



PROGRESS REPORT JULY 2021

The month of July officially kickstarted CYPAN trainings for members with a peer to peer learning session for Country Coordinators. The trainings will continue through December. This will ensure our members are impacted through capacity building on different issues and topics. The month was racked with horrible and frightening massive surge in the spread of COVID 19 variants. It looks to be taking turns dealing with countries as worsening situations are reported daily. This has resulted in the continual reliance of virtual platforms to hold meetings, organise and execute events.

CYPAN Gambia is doing a remarkable job in helping to eradicate electoral violence to promote good governance and stable democracy. Whiles Ghana is seeking to build on its democratic gains by training and equipping the next generation of political leaders.

COVID 19 AND NATURAL DISASTERS

The world is still grappling with the COVID 19 pandemic, with adjusting to living and flourishing in such times. With the threat of an impending third wave, surges in spread patterns and the rapid spread of deadlier variants, it is quite a struggle for some of our member countries.

Botswana is experiencing high numbers of new infections and deaths resulting from the contracting of the new delta variant. A lot of lives have been lost and the extreme spread in schools necessitated a closure as many teachers have died. Hospitals are unable to contain all patients and some are sent home to await their demise.

Pakistan is also still battling with the delta variant and international activities as well as physical meetings are still on hold, thereby negatively impacting the rapid growth of CYPAN Pakistan.

Uganda organized a COVID-19 awareness campaign to help reduce the rampage of the pandemic. A video was made with members sharing a message about the pandemic in their native languages and was shared on all social media platforms.

SOCIAL MEDIA, STAKEHOLDER AND VISIBILITY ENGAGEMENT

The Executive team has been in talks with the Good will office of the Secretary General and Neem Foundation Nigeria on possible areas of partnerships and looking forward to more concrete decisions in the coming Month.

The Pakistan Country Coordinator met with Kafka Welfare Organization a youth led NGO in Lahore Pakistan. Kafka focuses primarily on peace promotion through international campaigns and activism. A partnership has been established for future collaboration between the two organisations.

CYPAN Gambia joined Think Young Women a woman led civil society group fighting for the rights of young girls and Peace Hub-The Gambia for a roundtable discussion on “*The Africa We Want*”. This roundtable discussion was convened by Dag Hammarskjold Foundation to foster a conversation on inclusive peace building and highlighting the importance of partnership and collaboration between civil societies in peace processes.

CYPAN Gambia has established partnership with Rise of the Young (RoTY) a youth led grass root organization that fervently advocates for the rights of young people.

In Nigeria the Country Coordinator with his team went to Lagos to a familiarisation visit to the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Youths, Students Relations and Tertiary Institutions to discuss on possible partnership projects on Peacebuilding of youths, students and youth leaders in the state to help foster peace and Ethno religious tolerance in the state.



DEMOCRACY AND ELECTIONS

The Gambia after 22 years of dictatorship is still fighting to have a peaceful democratic government structure but a myriad of selfish interests and weak bureaus makes this very difficult to attain. CYPAN Gambia partnered with the West African Peace Building Network (WANEP) on the recently concluded 99- days voter registration to observe the exercise. WANEP in its final report recommended that;

- The Independent Electoral Commission and government to intensify security strength during the upcoming Presidential elections.

- The Independent Electoral Commission to leverage on the networks of civil society to dialogue with political parties and local authorities to maintain peace during elections.

CYPAN Ghana partnered with the headquarters of the church of Pentecost to hold a virtual Political Chamber. This seminar was targeted at young Ghanaian people with interest in politics. The aim is to train the next generation of better political leaders. The seminar was held over three days and had a total of 188 participants.

OUTREACHES, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS AND PROJECTS

The leadership of CYPAN Botswana held a webinar on 31st of July on the theme *Botswana Under State of Emergency*. A lecturer from the University of Botswana led the session after which it was concluded that COVID 19 is no longer an emergency and it is time for the government to refrain from using it as a front for declaring states of emergencies. For instead of achieving its aim, bad government practices are rather flourishing and for the attainment and promotion of good governance the people of Botswana yearn for, the abuse of the power to declare state of emergencies must cease.

The Country Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator of CYPAN Botswana participated in a Management Workshop organised by CYPAN's Global Coordinators to learn from other member networks such as Nigeria on how they get their members to be active and show initiative and participate fully in coming up with network activities.

Pakistan was also represented at this workshop.

Virtual orientations were held for the 4 regions of Uganda; northern, western, eastern and central. Among the things that were discussed are the objectives of CYPAN and strategies were put forward to improve engagement, visibility and productivity of CYPAN. Members were enlightened on the importance of social networking and their participation in all activities of the network. This resulted in the increased participation of members in CYPAN activities.

CYPAN Uganda partnered with INUA to host a webinar on communication skills under the theme; *'How to Effectively Communicate Your Way to Visibility'*. The speaker was Mrs Beyanga Carol who is the head of mentorship, partnership and monetization at Nation Media Group.

Another webinar was hosted in partnership with Centre for Constitutional Governance on Activism and the Law. The guest speaker was Sarah Bireete who is the executive director at Centre for Constitutional Governance.

CYPAN Nigeria held a book distribution drive project in Partnership with the Giveback Group who paid a visit to the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor of Lagos on Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Dr. Toyin Salau to discuss with her on the books Distribution project and also donate two boxes of books to her office. CYPAN Nigeria was represented by the Country Coordinator Victor Okechukwu Chimezie, the Director of Administration for Education in the state and few other volunteers later joined for the photos.



Adek Bassey, a CYPAN Nigeria Member residing in Adamawa State in Northern Nigeria and her organization Today For Tomorrow Foundation organized a 6 weeks peer to peer Project in the North-East region of Nigeria with young people from 15 to 25 years from different backgrounds, belief, culture and religion. Including people living with disabilities and those residing in the IDP camp The Project aim is to increase knowledge of the peers on Basic life skills, HIV, GBV and SRHR Adek also dressed like the natives which made the participants more relaxed with her and eager to build peace in their localities We hope to keep pushing for a better, safer and a saner Nigeria and a tolerant and non-extremist society



CHALLENGES

- Most Executive and Country Coordinators have been inactive and unresponsive affecting the flow of information and activities of the Network. This is largely because they have resulted to focusing on working for other organisations that pay them and are busy to coordinate CYPAN work. This has been due to the hard-economic times caused by the pandemic forcing majority of young people to protect their sources of income at all cost.
- Poor member participation in the webinar organised by Botswana was a major challenge as members were unresponsive to the leaders call for participation. Also, there was a technical glitch with the speaker's device at the beginning of the webinar. Sound from his end could not be comprehended.
- With the ban on social gatherings due to Covid's menace, Gambia has had to cancel its social engagements and outreach activities. Also due to strife in the university, most CYPAN members were unable to write their exams on time.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST.

- CYPAN training on communication.
- Botswana plans to have an in-house meeting to address low participation of members in its activities and has plans to host another webinar.
- Pakistan will be utilizing the International Youth Day to promote CYPAN's visibility to aid in attracting new members.

- CYPAN Gambia intends to take on a rigorous high school sensitization on election violence as young people are most vulnerable and usually used as perpetrators of violence.
- Uganda plans to hold more seminars and training on different topics of relevance to the objectives of CYPAN and the entire commonwealth fraternity.