



# **PROGRESS REPORT FOR JUNE 2021**

June has been an action-packed month for the Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network for some Countries. COVID 19 is still wreaking havoc in almost all countries in the world though the intensity varies. Fiji with a national population of a little below 900,000 records about 321 cases in 24 hours. There is a rise COVID related deaths in Uganda and the country is back under lockdown.

Pakistan fights for peace, COVID reduction and now terrorist attacks and border insecurity. Red alerts have been implemented after the bomb blast and border issues to limit further possibility of blast threats.

## **COVID 19 AND NATURAL DISASTERS**

Fiji is still in the heat of the pandemic as the country is now battling with the deadlier delta strain and more positive cases are being recorded. All meetings and activities are still suspended while all efforts are focused on helping local businesses rise again.

St Vincent and Grenadines is still recovering from the volcanic eruption.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA, STAKEHOLDER AND VISIBILITY ENGAGEMENTS**

CYPAN Botswana in June participated in the United Nations Peacekeeping Celebrations. CYPAN members used this opportunity to stage a campaign aimed at increasing the network's visibility in Botswana. From this campaign, one new member was recruited bringing the total number of active members to fifteen (15).

Ghana embarked on "I stand for Peace and Keep Calm Ghana" campaign on all social media platforms, especially on Facebook where 307 engagements was recorded as well as WhatsApp platforms. The campaign and posts went viral because a social activist was killed and it is popularly believed it was to put a halt to the strides he was making.



In a protest march after his burial, two other people died from security brutalities from the police and military who claim the youth of Ejura, the activist's hometown, were being rowdy and pelting them with stones.

CYPAN St Vincent and Grenadines despite their challenges after the volcanic eruption, continued to celebrate various UN International Days and International events such as International Day for the Elimination Sexual Violence in Conflict, International Day in Support of Victims of Torture and Pride Month. In celebration of Pride Month, a flyer for a Virtual Global South Summit titled "Decolonizing LGBTQ+ Existence through Resilience and Human Rights" was widely shared on their social media platforms. WhatsApp group platforms have also been very active as different events and opportunities were shared in the group which may not be seen on the Instagram or Facebook page.

Currently due to the unstable climate in Pakistan, Ali Asif, the country coordinator is relying on word of mouth to engage people on CYPAN, its mission and vision and why young people and other social activists must partner to assist in peace promotion.

The Edo and Gombe States of Nigeria held a familiarisation meeting between its CYPAN membership to discuss their needs and chart an action plan. The meeting yielded a plan for advocacy visits and peace talks in schools and recruiting young changemakers to join the group.

On 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2021 the county coordinator for Nigeria led a delegation to the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Youth, Students Affairs and Tertiary Institutions of Lagos State to engage him on future partnerships especially on issues pertaining to the youth, youth activists and peacebuilding to help foster peace and ethnoreligious tolerance in the state.

The delegation included Victor Okechukwu Chimezie, Ruhamah Ifere, Ejike Ogba Dave, Nwaozuzu Stephen and Ojò Semasa.



CYPAN Belize created social media accounts where they are creating awareness on the existence of CYPAN and the need to join as youth. A meeting was held for members to brainstorm and chart an action plan to create awareness of CYPAN in Belize.

Malawi held its first physical meeting after COVID 19 restrictions. The meeting was held for the secretariat team to orient themselves. A second one was held on zoom to meet members and update them on the network's activities and plans. There has also been progress in translating the UNSCR2250 to the official local language in Malawi, the info graphic is also being translated and on completion will be posted on social media platforms.

Cameroon's country coordinator with the support of a Kenya based organization has secured USD 20000 funds for CYPAN Cameroon from Save the Children International.

## **DEMOCRACY AND ELECTIONS**

CYPAN Gambia on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 held a courtesy meeting with Beakanyang, an established activists' organisation. This led to securing their support for an outreach to schools to embark on a voter sensitization on elections and the dangers of indulging in election violence amongst young people. The organization has an MOU with the Ministry of Higher Education and CYPAN intends to leverage on this network.

The 2019/2020 Secretary for CYPAN St Vincent and Grenadines, Darrienne Sergeant agreed to continue the role for the 2021/2022 period.

On June 15, 2021, a free and fair bye- election was held to elect two committee members to replace the outgoing ones who could not continue working due to unavoidable circumstances in Uganda. Ndagire Shifah - Membership Assistant and Nuwahereza Elizabeth – Northern Region Coordinator are the new additions.

## **INTERNATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS**

The month was opened to the joyous celebration of international UN peacekeeping day under the theme “Leveraging the Power of Youth for Peace and Security” and CYPAN Uganda members fully participated. Photos of members and quotes in line with the theme of the celebration were posted on social media platforms.

A video was also made where members shared ideas on how to engage more youth in peacekeeping as well as how to improve welfare of peacekeepers. To have a very impactful campaign, members recorded these videos in their local languages and this improved the visibility of the group.

## **OUTREACHES, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS AND PROJECTS**

Center for Peace and Advocacy and Social Development (CEPASD), a partner network of CYPAN Nigeria held a five-week STEM Education Project on Gender Based Violence for 700 students in two schools in the country's capital Abuja, on the challenge faced by students and society because of gender based violence.





The project was led by Igweshi Augustine the founder of CEPASD and a member of CYPAN Nigeria and Victoria Unachukwu the assistant country coordinator.

Youth Evolve a partner network of CYPAN Nigeria represented by Ruhamah Ifere held a one-day workshop on the theme Creating Antibodies for Fake News and Hate Speech in Lagos on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2021.



The country coordinator presented on the Impact of Fake News in Nigeria.

Undie Paul John and Moses Abolade Adurasegun CYPAN Nigeria members of Cross Rivers and Oyo states respectively partnered with Impactfield Global Youth Initiative Nigeria for a book distribution drive. A very impactful motivational book titled The Winning Youth was shared to 300 secondary school students in both states.



CYPAN Nigeria in partnership with Books for Africa, Child 2 Child Foundation and the Giveback Group is undertaking a nationwide book distribution project. 36,000 books school stationery and textbooks and leisure books are to be distributed to aid state libraries and improve upon the reading culture among the youth across the country.

CYPAN is in charge of distribution to needy communities outside major cities across the country.



The COVID 19 Children Poster Project organised by the Young Fijian Warriors under CYPAN Fiji in partnership with Aspire Network organised a children's drawing competition with \$50 prize money each for twenty-four selected winners. Acton Fiji sponsored the project.





**Winners for Children's Lockdown/Containment  
Drawing Competition who will share the prize  
money of \$1200. Each winner gets \$50**

Aspire Network Initiative supported by ACTON Fiji. More than ever today Fiji needs Citizen Empowerment. The key to halting the spread of the virus is the responsible behaviour of our citizens. Our citizens are our greatest asset. Only a self-motivated and well-informed population can return Fiji to economic recovery. Through this Competition, numerous Fijian children joined the **Young Fijian Warriors Team to Tackle COVID-19 in Fiji**.



The \$5 Meal Bank for Fiji Children initiative gave support to 50 children living in hunger in Nausori, Suva and Lami. Targets included children who do not have electricity in their homes, with both parents unemployed, children without parents and children supported by single parents. The initiative also used this opportunity to support local businesses and create awareness on local produce cooking to support economic recovery.







Fundraising activities for the phase two of the project has already began.

**With Love FROM**



**Our Local Fijian Farmers**  
**Fijian Diaspora Aboard**  
**Friends of the Fijian People**  
**Fijians living in Fiji**  
**Our Corporate Partners:**  
**Bula Market Fiji & Food Well Fiji**

Over 50% of the \$4000 required for this initiative has been raised in cash & kind donations. To help address child hunger caused by the 2nd Wave of COVID Outbreak in Fiji for children living in the Lami, Suva & Nausori Area.

Another Aspire Network Designed Initiative For Children of Fiji  
Starting this Thursday 17th June 2021

**FOR EVERY \$5  
YOU DONATE TO  
MEAL BANK FOR  
FIJIAN CHILDREN.  
YOU SUPPORT A  
CHILD WITH  
NUTRITIONAL  
MEAL AND THE  
LIVELIHOOD OF  
CASH CROP  
FARMER**



**Our Bank Details:**  
Tax Tin Number: 2900393190  
Bank Account Name: Aspire Network  
Account Number: 84383596  
Bank: Bank South Pacific  
SWIFT Code: BO SPFJFJ  
BSB Number: 069 011  
MyCash : 731 8240  
MPaisa : 8370170



A series of seminars on hate speech online and offline were organised in Balmayo in the Centre Region of Cameroon and in other regions.







## **CHALLENGES**

- Gambia is still unable to get banners for identification and unable to make targeted stakeholder connections due to their busy schedules
- The eruption of the La-Soufriere volcano in St Vincent and Grenadines continues to pose challenges to the country, but we are trying our best to be resilient and press forward despite the difficult times we live in.
- Team Uganda agreed to engage in an awareness campaign on COVID-19 in light of the increasing infections and fatalities dubbed 'Heal the World'. The campaign however was not executed as planned due to reasons yet to be determined.
- Due to severe nature of Covid-19, all activities are banned in Pakistan. A wave of terrorist attacks started in Pakistan and due to these issues, it is very difficult for the country coordinator to even move out from his house for any activity or consultations with the Government and other organisations.
- There is a lot of insecurity in Nigeria from terrorist activities to security forces brutalities but CYPAN lacks the capacity and financial grounds to actively engage in any major project in this field.
- Due its fairly new existence, CYPAN Belize has a very low membership and almost no awareness of CYPAN in the country.
- Fiji had difficulties in raising funds to support projects due to financial and economic crisis in the country.
- Only the secretariat team participate actively in meetings in Malawi.
- The main challenge of Cameroon is the non-engagement of some national executive board members in the network's activities.

## **ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF JULY**

- The executive team is planning to kick start a 6 Months CYPAN training and the planning is almost complete. The Month started with a CYPAN Country Coordinators and Executives meeting to finalise on the planning.
- A series of webinars in July on The Declaration of State of Emergencies (SoEs) is to be held in Botswana. The purpose of this webinar is to capacitate the nation on the dangers of having prolonged SoEs and its effects on Democracies.
- The other aim is that this webinar will make other stakeholders come forward and discuss this issue further as most have been quiet despite its repercussions (e.g. the

alarming rise in corruption cases in the country ever since the SoE was declared and the one-man rule).

- An official Facebook page has been created to facilitate the programme and it has garnered a total of 367 followers.
- Gambia will hold more voter sensitization campaigns as the country prepares for their presidential elections. They also hope to hold a radio talk show in the coming month as well as engage actively in social media advocacy through fliers.
- CYPAN St Vincent and Grenadines plans to host an online seminar around the theme of communication and peace in July, our guest speaker will be Ms. Tedra Kirby.
- Uganda plans to hold an induction ceremony for new members as well as training of all members.
- The country coordinator for Pakistan hopes in the coming month to introduce CYPAN to NGOs and government representatives in Lahore.
- Nigeria plans to continue the nationwide books distribution project in the coming month and hold workshops on Media and Information Literacy and Countering Violent Extremism for its members.
- Belize will continue its awareness campaign and plans to meet with peace and democracy groups.
- Fiji will be moving forward with phase two of \$5 Meal for Fijian Children after assessing the financial budget of the initiative.
- For the month of July, CYPAN Malawi plans to meet with the minister of National Unity, Civic and Education to share the info graphic and to introduce CYPAN officially. A radio talk to launch the UNSCR 2250 awareness campaign and capitalize on this to create partnerships is in the pipeline.
- Cameroon hopes to meet with the Ministry of External Relation (MINREX), Ministry of Youth Affaire and Civil Education (MINJEC) and Cameroon National Youth Council (CNYC) on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 to engage them and establish partnership for future activities. The program manager is also working on trainings scheduled for July on project development, project management, peace building, etc.

## **Recommendations**

- It was proposed that the commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassador Network has programs or projects planned for the Asia – Pacific region on a national level, if yes

then would like to enquire a guideline on how to initiate the projects to move CYPAN activities forward as it is rarely visible in such regions.

- This my first year as (CYPAN) country coordinator for Fiji and I'm interested to know what sort of (intellectual or financial etc) support does the regional CYPAN board entails when addressing the various countries projects and initiatives to better promote the CYPAN vision of youth peace.