



Catholic Diocese of Makurdi.
**FOUNDATION FOR JUSTICE,
DEVELOPMENT & PEACE**

OUR LATEST NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2024

Delivery of Protection and Assistance to Refugees and
IDPs in Benue and Akwa-Ibom states, Nigeria

Protection & Assistance to IDPs and Refugees

**SEPTEMBER to
OCTOBER 2024**



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Distribution of Assistive kits

FJDP Distributes Assistive Kits to Persons with Special Needs, Supported by All Saints Catholic Church, Toronto

The Foundation for Justice, Development, and Peace (FJDP) conducted the distribution of assistive kits to persons with special needs, with generous funding support from All Saints Catholic Church in Toronto, Canada. This initiative marks the first of its kind under FJDP's ongoing commitment to supporting individuals with disabilities.

During the event, the Coordinator of FJDP warmly welcomed the beneficiaries and emphasized the Catholic Church's mission to care for the less privileged—a mission FJDP is fulfilling through this outreach. He encouraged the recipients not to let their physical challenges deter them, reminding them that their abilities are not limited by their disabilities. The Coordinator also called on the government to strengthen its inclusion of persons with special needs in various public sectors, recognizing ongoing efforts but stressing the need for continued progress.

Hon. Bem Anshe, Chairman of the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD) and Special Adviser to the Executive Governor of Benue State, Rev. Fr. Dr. Hyacinth Iormem Alia, praised the initiative. He lauded FJDP's swift response to the needs of the disabled community, calling it a groundbreaking effort.

The beneficiaries expressed their gratitude and excitement upon receiving the assistive devices, which they believe will greatly improve their quality of life. Some shared their previous struggles and highlighted how these items—such as wheelchairs, crutches, sunglasses, and mobility canes—will now provide them with much-needed support and mobility.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U37SOawTxH8>



CBCFM Population Meeting

As part of the Foundation for Justice, Development, and Peace's (FJDP) commitment to ensuring accountability to the displaced populations in Ikyogen, The Senior Protection Officer (SPO), provided feedback to the refugee community on complaints gathered through the community-based complaint and feedback mechanism (CBCFM) at population meeting. The SPO presented the key issues raised by the refugees, which included change in election date, education, health, CBI and CRI distribution.

Each of these complaints was addressed individually, with specific actions taken by FJDP to resolve or mitigate the issues highlighted.

The refugees were actively engaged during the meeting, with several community members expressing appreciation for the feedback provided and the transparency of the process. Some participants also raised follow-up concerns, which were duly noted for future action



Safety Audit Orientation Lecture

A safety audit orientation lecture was conducted at the resilience centre, Ikyogen refugee settlement as part of preparations for the conduct of the safety audit exercise. The session targeted UNHCR IP Organizations, Community Outreach facilitators (COF) MDAs, Volunteers and refugee leadership.

The orientation equipped cum familiarized participants with the objectives, methodology and key focus of the safety audit exercise. Key topics discussed include risk identification, roles and responsibilities of participants.



Safety Audit Exercise

A safety audit exercise was conducted at the Primary Health Care (PHC) facility, the Police Outpost, and St. Francis Xavier Secondary School in Ikyogen to assess safety and protection conditions in these key institutions. The exercise included Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and observations with diverse populations, revealing several critical findings:

Primary Health Care (PHC):

- > Inadequate WASH Facilities: The PHC lacks sufficient water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, posing health risks to patients and staff.

- > Insufficient Admission Facilities: Limited space and resources for admitting patients hinder the effective delivery of healthcare services.

- > Inadequate Drug Supply: The facility reported a shortage of essential medicines, affecting the treatment of common ailments and emergencies.

- > Inadequate GBV Trainings: The PHC staff requires additional training on handling Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases to better support survivors.

Police Outpost:

- > Inadequate WASH and unsegregated detention Facilities: There is an absence of gender-segregated toilets and holding cells, compromising the safety and dignity of detainees. The cell has just one toilet for use by both female and male detainees.

- > Staffing Limitations: The outpost is understaffed, with only three male personnel, and lacks a female officer to handle sensitive cases involving women.

St. Francis Xavier Secondary School:

- > Discrimination Against Refugees: Reports indicate that refugees are discriminated against when positions of responsibility or leadership roles are assigned at the school.

- > Cult Activities: There is evidence of cult activities within the school, posing significant safety concerns for students.

- > High Prevalence of GBV: Incidents of Gender-Based Violence, including teenage pregnancies, forced marriages, intimate partner violence (IPV), and domestic violence, are alarmingly high.

- > Lack of Security Presence: The absence of security personnel at the school leaves students vulnerable to various forms of violence and exploitation.



World Day for The Poor 2024

It's that time of the year again, when we come together to celebrate Christmas with our brothers and sisters who have been displaced and are living in IDP camps, many of whom have no food, clothing, or proper shelter.

This year's World Day for the Poor is themed "The prayer of the poor rises up to God" (cf. Sir 21:5). As our Father, God cares deeply for those most in need the poor, the marginalized, the suffering, and the forgotten. The poor hold a special place in God's heart, and we are called to reflect His love by reaching out to them this Christmas.

We invite you to join us in making a difference. Your generous support will help provide food, clothing, and comfort to those living in IDP camps.

To donate, you can send your contributions to our office or reach out via the numbers below:

+234 803 731 6246

+234 706 627 9994

Thank you for helping us spread the love and joy of Christmas to those who need it most.



Catholic Diocese of Makurdi.
FOUNDATION FOR JUSTICE,
DEVELOPMENT & PEACE
FJDP

WORLD DAY FOR THE POOR 2024

THEME: The prayer of the poor
rises up to God (cf. Sir 21:5)

DONATE NOW!

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TruthNigeria Visit to FJDP Head office



Mike Odeh James, a reporter for TruthNigeria, visited the FJDP coordinator at the Makurdi head office. TruthNigeria is an American-based news outlet dedicated to uncovering the truth about the persecution of Christians in Nigeria, particularly the ongoing genocide and Fulani attacks in Benue State and other parts of the country.

During the visit, Mr. James sought updates on the latest developments regarding the killings, which have resulted in the mass displacement of Christian farmers in Benue State.

He also conducted an exclusive one-on-one interview with the Catholic Bishop of Makurdi Diocese, Most Rev. Wilfred Chikpa Anagbe, CMF, who has also been a vocal advocate for the displaced and a pillar of support for media organizations like TruthNigeria.

Advocacy Visit to National Population Commission Office



UNHCR, FJDP and Betty-Anyanwu Akeredoru Foundation(BAAF), paid an advocacy visit to National Population Commission.

The visit aimed at strengthening relationship with the Commission targeting registration of birth certificate for the displaced population at the IDP camps across LGAs of intervention and the hosting communities.

Fostering collaboration for UNHCR implementing partners on birth registration and civil documentation.

Issues addressed during the visit includes migrating from Manual birth registration to digital birth registration as supported by other UN agencies.

Training of data collection officers on the use of tools for the E- registration of birth certificates.

Thanks to UNHCR for the technical support

Deputy Head of Mission Nigeria for PUI Visit to the FJDP Makurdi Office

The Deputy Head of Mission-Nigeria for Premiere Urgence Internationale (PUI), David Ogwang and his colleague visited the coordinator of FJDP e. The coordinator of FJDP welcomed the PUI team and appreciated them for visiting the office to have strategic discussion with the organization.

He said he was happy that with the presence of PUI in the state, other gaps in the IDP intervention will also be addressed. He promised further that his arms are always open for potential partnership with organizations like PUI.

Responding on behalf of his colleague, Mr. David thanked the coordinator for the warm reception. He said he was in the state to register and meet with government agencies and relevant stakeholders ahead of their planned intervention on the IDP situation in Benue State.

He also assured the coordinator of PUI's readiness to partner with FJDP to explore and implement projects that will impact the life of the internally displaced persons (IDP) positively and ensure they live a dignified life.

High point of the visit was the presentation of some of the works published by FJDP and souvenirs to the PUI team



Improving Access to safe Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

FJDP Celebrates Major Milestone in Improving Living Conditions for IDPs in Guma LGA, Benue State

The Foundation for Justice, Development, and Peace (FJDP) has once again achieved a significant milestone in its mission to improve the lives of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Benue State. In partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), FJDP commissioned and handed over several vital amenities, including an optimized toilet block, solar-powered lighting, and a solar-powered borehole, to Daudu 1 and Gbajimba 2 IDP Camps in Guma Local Government Area. These facilities were constructed by FJDP with generous support from CRS.

The commissioning ceremony was attended by dignitaries from various NGOs and government agencies, showing the importance of the event. The FJDP Coordinator warmly welcomed the CRS Country Representative to Nigeria, Mr. Akim Kiconga, alongside Mr. Anslem and other distinguished guests who came to witness this significant achievement. Board members of FJDP were also present to commemorate the occasion.

In her address, the Coordinator expressed deep gratitude to CRS for their steadfast commitment to the project, highlighting how their continued support has been instrumental in improving the lives of the displaced persons. “We cannot thank CRS enough for staying true to their promise and making this project a reality,” Their continues dedication has been crucial in bringing smiles to the faces of IDPs.”

Mr. Akim Kiconga, the CRS Country Representative for Nigeria, shared his elation at the project’s success. He recounted his visit to the Daudu Camp two months ago, where he observed the dire conditions facing the IDPs. “We saw firsthand the challenges—lack of clean water, decent sanitation, limited access to food, and the absence of basic necessities. These individuals have been stripped of their homes and livelihoods,” he explained. “When we left Benue, we were heartbroken, but we were determined to do whatever we could to improve the living conditions of the IDPs. This project is a direct result of that commitment.”

The Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Makurdi, represented by the Vicar General Pastoral, Very Revd. Fr. Moses Iorapuu, conveyed the Bishop’s happiness at this success. Speaking on behalf of the Bishop, Fr. Iorapuu noted the Diocese’s pride in the Foundation’s ongoing efforts to ensure that IDPs receive essential amenities.

The IDPs themselves expressed immense gratitude for the support provided by CRS, with many beneficiaries of the cash-based assistance sharing their stories. The provision of solar-powered boreholes, modern toilets, and solar security lights has significantly improved their living conditions. Additionally, those who received cash assistance spoke about how the funds have enabled them to start small businesses, which are now providing them with a sustainable means of livelihood.

“We are deeply thankful to CRS for their continued support,” the FJDP stated. “These interventions will undoubtedly improve the lives of displaced persons and restore dignity to their communities.



FJDP Commemorates the International Day of the Girl Child



FJDP at the Government Science and Technical College Ikyogen commemorated the special occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child 2024.

We celebrated the strength, potential, and resilience of every girl child and young woman, and rallied support for a brighter course for the future. Stressing the need to cultivate leadership, break barriers, and empower the next generation of women to rise boldly, confidently, and with purpose.

Let's continue to create a world where every girl can dream, lead, and thrive without limits. Let's continue to inspire, educate, and empower the next generation of female leaders.



Advocacy Visit to NPC

Advocacy Visit to NPC.

A delegation from the Adikpo Field Office paid an advocacy visit to the National Population Commission (NPC) at the Kwande LGA Secretariat. The purpose of the visit was to appreciate the NPC for its sustained support over the years and to highlight registration issues currently being faced in relation to the displaced population in the area.

The team led by the SPO also sought further collaboration in addressing the identified issues and strengthening ongoing efforts to provide protection and assistance to displaced populations.

The acting controller of the National Population Commission appreciated the visit and acknowledged the issues raised by the team. She assured the team of the commission's commitment to addressing the challenges, particularly the delays in registration. She emphasized the need for continued collaboration and promised improved service delivery. FJDP and souvenirs to the PUI team



Flood Displaced Thousands in Benue State

We regret to report the recent flood in Makurdi, the Benue State capital, which has displaced thousands of residents from their homes. These individuals are now seeking refuge in temporary shelters provided by the government. Currently, those displaced from the Iniongun community and nearby riverbank areas in Wadata are taking shelter at NKST Central Primary School in Wadata, while others displaced along Gboko Road are being housed at Alex Gaadi Comprehensive Secondary School Makurdi.

The Foundation for Justice, Development, and Peace (FJDP) has swiftly taken action, conducting a needs assessment in the affected camps. Our team is profiling the displaced persons and sensitizing them on protection issues that may arise during their stay in the camps.

Rev. Fr. Remigius Ihyula, the FJDP Coordinator, also visited one of the camps to offer words of encouragement. He urged the displaced not to lose hope, reassuring them that help is on the way and efforts are being made to ensure their well-being. He further advised those still residing near the riverbanks to move to the camps for their safety.

In speaking with some of the displaced individuals, many expressed deep sorrow over their situation, having lost everything as floodwaters submerged their homes, destroyed their belongings, and left them homeless. We urgently appeal to everyone to extend a helping hand to our brothers and sisters in need. They are in desperate need of clothing, sleeping mats, and food. Your support can make a difference in their lives during this difficult time



Newly Admitted students under the Education in Emergency Program



A New Journey Begins for Displaced Children in Benue State

Today marks the start of a new chapter for several young individuals who have been displaced from their homes and are currently living in various IDP camps across Benue State. We are delighted to welcome the newly admitted students under the Education in Emergency Program. These IDP students have been placed in some of the finest Catholic schools within the Catholic Diocese of Makurdi, including Our Lady of Mount Carmel Secondary School, Holy Child Secondary School, Mount St. Gabriel's Secondary School, and Mount St. Michael's Secondary School, where they will begin their secondary education.

This remarkable opportunity has been made possible through the generous support of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). The children were overjoyed to receive the chance to study at such prestigious institutions—something they once thought impossible given their current circumstances.

Their parents have expressed profound gratitude to Bishop Most Revd. Wilfred Chikpa Anagbe, CMF, and the FJDP Coordinator, Rev. Fr. Remigius Ihyula, for their constant dedication to ensuring these children receive the best education possible, even amidst the challenges of displacement.

The IDP children have promised to use this opportunity wisely, to make their parents proud, and to bring honor to the Diocese.



FJDP Responds to Flooding in Makurdi, Benue State

Assessing the Devastation:

In our effort to provide proper support to those displaced by the recent flooding in Makurdi, Benue State, the FJDP team conducted a thorough assessment of the Wadata and Iniongun communities by boat. The devastation we witnessed was heartbreaking—entire houses along the riverbanks were completely submerged, and properties worth millions of naira were destroyed. Businesses, rice farms, and livelihoods were wiped out by the floodwaters.

Residents we spoke to expressed deep sorrow over their plight, with many left homeless and in desperate need of assistance. Some farmers, who had taken loans to cultivate their rice fields, lamented the loss of their crops, now destroyed by the floods. Their anguish was palpable, as they shared the overwhelming impact this disaster has had on their lives.

We urgently appeal to people of goodwill to come forward and support these displaced individuals in whatever way possible. Even the smallest act of kindness can make a difference in helping them rebuild their lives.



Distribution of starter packs to beneficiaries of IGA

At our Adikpo field office, FJDP, in partnership with UNHCR, flagged off the distribution of starter packs to beneficiaries involved in income-generating activities through cooperative groups focused on beadmaking and food processing (kulikuli and sweet mama meal).

The distributed items included 100 pairs of slippers, 32 packs of assorted beads, 16 sets of five packs of wool, 4 bags of groundnuts, 3 bags of soybeans, 3 bags of corn, 2 bags of millet, 1 bag of beniseed, and 150kg of rice, among others.

During the event, the UNHCR Senior Protection Officer urged the beneficiaries to make the most of the items and commended FJDP for their support to the Diocese.



Commissioning of Solar powered Borehole/

CRS, FJDP commissioned and handed over several vital amenities, including an optimized toilet block, solar lighting, and a solar-powered borehole, to Daudu 1 and Gbajimba 2 IDP Camps in Guma LGA. These facilities were constructed by FJDP with generous support from CRS.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GKkcNQLgxE>

Education in Emergency

The Education in Emergency IDP project, an initiative of the Catholic Bishop of Makurdi, Most Rev. Wilfred Chikpa Anagbe CMF, has over 150 population of IDP students, with new admissions currently underway. When many of these children were first admitted in 2022, most struggled with speaking English. Today, they are excelling in their studies, reflecting the remarkable progress of the program. This success is featured in the documentary. We invite donors to support us in any way they can. These children have numerous needs, and together, we can help them receive quality education, even in their displaced condition. For donations or inquiries, please visit the FJDP office at No. 2 Ahmadu Commassie Road, Wadata, Makurdi. Or call: +234 802 434 3647.

Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Normn-UECu0>



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