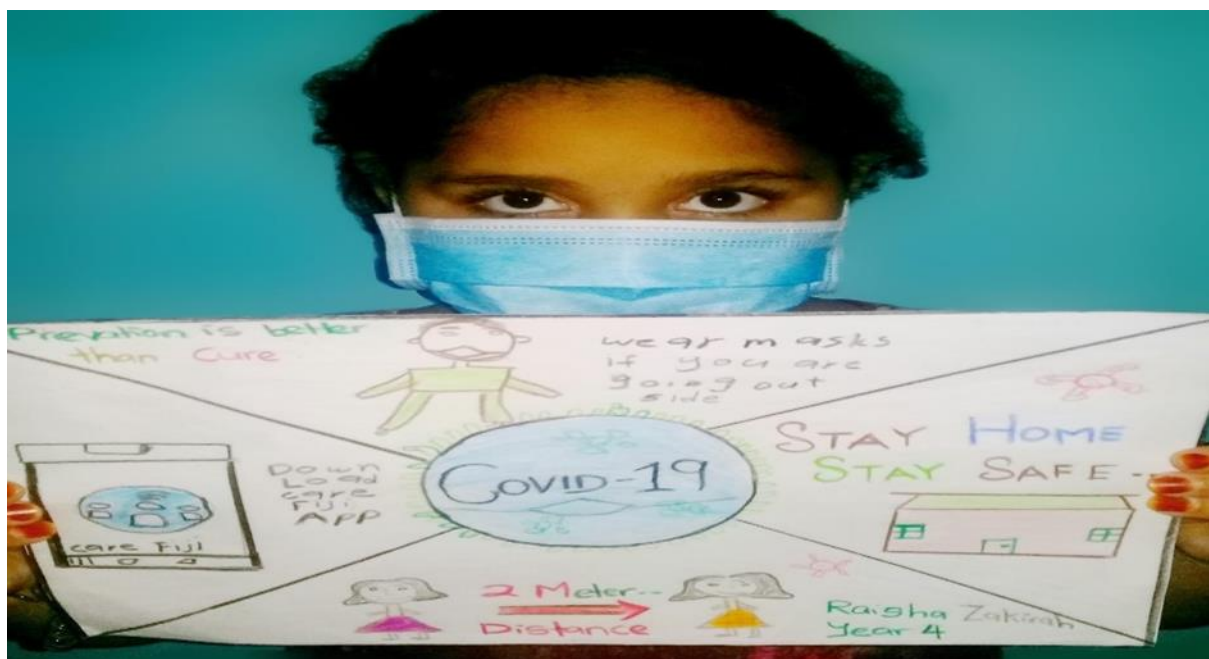


In Fiji, the *Young Fijian Warriors Team* – through members of CYPAN Fiji, was initiated to help in economic recovery activities. They identified *Citizen Empowerment* as the key tool to help curb the spread of the virus which will transcend into business going back to a semblance of normalcy. The COVID 19 virus is spreading amongst ordinary Fijians and only a self-motivated and well-informed population can return Fiji to economic recovery.

By creating awareness and empowering Fijian Citizens, they supported the reopening of businesses in Fiji to enable low and middle income-earning Fijians return to work, earn and provide food for their families.

The *Children's Lockdown/Containment Drawing Competition* was organised frequently to keep children active at home and well informed about the virus. This has also culminated into many children joining the Young Fijian Warriors Team.

In a bid to address child hunger, *The Meal Bank for Fijian Children* was created. The goal was to raise \$4000 for 50 most vulnerable Fijian children experiencing hunger due to the second wave outbreak of the COVID virus in Fiji and provide each child with one balanced nutritional meal per day for 15 working days (3 weeks).



This initiative was targeted at children living in the Lami, Suva and Nausori COVID Containment Zone. A deposit of \$5 was made into the Meal Bank for the Fijian child. The child had access withdraw his/her meal by answering the COVID Safety question of the day.

In South Africa, CYPAN members were able to still hold physical meetings after their lockdown as permitted by their national regulations. All members had to adhere to COVID protocols which advocated for the wearing of nose masks and social distancing.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2021, the La Soufriere Volcano erupted in Saint Vincent and Grenadines (SVG). It was reported that over 20,000 people from a population of about 110,000 in SVG were displaced. Due to the Volcanic eruption and its many adverse effects on the country, unfortunately CYPAN SVG has not hosted an event in April and May.

Some of its members have been focused on assisting persons affected by the La Soufriere Volcano. CYPAN SVG has also been using social media, particularly Instagram, to share information to help others affected by the volcanic eruption.

They have also utilised their social media profiles to actively promote events other organizations may be hosting and may be beneficial to its members and other interested persons.

In India hunger is the major consequence of poverty. Unfortunately, extreme hunger and malnutrition remain a huge barrier to development in many countries. CYPAN India in collaboration with “We for the Cause” conducted multiple food distribution drives every Sunday starting from May 2, 2021. The main objective of theses drives is to support the people whose economical life got affected due to COVID-19. Through these drives we could support.





. more than 2500 needy by serving cooked hot meals during May 20.

Lesley foundation founded by a Cameroonian CYPAN ambassador, carried out a clean-up campaign on the 26th April 2021 in a student's community called Molyko in the South west Region of Cameroon. The campaign engaged the community in a fight to eliminate malaria by keeping the environment clean and this was done through a cleanup campaign that had the participation of 15 youths (4 boys and 11 girls).



Cameroonians in the area were already experiencing the hard ships presented by Corona Virus and the team decided to also reduce the burden of Malaria.

## **ELECTIONS**

Elections are a major cause of violence, instability and conflicts in most regions especially in Africa. Many initiatives and preventive measures have been put in place to curb electoral violence and indiscipline.

CYPAN Gambia members on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 attended a day long voter registration training organized by the Civil Society Coalition on Elections through the West African Peace Building Network (WANEP) facilitated by the International Republican Institute (IRI). The training was tailored to equip participants on voter registration observation, data collection and data analysis on electoral processes, reporting critical incidents in the form of impromptu activities that possess the tendency of frustrating the entire electoral process and this team will be deployed to the field to observe the forth coming Presidential elections in December.



## **STAKEHOLDER OUTREACHES**

The executive team was able to meet up with the United Nations Development Program officials from New York and Africa office to discuss on ways to partner on Knowledge

management training of the members especially from East Africa. The UNDP rep Maria Stage and Pauline Deneufbourg are yet to get back on a way forward. The executive team also had a meeting with Christian Mulumba the campaign youth outreach coordinator Africa Department of peace operations to discuss the United Nation Peacekeeping online campaign month. This was successful as most African Countries were able to actively participate in the campaign. In a bid to foster collaboration with other peace building civil society organizations and youth groups, CYPAN Gambia on the 27<sup>th</sup> May- June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, formally wrote to 8 relevant institutions requesting for meetings of which 6 subsequently granted the request for meetings via emails and phone calls. The aim of these scheduled meetings is to identify potential areas for partnership and in the areas of advocacy in tandem with their work plan to attain the peace and security agenda of young people.

The National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria planned a national public hearing on ***Constitution Review*** to hold across various centers in the country. CYPAN Nigeria was represented by some members at the Lagos and Gombe Center. The dialogue was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2021.

CYPAN United Kingdom has also been discussing with members on how best to engage especially looking at the issues happening in the United Kingdom, the members were able to meet, and we look forward to getting more information to this regard.



Also, Jerry Mike a CYPAN Nigeria member gave a presentation at the Gombe center where he spoke on ***Entrenching Gender Diversity*** in leadership positions across the country.





The South African Country Coordinator was also able to meet up with IoM Former chief of mission Richard Ots and with the UN Communications office in efforts to collaborate with these two offices in South Africa



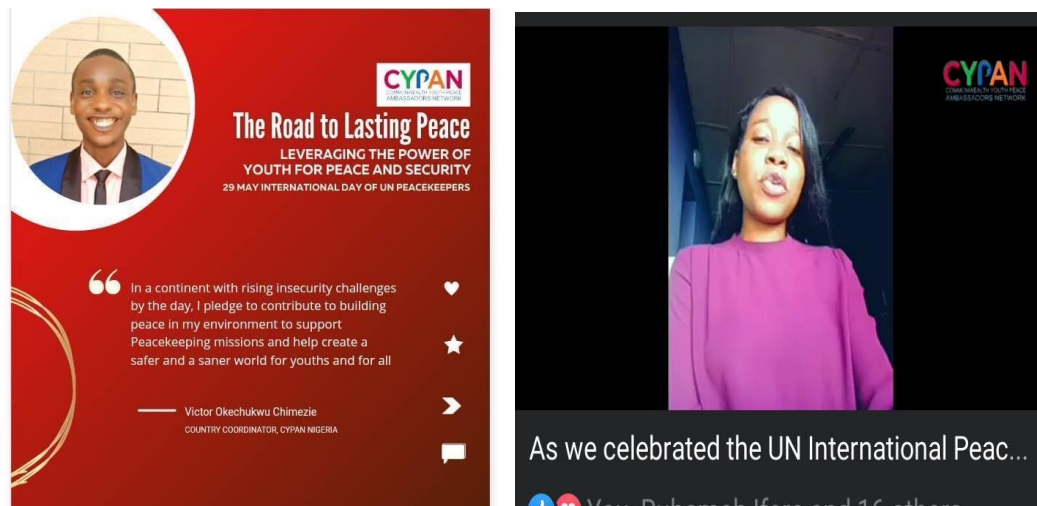
## **INTERNATIONAL DAYS CELEBRATIONS**

The UN International Peacekeeping Day 2021 is celebrated on the 29th of May 2021. This year CYPAN Partnered with the UN Peace Keeping running a social media campaign to celebrate the efforts of young peacekeepers in Africa and also let more young people across the Continent know about the role of peacekeepers and how they can support the work of young peacekeepers across Africa. The Country Coordinator for Nigeria Mr., Victor Okechukwu was the CYPAN



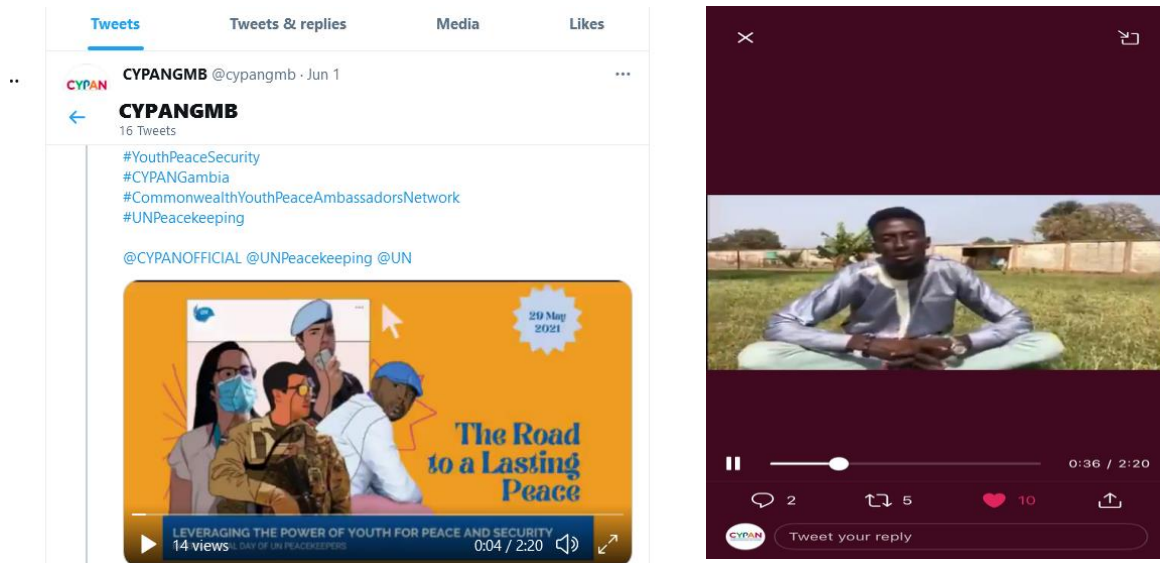
lead in this Africa project. The countries that took part include: Nigeria, Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Botswana, South Africa and Cameroon

The Nigerian team actively participated in this campaign and have completed the first phase which is creation and posting of country videos. The International Peacekeeping Day Project has created and is creating more awareness about CYPAN and the work of young peacekeepers and peacebuilders in Nigeria and across Africa while also educating young people on the role they can play to contribute to building peace in the society to support Peacekeeping missions.



**CYPAN Botswana** also participated in activities towards the United Nations Peacekeeping celebrations. They were able to produce and share a video on Youth, Peace and Security and will also be taking part in posting of quotes on Peacekeeping.

**CYPAN Gambia** on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021, commemorated the annual United Nations International keeping day with a peace video challenge by which members expressed their divergent views of what peace means to them individually. The day was exploited to spread the message of peace and the reiterated the essence of the participation of young people in peace processes, the challenges faced by young people, the significance of the campaign and equally encourage policy makers to engage young people in peace processes as young people over the years have taken a paradigm shift from what used to be the norm of youth and conflict.



## **MENTAL HEALTH**





CYPAN Ghana in partnership with The candle night global in partnership held a round table With The Board on the topic *Addressing Barriers to Mental Health Care*. This was held on 29<sup>th</sup> may, 2021 via zoom.

CNG  
Candle Night Global

CANDLE NIGHT GLOBAL IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PEACE  
AMBASSADORS NETWORK  
*presents*

**A ROUND TABLE  
WITH THE BOARD**

**Topic:** Addressing barriers to mental health care

			
<b>Darrick Scott</b> Clinical Psychology University of Massachusetts, Boston	<b>Ekow Agyenkwa</b> Behavioral Health Technician (NCPT3) United States Navy	<b>Seth Ayisi</b> Mental Health Advocate	<b>Tracy Asamoah</b> Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassador Network - Ghana Pro Lead

**VENUE: ZOOM    5:00PM GMT    29TH MAY 2021**

**MEETING ID: 97941260270    PASSCODE: 783334**

Key issues addressed include the concept of mental illness, its causes and some disorders among the youth, depression and barriers to mental health care. Stigma is the main reason why many do not seek or visits mental health facilities, as well as limited accessibilities to mental health facilities and the cost mental health service is quite expensive thereby deterring people from seeking help. It was realised that depression is the leading cause to suicide case recorded in the country and the world at large and some members shared their experience and journey to recovery. Ghana is a peaceful country, but mental health issues are affecting the citizens peaceful coexistence and addressing mental health issues is a sure bet to safeguard and ensure aggrievances management is given the prominence it deserves for the country to continue to enjoy positive peace.

### **FEATURED MEMBER**

SENDE Liza Débora, is a 28 years old Cameroonian. She has a master's in human resources management. While in school, she was confronted with many difficulties related to her unstable health but especially to her elocution problem. In 2021, she had the chance to work with the "Collectif des Femmes pour la Protection de l'Environnement et de l'Enfant (COFEPRE)". This helped her in collaborating with a certain number of associations in particular the Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network which gave her the opportunity to get in touch with the "Association pour le Développement de l'Entrepreneuriat des Personnes Handicapées" which militates people living with disabilities into entrepreneurship. Here she was able to meet several major actors working for the welfare of people living with a disability. She was also given the opportunity to access certain positions of responsibilities. Now, she demonstrates her talent without any form of discrimination. The others have confidence in her intellect, her know-how and her desire to succeed. She had had many unforgettable experiences through her participation in different events in which she participated in seminars, radio programs, awareness campaigns, to name such that few. She now knows with conviction that she is where she was meant to be and that the fight

for the deaf is that of allowing people with disability to be able to be leader wherever they go.



### **PROGRESS DURING THE MONTH**

- Many Country Coordinators were able to meet and induct their members and started planning on how to best represent their countries.
- Many countries now have a country social media platform to engage at national level. This has been particularly of benefit to CYPAN Malawi
- Many members are now working with their Country Coordinators and we have started to see the structure working.
- We have also seen many Country Coordinators starting to actively participate and engage their members.

### **CHALLENGES FACED IN THE MONTH**

- The country coordinator for Trinidad and Tobago was been extremely ill and is recently recuperating. In his absence, no activity was held as members were without direction.
- Gambia of recent has incurred a backlog of slow responses from stakeholders which is causing potential delay of anticipated activities. It has also not been able to embark on



recruitment drives in the rural Gambia to attract more young people who may be interested in peace building.

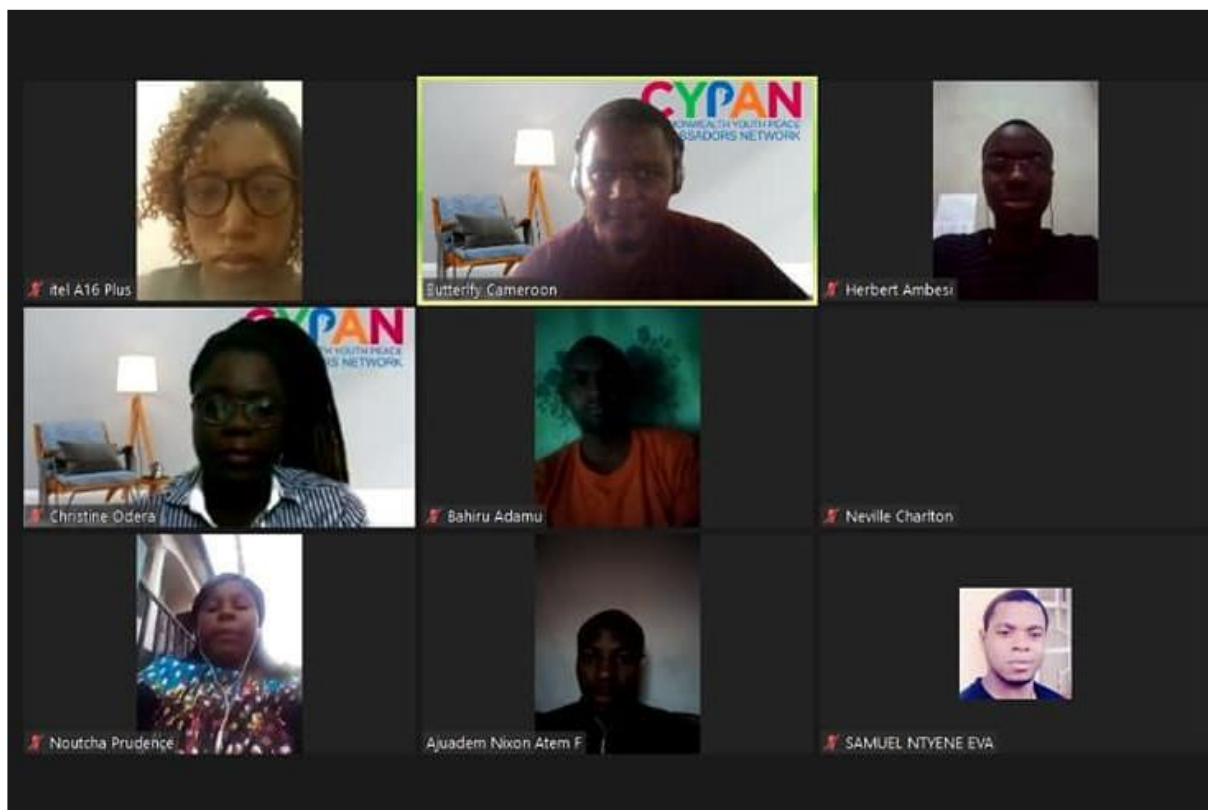
- Nigeria is a very much diverse country with rising insecurity challenges and is in need more members in states across the country. They also envisage the need for more technical support and capacity trainings from The Commonwealth Secretariat on peacebuilding and countering violent extremism as it is a very big challenge in the country today.
- In Botswana, members are unresponsive to communication shared on WhatsApp platforms which requires their inputs. It is difficult for members to even indicate their inability to do whatever is requested from them.
- Malawi has not been able to organize some fundraising activities to finance the activities of the group due to COVID restrictions on social gatherings and funds are needed to rent an office space since all work and activities of the group is being done from individual homes. Membership drive campaign is also moving slowly because potential members refuse to join.
- CYPAN India had tough time engaging volunteers as they were afraid to come outside as the second wave was going on in India. The coordinator however managed to convince some volunteers who took all medical precautions and successfully running the food drives

### **PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE**

- The Volcano though unpredictable, has at the timing of this report “cooled down”. Therefore, CYPAN SVG is planning to host virtual sessions again soon. In late June, there are plans on having a seminar about peace and communication with a Vincentian named Tedra Kirby. Trinidad and Tobago also hope to organise *Peace Talks: A Caribbean Conversation* that will be hosted virtually on all social media platforms. This initiative will serve as a hub for young activists to speak on peace building strategies and concepts.
- CYPAN Gambia is collaborating with Peace Hub- The Gambia, a youth led peace building civil society in the Gambia to conduct a ‘**Walk4Peace**’ exercise to mark the

birth of a cordial relationship and partnership in respect of peace building. The peace walk will bring together other civil society organizations, youth and all the registered political parties to commit to addressing the growing concerns that disputes electoral processes, interparty rivalry and perceptions of lack of transparency and inclusivity. The activity will be succeeded by a frank conversation where political parties will be challenged to make commitments to maintain peace before, during and after elections.

- CYPAN South Africa on June 16, 2021 will commemorate the 1976 Uprising that began in Soweto and spread countrywide profoundly and resulted in the change of the socio-political landscape in South Africa. This historic day will also serve as the official launch of CYPAN South Africa nationally.
- Ghana will be hosting an upcoming event scheduled for Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 via Zoom on the Theme: ***Youth Empowerment into Leadership***. Emphasis will be on developing youth leadership skill, how to Resolve Conflict to ensure Peace and how to Empower Youth into Leadership.



CYPAN Cameroon members Inductions