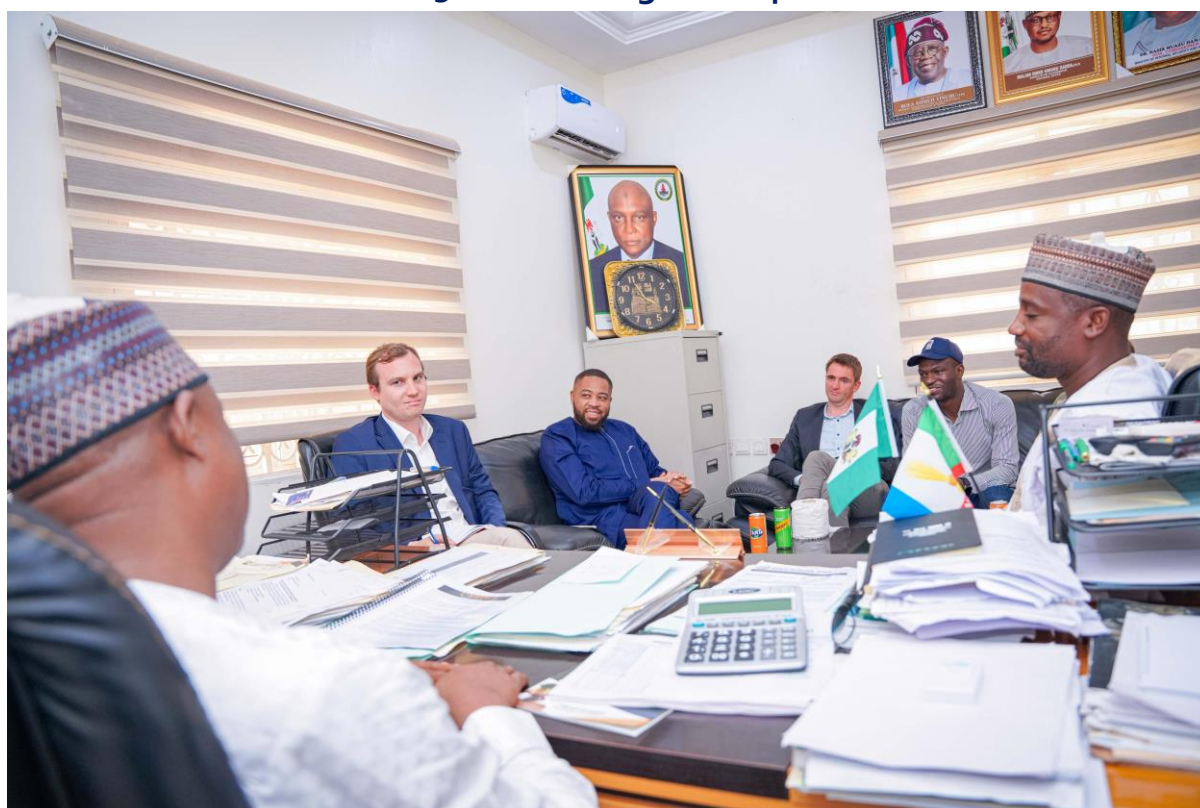




Northwest Preventative Action Facility

Project Number: 01001474

2025 Annual Progress Report



(January – December 2025)

On 29th July 2025, Mr. Ashraf Usman, Head of UNDP North-West, and the delegation from the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) in Berlin held a meeting with Hon. Nasir Mu'azu Danmusa, Commissioner Katsina Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs and his team at the Ministry's Office Complex in Katsina, aimed at reflecting and generating valuable insights on the contributions of the Northwest Prevention Facility in fostering peace and stability in Katsina State.

Project Summary

Country: Nigeria

Project Duration: December 2022 – December 2025

Total Project Budget: US\$ 41,910,423

Total Annual Budget (2025): US\$ 4,822,167

Cumulative expenditure (including for the reporting period): US\$ 11,409,565.97

Donor Contributions

Donor	Annual budget US\$
Government of Germany	4,822,167

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Implementing Partner(s)/Responsible Party(ies): UNDP, Katsina, Sokoto, Zamfara, Niger and Kebbi States.

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Acronyms

AWP	Annual Work Plan
CBPs	Confidence-Building Packages
CPD	Country Programme Document
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EWER	Early Warning Early Response
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
INEC	Independent National Electoral Commission
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IS Sahel	Islamic State Sahel
ISWAP	Islamic State – West Africa Province
JAS	Jama'at Ahl al-Sunna li al-Da'wa wa al-Jihad
KASEDA	Katsina State Enterprise Development Agency
LGA	Local Government Area
LOA	Letter of Agreement
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MSMEs	Micro Small and Medium Enterprises
NCTC	National Counter Terrorism Centre
NDLEA	National Drug Law Enforcement Agency
NSCDC	Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps
NW	North-West
NWCD	North-West Regional Coordination Desk
NWGF	North-West Governors Forum
NWGFS	North-West Governors Forum Secretariat
NWPF	Northwest Prevention Facility
NWPSDF	North-West Peace, Security and Development Framework
ONSA	Office of the National Security Adviser
RPA	Responsible Party Agreement
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SDG	Sustainable development Goals

SOP	Standard Operation Procedure
SMEs	Small and Medium Scale Enterprises
TOR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
VSLAs	Village Savings and Loan Associations

1. Executive Summary

Over the past years, the Northwest geopolitical zone of Nigeria has witnessed a rapid rise in the levels of violent conflict, characterized by intercommunal and interethnic disputes, banditry, organized crime, and an escalation of grievous attacks on local communities. A widespread and deep-rooted banditry phenomenon affects large parts of the population, with hundreds of victims of violence every year, an increasing and alarming number of internally displaced persons, and considerable pressures on inter and intra-communal relations. While Zamfara state was the initial epicenter of the violence, the crisis has metastasized, and now directly affects adjacent communities in neighboring states (particularly Sokoto, Katsina, Kebbi, Niger and Kaduna) where armed attacks, brazen mass kidnappings and destruction of properties and livelihoods have gained an alarming frequency. This emerging dynamic points to the need for a **cross-state (regional)** and **cross-border approach** to tackling the insecurity and development challenges.

The conflict and especially bandit phenomenon and instability in the Northwest are also rooted in the socio-economic and political context in which they occur. This has had a dramatic impact on the lives and livelihoods of populations in the region. The magnitude of the conflict impact has been compounded by the increased proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria and the Sahel region. A 2020 SBM Intelligence report estimated that approximately 6,145,000 Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) were in the possession of non-state actors in Nigeria, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive approach to control both supply and demand-side management. Consequently, the UNDP through the Germany funded Northwest Prevention Facility is working with the frontline states of Katsina, Sokoto and Zamfara, with an extension to Niger State, to design and implement holistic and tailored initiatives, aiming at responding to the impact of the conflict, addressing the root causes and laying the foundation for long-term stability and development in the North-West region.

In 2024, the Northwest Prevention Facility recorded significant progress in advancing peacebuilding, early recovery, and socio-economic development across conflict-affected areas of Northwest Nigeria. A key milestone was the inaugural **North-West Peace and Security Summit** held in Katsina on 24–25 June 2024. The Summit convened federal government representatives, governors from the seven North-West states – Sokoto, Katsina, Kano, Kaduna, Jigawa, Kebbi, and Zamfara – alongside members of academia, civil society, and the international community. The high-level engagement generated strong political commitment and regional consensus to scale up coordinated responses to the region's humanitarian, development, and peace challenges, while also attracting heightened interest and engagement from UN entities and international partners.

One of the Summit's most significant outcomes was the decision to strengthen regional coordination mechanisms. In this regard, UNDP supported the establishment of the **North-West Regional Coordination Desk (NwCD)**, which subsequently evolved into the **North-West Governors' Forum Secretariat (NWGFS)**. The Secretariat serves as a central platform for consensus-building, engagement with key actors within and beyond the region, and coordination of joint initiatives under the leadership of the North-West Governors' Forum (NWGF). Early engagements facilitated by the NWGFS included consultations with Commissioners of Internal Security and Special Advisers from Kaduna, Katsina, and Zamfara States, as well as security and governance experts from Sokoto, Kano,

Kebbi, and Jigawa States. These engagements laid a solid foundation for structured regional dialogue and cooperation.

Building on this strengthened coordination architecture and directly stemming from the Summit's resolutions, the NWGF, with technical support from UNDP and the wider UN system, initiated the development of the **North-West Nigeria Peace, Security and Development Framework (2026–2030)**. Conceived as a shared regional blueprint, the Framework aims to address insecurity, tackle the root causes of conflict, and advance long-term peace, stability, and socio-economic prosperity across the North-West. Throughout 2025, it emerged as the flagship follow-up process to the Summit.

Between March and July 2025, UNDP supported the NWGF and the NWGFS to conduct extensive stakeholder consultations across all seven North-West states and in Abuja. A total of 826 stakeholders, including senior policymakers, traditional and community leaders, displaced persons, pastoralists, farmers, women, youth, journalists, artisans, traders, and civil society organisations were engaged through town hall meetings, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews. This inclusive process ensured that the Framework was grounded in lived realities while reflecting shared regional priorities. Insights from these consultations were consolidated into a draft Framework document.

In November 2025, more than 100 representatives from state and federal institutions, alongside international development partners, participated in validation sessions to review and refine the draft Framework. Their inputs were incorporated, resulting in a consensus-driven document that outlines pragmatic implementation pathways and coordinated approaches to advancing peace and development in the region. The Framework is now ready for adoption by the Governors, with its official launch anticipated in the first quarter of 2026.

Significant progress was also achieved in the implementation and delivery of the confidence building and early recovery packages of the project. UNDP completed the construction of **404 mass housing units for internally displaced persons (IDPs)** in Jibia, Illela, and Shiroro Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Katsina, Sokoto, and Niger States. The construction of 152 houses is currently at 70% completion in Zamfara and is expected to be completed and handed over before the end of Q2 2026. These housing initiatives aim to provide durable shelter for displaced victims and support community rehabilitation.

In addition to these efforts, UNDP completed the **rehabilitation of cattle markets in Jibia and Illela LGAs of Katsina and Sokoto States, while the rehabilitation work in Gusau cattle market is at 80% completion**. These markets serve as lifelines for farmers, herders, and traders, offering critical infrastructure such as veterinary clinics, water points, loading bays, and secure trading spaces. Additionally, the project implemented **sustainable water points**, with construction progress at 100% across Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara States and 70% completion in Niger state.

Economic empowerment was another cornerstone of the project, with a **two-phase intervention** implemented in **partnership with the Katsina State Enterprise Development Agency (KASEDA) as well as in partnership with the Sokoto State Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Social**

Welfare and Zamfara State Ministry of Budget and Planning. This initiative benefited 2,000 individuals by integrating them into the formal financial system, providing tailored training on enterprise and financial management, and distributing cash grants to support business growth. Over 54% of the beneficiaries were women, demonstrating a strong commitment to gender-sensitive development. Also, the project, as part of efforts to provide sustainable livelihood and enhance food security, supported over 1000 farmers in Katsina, Sokoto and Zamfara states by enhancing their capacity on smart agricultural practices and providing them with improved seedlings, farming tools and equipment alongside solar-powered boreholes to encourage and sustain a year-round farming culture.

Capacity-building initiatives focused on enhancing governance and operational effectiveness. **Security personnel and social rehabilitation staff received specialized training to improve border trade facilitation** and maintain professional conduct. The overall aim of the training is focused on ensuring sustainable behavioral change, strengthening service delivery, and institutional resilience. Additionally, UNDP has facilitated the capacity enhancement of community actors through tailored training on insider mediation and the establishment of the network of dialogue and mediation facilitators comprising of community leaders, women and youths in frontline LGAs. These platforms contributed significantly to anchoring and facilitating local peace compacts and agreements that led to the cessation of hostilities in Jibia, Safana, Dan Musa, and Batsari LGAs of Katsina State.

UNDP has sustained its collaboration with the **Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA)** through the **National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC)** and conversation is ongoing to articulate and marshal out an activity implementation plan in Q2 2026 that is focused on enhancing border governance and security cooperation along the critical international border corridors in Katsina, Sokoto, Kebbi and Niger states. These achievements reflect the project's holistic and adaptive approach to addressing conflict, cross-border challenges, displacement, and socio-economic instability, building a foundation for sustainable peace and development in Northwest Nigeria.

The Northwest Prevention Facility has contributed to fostering confidence-building and addressing trust deficits through its early recovery and confidence-building packages, economic revitalization and livelihood support initiatives as well as the rehabilitation of economic infrastructures, technical and systems strengthening support on enhancing local community stakeholders' abilities in early warning and early response (EWER), as well as dialogue and mediation. These efforts have strengthened local community policing and dispute resolution mechanisms, contributing to improved peace and security within the communities. Phase I of the Prevention Facility project secured a six (6) month No Cost Extension, which officially ended on 30th November 2025. Phase I demonstrated the effectiveness of confidence-building packages (CBPs) as enablers of local peace deals and contributed in catalyzing state-led actions through the mobilization of domestic resources from the state governments and facilitated the approval of the second phase of the Prevention Facility, earmarked to be implemented from December 2025 – November 2028, focused on scaling up the implementation of confidence building packages (CBPs) into new LGAs of Katsina, Sokoto, Zamfara, Niger states, aiming to consolidating the gains recorded and creating conditions for trust, safety, and local political settlements. Phase II of the Northwest Prevention Facility (NWPF) also seeks to expand interventions into Kebbi State, recognizing the strategic and evolving security dynamics along the Nigeria–Benin and Nigeria–Niger border corridors as the state hosts tri-border dynamics in Bagudo, Dandi, and Arewa-Dandi, each facing porous borders, cross-border pastoralism,

illicit flows, and rising attacks with a potential impact to erode the successes and achievements made in the region through Phase I of the Prevention Facility. The emergence of the Lakurawa terrorist group increases the risks of opportunistic bandit–terrorist cooperation across the North-West region.

As of 30 December 2025, the site assessment and the development of technical documents for a second phase of mass housing construction in Batsari and Faskari LGAs of Katsina, Talatan Mafara LGA in Zamfara, and Rabah LGA in Sokoto state have been completed. The phase two construction is envisaged to be implemented through a co-financing arrangement, i.e. provision of counterpart funding by Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara state governments to complement the resources to be provided by UNDP through the Northwest Prevention Facility project. Also, plans have been finalised to engage and deploy a technical expert who will support to provide UNDP with a technical blueprint for implementing Phase II of the Northwest Prevention Facility project in Kebbi State, including geographic prioritization of LGAs, designing of tailored confidence-building packages (CBPs), border-area intervention strategy, and analysis of the Lakurawa factor.

2. Situation Background

Political Context

With the buildup to the 2027 General Elections, the political atmosphere in 2025 was marked by significant realignment within the ruling and the major opposition parties. Persistent intra-party crises (i.e. leadership disputes, contested party structures, and escalating defections) within both the ruling and opposition parties emerged as a significant political risk factor. Expectations are high that, from February to May 2026, political parties' conventions and primaries could contribute to a shift in priorities from governance to electioneering. These dynamics risk heightening political tensions in the pre-election and post-election period, undermining voter confidence, and shifting competition away from policy-based engagement toward elite bargaining and patronage-driven realignments. There is an urgent need for deliberate efforts to step up consensus-building engagements with critical stakeholders and roll out interventions and programmes that would contribute and promote the conduct of peaceful and violence-free elections in 2027.

Equally, in Q3 of 2025, conversations on the **Electoral Act Amendment Bill 2025** resurfaced, delving into the centrality of timelines, sanctions for electoral offences, voter accreditation procedures, and post-election dispute resolution. However, recent national outcry and outburst by opposition political parties, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and observers on the implications of some of the major amendments, including election timelines and the method of transmitting election results, signal a grave political risk that could undermine its credibility and public confidence. The unfolding events are seen as indicators that could likely threaten the conduct of a peaceful and violence-free 2027 General elections. There is also a likelihood that the elections could be threatened by a series of litigations before and after the February 20, 2027, scheduled date, and could potentially contribute to heightening tensions and widening the fault lines across the country.

On the democratic and security front, major setbacks surfaced in 2025, unravelling existing weaknesses in Nigeria's governance architecture. The report of a foiled coup aimed at overthrowing

the present administration contributed greatly to heightening distrust levels and disrupting democratic gains recorded over the last few years. Security agencies concluded investigations into the coup attempt, recovering weapons and vehicles and identifying military personnel directly involved in the plan. However, some suspects remain at large, prompting heightened internal security. The report of the attempted coup further compounds the threats to not only democratic governance but the wider peace and security landscape in Nigeria and across the Sahel region, with similar threats in 2025 witnessed in the nearby Republic of Benin.

Similarly, growing divergence on proposed fiscal reforms heightened the risk of political instability in 2025 in Nigeria. The new tax law, set to get full-scale operation in 2026, triggered controversies following concerns raised in the National Assembly on suspicions of discrepancies between the version of the law passed by legislators and the text subsequently gazetted and released to the public. The resulting outcry carries political risk, as opposition actors may leverage the controversy to frame broader governance failures ahead of the 2027 general elections. If poorly managed, this could further polarize political discourse, heighten public distrust in fiscal reforms, and contribute to pre-election tensions with attendant risks of unrest. The controversy underscores the centrality of transparency and institutional accountability. An effective resolution of the concerns raised will be critical to sustaining reform momentum, revenue generation, and preventing fiscal policy from becoming a catalyst for political instability.

In addition, Nigeria in 2025 witnessed a sharp shift in its security cooperation with bilateral partners. Recent security incidents i.e.. kidnapping of students and worshipers and attacks on communities in parts of North-West and North-Central regions, particularly In Niger, Kwara, Kaduna, Kebbi States and the resurgence of the activities of insurgent groups in the North-East i.e. Borno, Yobe, Gombe necessitated a shift in the country's diplomatic and political economy landscape, deepening reliance on bilateral cooperation with traditional partners. The recent joint operation targeting terrorist and bandit hideouts in Sokoto State marks one of the rare instances in Nigeria's post-independence history where a foreign power has directly participated in kinetic responses to domestic security threats. While this underscores the increasingly transnational nature of insecurity and the strategic value of international partnerships, it also raises concerns about the sufficiency of Nigeria's internal security architecture and its capacity to perform its historic role as a regional security guarantor within the ECOWAS sub-region. These dynamics highlight a potential recalibration of Nigeria's regional influence, with implications for sovereignty and regional leadership. Persistent insecurity threats risk development gains, weaken state legitimacy, and constrain regional integration efforts that have recently been stretched by the actions of disgruntled member states, notably, Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso.

Security Context

Across 2025, the Northwest (NW) maintained its position as Nigeria's most volatile region, consistently accounting for a disproportionate share of national violence. Q4 data recorded 667 conflict events (41% of national incidents) and 945 fatalities (31% of deaths), with a clear downward trajectory in lethality from October to December—though localized surges persisted in Zamfara, Katsina and Sokoto. This late-year easing contrasts with earlier quarters: in Q1, the NW registered 1,084 fatalities, driven by severe concentrations in Zamfara (570) and Katsina (327); in Q2, fatalities remained extreme at 856, again led by Zamfara (398) and Katsina (288); by Q3, fatalities rose to 1377,

with Zamfara (561), Katsina (448), and Sokoto (234) dominating the toll. The full-year pattern, therefore, shows a high intensity in the first three quarters followed by a reduction of fatality counts in Q4, shaped by intensified air-to-ground operations, shifting militant tactics, communal fatigue, and climate-linked seasonal mobility dynamics.

State-by-state evolution (full-year)

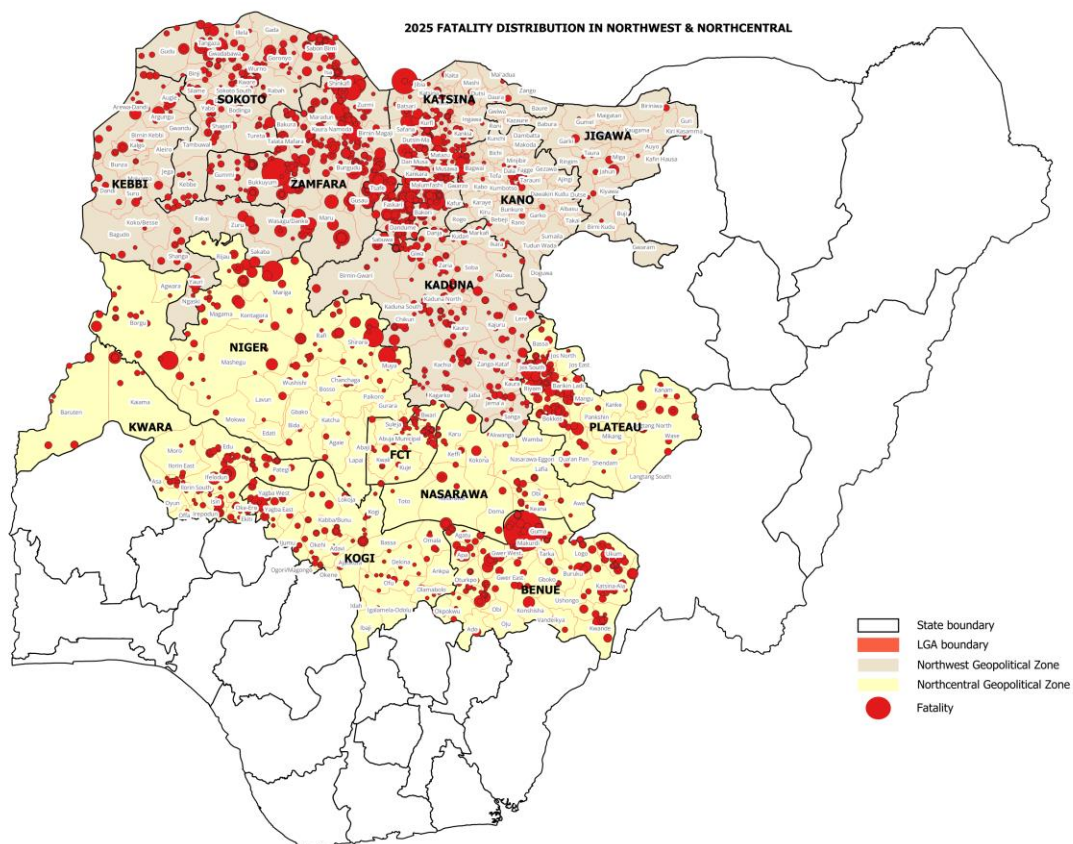
Zamfara remained the epicenter of Northwest insecurity across all four quarters—consistently topping fatality tables due to large-scale killings, mass abductions, and counterforce operations; by late Q4, it still recorded 282 deaths in December alone, including strikes on IED and logistics hubs in Tsafe. Katsina, though benefiting from intermittent community brokered truces in midyear (e.g., in Dan Musa, Faskari, and Jibia), continued to experience recurring border incursions and mass kidnapping events—such as Q3’s surge of 217 abductees, the highest in the NW that quarter. Sokoto’s trajectory sharpened from midyear onward due to the expansion of Lakurawa/IS Sahel networks along the Nigeria–Niger axis, culminating in U.S.–Nigeria coordinated airstrikes in December and persistent cross-border attacks in Illela, Tangaza, and Sabon Birni. Kebbi, relatively calmer in Q1, saw pronounced exposure by midyear with 282 abductions in Q2 and lethal Lakurawa operations in Q3 and Q4, including the abduction of 25 schoolgirls in Danko Wasagu. Kano, mostly insulated early in the year, emerged as a new pressure point in Q4, reflecting the Katsina–Kano corridor’s realignment of bandit operations. Kaduna fluctuated, with reduced fatalities in Q1/Q2 but renewed pressure in Q4 as groups displaced from Katsina and Zamfara sought alternative bases—a classic “balloon effect.” Even Jigawa, despite low event counts across the year, exhibited climate linked pastoralist–farmer skirmishes, signaling how environmental stressors can reignite dormant flashpoints.

Conflict character and actors

The 2025 conflict system evolved into a hybridized landscape where bandit economies and jihadist structures intersected more fluidly than in previous years. Q1–Q2 trends show an escalation of Lakurawa/IS Sahel activities around Sokoto–Kebbi, including attacks on police, cross-border raids, and levies imposed on communities. By Q3–Q4, these actors had consolidated into a more durable insurgent presence, prompting coordinated U.S. aerial strikes. Meanwhile, ISWAP and JAS maintained pressure along the Lake Chad Basin but extended operational reach indirectly into NW corridors through logistical collaboration with local armed groups. Across all quarters, mass abductions intensified—peaking at 484 victims in Q3 in NW alone—while attacks on schools, markets, religious sites, farms, and highways persisted as signature tactics. ACLED 2025 data for January–December further illustrate this civilian burden, with repeated episodes of kidnappings, cattle rustling, market-day ambushes, and village raids across Katsina, Zamfara, and Sokoto. Technical adaptation—UAV reconnaissance, improved IED craft, and mobile motorcycle columns—paired with geographic mobility allowed armed actors to survive intensified federal operations, while local defense groups remained uneven and vulnerable.

Across Katsina, Sokoto, Zamfara, and Niger, efforts must continue to anchor interventions in the lived realities of violence and climate stress. In Katsina and Zamfara, bolstering safe systems, rapid alert structures, and protected transport routes remain essential as school-targeted abductions across 2025 eroded community confidence. In Sokoto and Zamfara, addressing the resilience of armed groups requires combining market-chain disruption (livestock traceability, community-level livelihood buffers) with cross-border early-warning networks and community-anchored patrols along

forest edges (the forest guards approach could be very useful in this sense), critical in areas like Illela and Sabon Birni where Lakurawa spillovers persisted despite federal and external airstrikes. In Niger, where Q4 saw escalations in commuter and school abductions, corridor safety coalitions and mediation platforms for pastoralist–farmer tensions are essential for mitigating cross-regional spillovers from Benue and Plateau. Across all four states, sustained investment in dialogue platforms under traditional and religious authorities, unity-to-response intelligence pathways, and youth livelihoods linked to climate-sensitive value chains will continue to offer the most grounded pathway to resilience, aligning with the conflict patterns documented from Q1 through Q4.



Insights from ACLED (Accessed January 5, 2026)

3. Progress towards development results

3.1 Contribution to longer term results

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)/Country Programme Document (CPD) Outcome <add relevant number>: Outcome 4.1

By 2027, people in Nigeria, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from peace and security, and protection from conflict, violence, and crime through strengthened capacity and infrastructures.

Summary achievements based on CPD Outcome 4 targets: More inclusive, participatory, transparent and gender-sensitive governance, justice and human rights systems are in place at all levels to promote acceleration in achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs for a peaceful, inclusive, and cohesive society.

CPD outcome Indicator	Indicator Target	Indicator Status	Status (Ongoing, Delayed or Completed)	Summary achievement as of January – December 2025
Output 3.1.: Rule of law and access to justice and respect for human rights advanced through improved capacity of institutions and right holders.	71.5	N/A	Ongoing	During the reporting period, the project has contributed to strengthening the capacity of right holders, i.e. border security actors, on trade facilitation, with key pillars of the training focusing on mainstreaming human rights as an enabler for equitable justice and improved service delivery built on community trust and cooperation. Also, the project supported strengthening local capacities and mechanisms to facilitate dialogue and mediation. The network of insider mediation in some of the frontline Local Government Areas (LGAs) serves as a platform that not only facilitates dialogue and mediation but also contributes towards promoting justice and restoring human rights. ess: The i.e. border security actors

Overall Status	Blue font, bolded (<i>Ongoing, Delayed or Completed</i>)
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Guidance: Please populate the table above. No narrative section is required.

Relevant CPD Output 3.4: Strengthened systems, institutions, and capacities for transitioning to development solutions, and for inclusive and gender responsive peace building.

Summary achievement based on CPD output targets.

CPD output Indicator	Indicator Target	Indicator Status	Status (<i>Ongoing, Delayed or Completed</i>)	Summary achievement from January to December 2025
Indicator 3.4.1.: Number of functional infrastructures for peace at national and sub-national levels	Target 17 (2027): National – 1; Sub-national – 16	National – 1; Sub-national – 10	Ongoing	The project has facilitated the establishment of the North-West Coordination Desk, which later evolved to serve as a technical arm of the North-West Governor Forum Secretariat (NWGFS) and the development of the North-West Peace, Security and Development Framework due to be launched in Q1 of 2026. While the framework provides a regional blueprint for addressing and tackling the root causes of conflict and supporting pathways for long-term peace, recovery and prosperity, the NWGFS is saddled with the responsibility of convening and mobilizing regional consensus-building engagements amongst critical peace and security actors to collaborate towards implementing a shared initiative and strategies for addressing the multifaceted challenges confronting the North-West region.
Indicator 3.4.2.: Number of gender-responsive and conflict sensitive development policies, systems and plans in place to	Target 5 (2027)	1	Ongoing	The project has supported the development of the North-West Peace, Security and Development Framework (NWPSDF), a gender responsive document that serves as a regional blueprint for addressing the root causes of conflict and supporting pathways for long-term peace, recovery and prosperity of the North-West region.

prevent risk of conflict including climate security.				
Overall Status				Blue font, bolded <i>Ongoing, Delayed or Completed</i>)

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Relevant CPD Output 3.5: Communities affected by violent conflict enabled to regain lost livelihoods, infrastructures and basic services for durable socioeconomic development and restoration of local economy.

Summary achievement based on CPD output targets.

CPD output Indicator	Indicator Target	Indicator Status	Status (<i>Ongoing, Delayed or Completed</i>)	Summary achievement from January to December 2025
Indicator 3.5.1.: Number of people benefiting from improved infrastructure for recovery in crisis or post-crisis settings disaggregated by sex.	Target 3,770 (2027)	N/A	Ongoing	The project has initiated the construction of five hundred and fifty six (556) mass housing and the provision of solar powered borehole systems and installation of solar streetlights in Katsina (152 housing – 100% completed), Sokoto (100 housing – 100% completed), Zamfara (152 housing – 70% completed) and Niger (152 housing – 100% completed) states aiming to provide durable shelter for two thousand two hundred and twenty four (2,224) households (targeting 50% women) displaced due to conflict and insecurity in Jibia, Illela, Bungudu and Shiroro Local Government Areas of the above mentioned states. Also, to support and promote community recovery and reintegration, entrepreneurship and livelihood support packages were provided to a total of 5000 beneficiaries who were affected by the conflict in the project focal states, i.e. Katsina, Sokoto, Zamfara and Niger states. The project has also supported the rehabilitation of market infrastructures in Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara states. Currently, the rehabilitation of the cattle markets in

				Katsina and Sokoto states is at 100% completion, and it involves the construction of fencing, loading bays, market stalls, veterinary clinics, sitting sheds, installation of solar streetlights etc... The rehabilitation of these infrastructures has largely contributed to fostering social cohesion and promoting local economy revitalization and cross-border trade along the international border corridors of Nigeria-Niger Republic in Jibia LGA of Katsina and Illela LGA of Sokoto states.
indicator 3.5.2.: Percentage of households benefiting from jobs and improved livelihoods disaggregated by sex.	Target 60% (2027)	N/A	Ongoing	The project has provided and supported 5000 beneficiaries (50% women-headed households) with livelihood packages (i.e. entrepreneurial, vocational, and skills acquisition, Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and agriculture), including capacity building training, provision of grants, tools, and equipment's in Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara states. The intervention has contributed to providing sustainable livelihood to victims from frontline communities by creating jobs, facilitating the revitalization of the local economy of the affected communities, and enhancing food security.
Indicator 3.5.3.: Construction of 152 Mass Housing in Jibia, Bungudu and 100 Mass Housing in Illela, Cattle Market and Veterinary Clinics.	Target 100% (2025)		Completed	Following the completion of site assessments, review and coordination of all required technical documents (including architectural and structural drawings, Bills of Quantities and Scope of Work), as well as the signing of the Letter of Agreement (LoA), invitation to tender, and engagement of the Government Technical Team, construction has been successfully completed in Sokoto and Katsina States. In Zamfara State, these processes and construction works are still ongoing. The intervention is currently at its final stage, pending official launching and handover to beneficiaries.

3.2 Progress towards project outputs

Contextual incidences were produced monthly.

Project Output 1: Strengthened Capacities for political accountability and shared commitment on peace and security in Sokoto, Zamfara, and Kebbi States.

Summary achievement against 2025 Annual Work Plan (AWP) target

Indicator (as they appear in the AWP)	Indicator Target (2025) (AWP indicator targets)	Indicator Status	Status: <i>Ongoing, Delayed, Completed</i>	Summary achievement from January to December 2025 (provide gender disaggregate data were available)
1.1 Number of political engagement and consensus building structures operationalized.	1	1	Completed	- The June 2024 North-West Peace and Security Summit led to a joint commitment by the North-West Governors' Forum, UNDP, and the UN to create a regional coordination architecture. - UNDP supported this by establishing the North-West Coordination Desk (NwCD), now transitioned into the North-West Governors' Forum Secretariat (NWGFS). - The NWGFS now functions as the central coordination hub for regional stakeholders. - It is leading the development and rollout of the North-West Peace, Security and Development Framework - Initial NWPSDF consultations have engaged security commissioners, advisers, and experts from all seven North-West states. - These consultations have provided the groundwork for thematic roundtables and broader state- and federal-level engagements.

1.2 Strategic Framework for Political and Security Leadership Cooperation on the Northwest.	1	1	Ongoing	- Following the 2024 North-West Peace and Security Summit, UNDP supported the establishment of the North-West Coordination Desk and deployment of technical expertise. - In Q1 2025, UNDP recruited and deployed technical experts and consultants to support the North-West Governors' Forum Secretariat (NWGFS). - The NWGFS, with UNDP support, conducted extensive stakeholder engagements across all seven North-West states—Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, and Zamfara—and the FCT. - These engagements aimed to develop the North-West Nigeria Peace, Security and Development Framework (2026–2030), a shared regional strategy to address insecurity, root causes of conflict, and long-term development. - A total of 826 stakeholders were consulted, including federal and state policymakers, security actors, development partners, traditional and religious leaders, displaced families, farmers, pastoralists, women, youth, traders, journalists, artisans, and civil society. - Consultations occurred through townhalls, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews, generating insights that informed the draft Framework. - Between Q3 and Q4 2025, over 100 officials from state and federal institutions, along with international partners, participated in validation sessions to refine the draft. - Inputs from these validations ensured the Framework reflect locally grounded priorities, practical implementation pathways, and a consensus-driven regional approach.
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				- The North-West Peace, Security and Development Framework (NWPSDF) has now been finalized. - It is awaiting formal adoption by the North-West Governors' Forum at their next meeting, with a launch planned for Q1 2026.
1.3 Framework for dialogue and engagement with conflict actors (incl. Bandit groups) to inform local peace deals.	3	1	Ongoing	- In 2025, the project strengthened the capacity of local actors in dialogue and mediation to promote mutual understanding, peaceful coexistence, and sustainable peace. - This capacity-building supported the establishment and operationalization of a network of insider mediators across frontline communities. - The intervention enabled community-driven dialogue processes that resulted in local peace compacts between conflict actors, including community representatives and bandit groups. - These agreements contributed to reducing banditry and kidnapping and facilitated the release of captives. - Impact was recorded across 18 frontline LGAs in Katsina State, demonstrating the effectiveness of community-led peace initiatives.
1.4 Number of systematic conflict trend analysis produced to inform policy and decision making.	2	19	Ongoing	- In 2025, UNDP supported the production of 19 systematic conflict trends and context analysis reports for the North-West region. - These analyses informed government and non-governmental actors on evolving peace and security issues. - The reports contributed directly to evidence-based policymaking, programme adjustments, and strategic decision-making across the region.

				- Findings also guided the design of the next phase of the project, including the development of relevant indicators.
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DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Project Output 1: Strengthened Capacities for political accountability and shared commitment on peace and security in Sokoto, Zamfara, and Katsina States.

Under Output 1, the project significantly advanced political accountability, regional coordination, and collective commitment toward peace and security across the North-West. Through the North-West Governors' Forum (NWGF) and its Coordination Desk, the project catalyzed high-level engagement at federal, state, and regional levels, helping to build a coherent and unified platform for addressing insecurity and driving long term development. These efforts directly contributed to the development of the North-West Peace, Security and Development Framework (NWPSDF), now fully validated and positioned as the region's guiding instrument for coordinated action.

Following the 2024 North West Peace and Security Summit in Katsina, the NWGF, UNDP, and the UN system committed to establishing a functional regional architecture to steer consensus building and harmonize interventions across the seven North West states. In response, UNDP supported the establishment and operationalization of the North-West Coordination Desk (now the NWGF Secretariat), providing technical expertise to ensure its institutional effectiveness. The Secretariat now serves as the central coordination hub for convening stakeholders, sustaining political dialogue, and leading the formulation and rollout of the NWPSDF.

Between Q1 and Q2 2025, UNDP supported the Secretariat to undertake an extensive regional consultation process across Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara, and the Federal Capital Territory. A total of 826 stakeholders were engaged, including senior policymakers, security agencies, traditional and religious leaders, development partners, displaced families, pastoralists, farmers, youth, women, journalists, traders, artisans, and civil society, through townhalls, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews. These consultations generated contextually grounded insights that informed the drafting of the North-West Nigeria Peace, Security and Development Framework (2026–2030).

From Q3 to Q4 2025, the draft Framework underwent a series of validation sessions with over 100 officials from federal and state institutions and international partners. Their technical inputs strengthened the Framework's implementation pathways, ensured regional alignment, and secured broad political ownership. The NWPSDF has now been finalized and is pending formal adoption by the North-West Governors' Forum ahead of its planned launch in Q1 2026.

In parallel, the project enhanced local capacities for dialogue and mediation across frontline communities. Training delivered in 2025 supported the establishment and operationalization of a network of insider mediators, equipping community actors to promote peaceful coexistence and resolve disputes. These efforts led to the signing of local peace compacts between community representatives and armed bandit groups across 18 frontline LGAs in Katsina State, contributing to reductions in banditry and kidnapping, as well as the release of captives.

To strengthen evidence-based decision making, UNDP also supported the production of eight systematic conflict trends and context analysis reports in 2025. These analyses informed government and non-governmental actors on emerging dynamics, underpinning policy shifts, and guiding the design of the next phase of the project and its indicators.

Collectively, these interventions have strengthened political leadership, improved coordination mechanisms, deepened community level engagement, and enhanced the evidence base for action. This has laid a foundation for a more accountable, cohesive, and sustainable regional response to insecurity in the North-West.

Project Output 2: Improved community capacities for conflict prevention, confidence and trust building in Zamfara, Katsina, and Sokoto.

Summary achievement against 2025 Annual Work Plan (AWP) target

Indicator (as they appear in the AWP)	Indicator Target (2025) (AWP indicator targets)	Indicator Status	Status: Ongoing, Delayed, Completed	Summary achievement from January to December 2025 (provide gender disaggregate data where available)
2.1 Number of local level peacebuilding platforms addressing natural resource-based conflicts.	15	6	Ongoing	- Conducted stakeholder engagement sessions to identify local peacebuilding structures and assess existing strengths and capacity gaps. - Facilitated discussions with traditional leaders, women, youth, non-formal security actors, and state representatives to define priority intervention areas. - Delivered training for insider mediators and supported the establishment of insider mediation networks in frontline communities, especially in Katsina State. - Strengthened community-led mediation resulting in: - o Community-driven peace agreements between conflict actors

				○ Cessation of hostilities and attacks ○ Release of captives ○ Reopening of access routes, communities, and local markets - Collaborated with the Sokoto State Government to build the capacity of traditional institutions, state security agencies, and community policing mechanisms to improve local-level peace and security systems. - Enhanced inclusive local peace infrastructure capable of addressing natural resource-based conflicts and wider community tensions.
2.2 Number of State level systems working to manage the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons.	4	1	Ongoing	- Deepened engagement with the North-West Governors' Forum to advance a coordinated regional approach to controlling illicit SALW. - Facilitated collaboration with the National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons to integrate national expertise into regional planning. - Initiated design of a regional strategy for addressing the proliferation of illicit arms. - Developed a detailed concept note for a national workshop to build consensus on SALW management and define priorities for a regional framework. - Workshop postponed due to national-level commitments, but preparatory work has strengthened stakeholder alignment. - Resulting collaboration has begun shaping strategic pathways for: ○ Enhancing state-level SALW control systems ○ Improving cross-border and inter-state coordination ○ Strengthening institutional capacities and policy responses - Foundations laid for a future regional SALW strategy under the leadership of the NWGF Secretariat and NCCSALW.
2.3 Number of local peace deals negotiated and sustained locally between	1	0	Ongoing	- Supported community-driven peace processes through the established network of insider mediators in frontline LGAs. - Insider mediators facilitated structured dialogue between community representatives and bandit groups.

Communities and Bandit Groups.				- Enabled negotiation of local peace deals in 2 frontline LGAs, Jibia and Batsari contributing to improved stability and community safety. - Outcomes of the peace deals included: - o Cessation of hostilities and reduction in armed attacks - o Reopening of access routes, farmlands, and local markets - o Release of abducted individuals - o Improved confidence and communication between conflicting parties - o Demonstrated the effectiveness of localized, community-owned mechanisms in addressing persistent insecurity. - Strengthened the sustainability of peace arrangements through continuous engagement and monitoring by insider mediators.
2.4 Civilian – Military platforms contributing to peaceful co-existence within communities.	4	1	Ongoing	- Delivered capacity-building training for border security actors including: - o Nigerian Police Force - o Nigerian Immigration Service - o Nigeria Customs Service - o Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps - o Other critical border management stakeholders - Training modules covered: - o Effective civil-military relations in border communities - o Roles and responsibilities of security agencies - o Community-security cooperation - o Importance of accurate reporting and referral pathways for early warning and early response

				- Strengthened understanding of cross-border trade facilitation and improved coordination between communities and security actors. - Enhanced community confidence and improved communication channels with security agencies operating in border areas. - Initiated collaboration with the Martin Luther Agwai International Leadership and Peacekeeping Centre to: - Provide dedicated training on civil-military relations - Explore models for establishing and sustaining civilian-military platforms - Support wider replication of best practices across other communities - Contributed to building a more responsive, inclusive, and trust-based civilian-military environment in targeted border areas.
2.5 Number of Local compacts outlining peace, security, and development packages for integrated response.	18	0	Ongoing	- Designed and implemented an LOA package incorporating confidence-building measures for farmers and pastoralists to reduce tensions and strengthen trust. - Supported communities in Sokoto and Zamfara through a victim-focused, confidence-building approach under the Prevention Facility to lay the groundwork for local peace compacts. - Enabled communities to jointly develop integrated local compacts articulating peace, security, and development priorities. - Insider mediation networks facilitated community-driven peace processes that informed the content and structure of the compacts. - Recorded tangible improvements at community level, including: - o Reopening of access to markets, schools, and movement corridors - o Reduction in tensions, hostilities, and armed attacks - o Increased social cohesion, with conflicting parties now meeting and engaging peacefully

				○ Strengthened community vigilance and cooperation on local security - Adapted programme design to create an enabling environment for peace deals and support the operationalization of community-led compacts. - Provided government stakeholders with clear community-driven priorities, improving alignment of interventions with structural and root causes of conflict.
2.6 Number of communities receiving victim support packages.	18	19	Ongoing	- Facilitated provision of durable shelter solutions, including the construction of mass housing and essential infrastructure for displaced communities in Katsina, Sokoto, Zamfara and Niger - Delivered comprehensive livelihood support packages, including: ○ Entrepreneurship support for vulnerable households ○ Boosting of MSMEs in conflict-affected areas ○ Distribution of agricultural inputs ○ Training on climate-smart and sustainable agriculture to strengthen food security - Targeted beneficiaries from: ○ 5 frontline LGAs in Sokoto ○ 7 frontline LGAs in Katsina ○ 4 frontline LGAs in Niger ○ 3 frontline LGAs in Zamfara - Supported community recovery, resettlement, and economic revitalization through integrated shelter and livelihood interventions. - Enhanced household resilience by restoring economic activity and creating sustainable income-generation opportunities. - Contributed to rebuilding trust, strengthening social stability, and fostering an enabling environment for long-term peace in conflict-affected communities.

DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Project Output 2: Improved community capacities for conflict prevention, confidence and trust building in Zamfara, Katsina, and Sokoto.

Under Output 2, the project made substantial progress in strengthening community-level capacities for conflict prevention, promoting trust between conflicting groups, and improving collaboration between civilians and security institutions across Zamfara, Katsina, and Sokoto States. Over the reporting period, the project supported the establishment and expansion of inclusive peacebuilding mechanisms that are now helping communities prevent conflict, manage tensions, and rebuild confidence in their security environment.

A central achievement was the strengthening of local peacebuilding structures designed to address natural resource-based conflicts and other community-level disputes. Through a series of stakeholder engagement sessions, traditional leaders, women, youth, local authorities, state actors, and informal security structures jointly identified existing mechanisms, assessed capacity gaps, and prioritized interventions needed to reinforce community-driven conflict resolution processes. This consultative effort informed targeted capacity-building support for insider mediators across frontline communities. In several LGAs, particularly in Katsina State, trained mediators successfully facilitated community-led peace processes that contributed to the cessation of hostilities, the release of captives, and the reopening of access routes, markets, and other public spaces previously disrupted by insecurity. Parallel support provided to the Sokoto State Government also strengthened the capacity of traditional institutions, state security actors, and community policing structures, enhancing their ability to prevent and respond to local conflicts.

The project also advanced state-level systems for managing the proliferation of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons. Engagement with the North-West Governors' Forum resulted in strengthened collaboration with the National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the initiation of planning toward a coherent regional strategy on SALW control. A concept note was developed to guide a high-level workshop on regional coordination, and although the event was rescheduled due to national commitments, the groundwork laid during this period has created momentum for defining stronger institutional and policy pathways for addressing illicit arms flows in the region.

Further progress was achieved in improving community-level mechanisms for negotiating and sustaining peace agreements between communities and bandit groups. Building on the insider mediation networks established earlier in the project, mediators played a significant role in facilitating dialogue, negotiating local ceasefires, and supporting peace deals across multiple conflict-affected LGAs. These agreements contributed to reduced attacks, improved

access to farmlands and markets, and, in some cases, the release of abducted persons. The trusted relationships built through these mechanisms have strengthened community resilience, helped address grievances, and enabled fragile peace arrangements to be maintained over time.

To reinforce peaceful coexistence between civilians and security actors, the project delivered dedicated capacity-building for border security agencies including the Nigerian Police Force, Nigerian Immigration Service, Nigeria Customs Service, and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps. Training focused on clarifying roles and responsibilities in border areas, strengthening communication channels with communities, and improving early warning and response mechanisms. Preparations also advanced for a partnership with the Martin Luther Agwai International Leadership and Peacekeeping Centre to deliver a specialized programme on civil-military relations. These initiatives have contributed to a more responsive, trust-based, and people-centered security environment in targeted border communities.

In parallel, the project supported the development of local compacts that integrate peace, security, and development priorities. Working jointly with Sokoto and Zamfara State Governments under the Prevention Facility, the project adopted a victim-centered, confidence-building approach to enable communities to identify shared priorities and initiate local peace processes. Insider mediators played a central role in facilitating these dialogues, which led to improved social cohesion, reductions in tensions and attacks, reopening of markets and schools, and stronger community involvement in maintaining peace and security. These compacts are now being used by government counterparts to guide interventions that address structural and root causes of conflict.

Finally, under the victim-support component, the project provided targeted assistance aimed at supporting recovery, resettlement, and economic revitalization in conflict-affected communities across Katsina, Sokoto, Zamfara and Niger States. Durable shelter solutions, including mass housing and essential infrastructure were provided for displaced families, while comprehensive livelihood packages supported entrepreneurship, MSME revitalization, agricultural input distribution, and training on climate-smart agricultural practices. Beneficiaries were drawn from multiple frontline LGAs, enabling households to rebuild livelihoods, restore economic activity, and progressively reintegrate into safe and productive community life. These interventions have strengthened community resilience, reduced vulnerabilities, and helped restore confidence in public institutions.

Collectively, the achievements under Output 2 have contributed to building stronger local capacities for conflict prevention, enhancing trust within and between communities, and reinforcing collaborative relationships between civilians and security actors. This has laid a solid foundation for more resilient, cohesive, and peaceful communities across Zamfara, Katsina, and Sokoto States.

Project Output 3: Capacities for cross-border governance, peace and security cooperation, and economic revitalization strengthened.

Summary achievement against 2025 Annual Work Plan (AWP) target

Indicator (as they appear in the AWP)	Indicator Target (2025) (AWP indicator targets)	Indicator Status	Status: <i>Ongoing, Delayed, Completed</i>	Summary achievement from January to December 2025 (provide gender disaggregate data were available)
3.1 Number of border security infrastructure and inputs invested in Illela and Jibia border areas.	2	0	Ongoing	- Conducted a comprehensive assessment of destroyed and dilapidated border security infrastructure in the Illela (Sokoto) and Jibia (Katsina) border areas. - The assessment report is undergoing internal review and will inform planning and decision making for infrastructure rehabilitation and investment. - Deepened engagement with the Office of the National Security Adviser to strengthen coordination with federal-level institutions responsible for border security. - Ongoing consultations with federal security actors to finalize roles and responsibilities for implementation of border corridor infrastructure upgrades. - Laying groundwork for federal–state collaboration to support the rehabilitation and strengthening of border security infrastructure in Illela and Jibia. - Established a clear evidence base to guide future investments that will improve border management, security operations, and early warning capacities.
3.2 Number of border governance and Security institutions capacities to provide improved services	5	3	Ongoing	- Delivered targeted capacity-building training for border security actors including: - o Nigerian Immigration Service

along the Illela and Jibia border areas of Nigeria.				○ Nigerian Police Force ○ Other border management agencies - Training focused on: ○ Cross-border trade facilitation ○ Improved regulatory procedures ○ Strengthened community–security engagement in border areas - Enhanced institutional capacity has: ○ Improved service delivery at border points ○ Supported the safe reopening of markets in frontline border LGAs ○ Promoted smoother and more peaceful cross-border interactions - Strengthened border governance contributed to: ○ Increased cross-border economic activity ○ Improved trust between communities and security actors ○ Enhanced peace and stability across Jibia and Illela border corridors - Benefits extended to communities along the Nigeria–Niger Republic border, supporting stronger economic and social relationships.
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3.3 Existing infrastructure (incl. physical) for cross-border trade rehabilitated for economic empowerment.	3	3	Completed	- Rehabilitated major cross-border cattle markets in: Jibia (Katsina State), Illela (Sokoto State), and Bungudu (Zamfara State) - Improved market infrastructure contributes to: - o Enhanced cross-border livestock trade between Nigeria and the Niger Republic - o Increased safety, hygiene, and functionality of trading spaces - o Strengthened livelihoods for traders, pastoralists, and market-dependent households - o Improved community relations across border communities - Completed rehabilitation of additional supporting facilities, including the veterinary clinic, which enhances livestock health management and strengthens the livestock value chain. - Upgraded infrastructure is expected to: - o Boost state government revenue - o Facilitate smoother, more organized livestock transactions - o Reinforce economic empowerment in border communities - o Promote regional cooperation and cross-border cohesion
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3.4 Number of SMEs, and MSMEs whose commercial activities have been revitalized across the border area supported by the project.	1500	5000 (Sokoto, Katsina and Zamfara)	Ongoing	- Delivered capacity-building training for SMEs and MSMEs on: - o Financial literacy - o Business and enterprise management - o Record-keeping and planning - o Strengthening business operations in fragile environments - o Provided business support inputs including: - o Start-up tools - o Toolkits - o Grants and small capital support - Focused geographically on frontline LGAs along the Illela border corridor (Sokoto State) and Jibia border corridor (Katsina State) - Reached a total of 5,000 beneficiaries, enabling businesses to: - o Restart or expand commercial activities - o Strengthen household income and economic resilience - o Contribute to local market revitalization - Supported socio-economic recovery in border communities affected by insecurity.
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				- Contributed to broader economic stabilization and improved livelihoods along key Nigeria-Niger Republic border corridors.
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DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Project Output 3: Capacities for cross-border governance, peace and security cooperation, and economic revitalization strengthened.

Under Output 3, the project made significant progress in strengthening cross-border governance systems, improving cooperation between Nigerian security institutions and border communities, and supporting economic revitalization across key border corridors in Sokoto and Katsina States. Efforts during the reporting period focused on laying the foundations for strengthened border security, improving service delivery by border institutions, rehabilitating critical economic infrastructure, and revitalizing local enterprises whose livelihoods depend on safe and functioning border environments.

A key milestone under this output was the completion of a detailed assessment of destroyed and dilapidated border security infrastructure in the Illela and Jibia corridors. The assessment, currently under internal technical review, provides the evidence base needed to determine priority areas, guide rehabilitation plans, and inform future investments. Alongside this, the project deepened engagement with the Office of the National Security Adviser to improve federal and state coordination on border management. This process is expected to formalize collaboration with federal security institutions that will jointly support the rehabilitation and upgrading of border security infrastructure in Sokoto and Katsina. These preparatory steps have established a clear pathway for coordinated and government-endorsed actions that will enhance early warning capacity, operational infrastructure, and overall border stability.

Complementing the infrastructure work, the project strengthened the capacities of border governance and security institutions operating along the Illela and Jibia corridors. Targeted capacity-building sessions were delivered for the Nigerian Immigration Service, the Nigerian Police Force, and other border management agencies. Training covered cross-border trade facilitation, regulatory procedures, and improved community engagement. These improvements have contributed to better service delivery, smoother border operations, and a stronger enabling environment for cross-border trade. With the reopening of markets in several frontline LGAs, enhanced capacity among security actors has supported the restoration of peaceful economic exchanges between communities in Nigeria and the Niger Republic.

To further boost economic revitalization, the project rehabilitated major livestock markets in Jibia, Illela, and Bungudu. These markets serve as critical hubs for cross-border commerce and are essential to the livelihoods of traders, pastoralists, and transporters. Upgraded market facilities are expected to improve

the safety, functionality, and profitability of livestock trade, while also increasing revenue for state governments and strengthening cross-border social and economic ties. The project also completed the rehabilitation of supporting infrastructure, including a veterinary clinic that plays an important role in livestock health management and strengthens the broader livestock value chain.

Beyond infrastructure, the project invested heavily in the revitalization of small and medium enterprises in conflict-affected border communities. Targeting particularly the Illela and Jibia border corridors, the project delivered training on financial literacy, business management, recordkeeping, and enterprise development. These capacity-building efforts were complemented by the distribution of startup tools, toolkits, and grants designed to boost productivity and support economic recovery. Through this initiative, a total of 5,000 beneficiaries were reached, enabling local enterprises to restart operations, generate income, and contribute to the revival of local markets. This support has enhanced household resilience, strengthened local economies, and reinforced stability in communities heavily affected by insecurity.

Across all interventions under Output 3, the project has helped create a more secure and economically viable border environment. Strengthened institutional capacity, improved infrastructure, and revitalized markets and enterprises have collectively contributed to greater stability, enhanced cross-border cooperation, and improved economic prospects for communities along the Illela and Jibia border corridors. These achievements form a strong foundation for long-term peace, security, and sustainable development in northern border regions of Nigeria.

With the Right Support, Food Security Is Possible” — Illela Farmers

Farmers in Illela, Sokoto State, are proving that with the right support, even communities affected by conflict can achieve food security, economic prosperity and resilience.



Building on the progress made under the Prevention Facility Project, farmers in Northwestern Nigeria are now transitioning into large-scale producers, with trade networks extending as far as southern Nigeria. Access to improved seedlings, fertilizers and modern farming techniques has enabled many former subsistence farmers to operate at a commercial scale. This shift is increasing household incomes, improving food security, creating jobs, driving local development and significantly enhancing community resilience to conflict. The rise of farming cooperatives and associations has also strengthened solidarity among farmers, giving them greater bargaining power and a buffer against shocks. Beyond economic benefits, this agricultural transformation is fostering cross-community cooperation. It demonstrates that with the right support, resilience and collective action can overcome adversity. In a region long impacted by insecurity, these successes are restoring livelihoods and paving the way for peace and stability.

Among the many success stories, three farmers; Alhaji Tanimum Musa, Ibrahim Anaruwa, and Sani Madugu stand out. Their journeys are powerful testaments to what's possible when resilience meets opportunity. They reflect the broader impact of the Prevention Facility Project, showing how conflict-affected communities can shift from mere survival to prosperity, securing livelihoods and strengthening regional food systems.



Alhaji Tanimum Musa, widely known as *Zarki Noma* (King of Farmers) in Illela Local Government Area (LGA), Sokoto State, is more than a seasoned cultivator. At 68, he is regarded as the custodian of a proud farming legacy passed down through generations. For decades, Alhaji farmed six expansive plots, producing high yields and employing local youth who depended on his operations. However, insecurity, climate change, and lack of access to improved inputs forced him to abandon four of those farms, leaving only two in limited use.

Before the rise in insecurity, Alhaji harvested over 50 bags of grains annually, selling them at a profit and reinvesting in other small businesses. But once insecurity took hold, he and many others in Illela lost access to large portions of farmland.

"I have been affected by bandit activities, and it has greatly affected my livelihood. Not just me, but most farmers in Illela. We now resort to the limited resources within Illela and its surroundings, and this has led to the depreciation of land fertility. The lands we could once rotate, and rest are now overworked because we no longer have safe access to the others. Yields have dropped, profits have reduced, and the burden on farmers like me has doubled," he explained.

Still, Alhaji clung to his title and legacy, driven by a deep commitment to his family's heritage. His turning point came with the Prevention Facility Project, which provided improved seedlings, fertilizers and other essential farming inputs. As peace gradually returned, Alhaji began reclaiming his abandoned lands. The new seedlings, resilient against harsh weather, paired with nutrient-rich fertilizers, offered a second chance.

“Before now, I thought my days as a farmer were numbered. But with the support we are receiving, I now harvest more than I imagined possible under the current situation. I’ve gone from struggling to make ends meet to gradually restoring my huge productivity. My children are back on the farm, and I can once again employ young people from the community. This has brought back dignity to my work and strengthened my belief that farming is still our future,” he said with a smile.

Today, Alhaji is not just surviving; he’s thriving. Once again, he embodies the title Zarki Noma, proving that with resilience and the right support, transformation is possible, even amid insecurity.

This support has been truly inspirational for farmers in Illela LGA, as they are now preparing to strengthen collaborations and build stronger connections with other farmers within and beyond their communities. Inspired by stories like Alhaji’s, farmers in Illela LGA are preparing to build stronger collaborations and expand their networks. Thanks to the solid backing from the German Government and the Sokoto State Government, agriculture in the region is undergoing a remarkable turnaround.

4. Cross cutting issues

4.1 Gender results

Gender results	Evidence
Gender result 1: What is the impact of the project on men and women separately? <i>[The above should be based on gender indicators (set up based on gender issues identified in the project design)? What progress is being made towards them? Do they need to be refined? If so, why?]</i> The Prevention Facility project aligns with UNDP's 2022–2025 Gender Equality Strategy by embedding gender equality as a central element of its programming. Guided by the Gender Equality Seal, which sets minimum threshold targets for all initiatives, the project ensures that gender considerations are not only included but are fundamental to its planning and implementation. Classified as GEN Marker 2, the project demonstrates a strong commitment to integrating gender-sensitive approaches throughout its activities, addressing the unique impacts of conflict on women, men, youth, and children. Community engagements and conflict trend analyses have highlighted how violent conflicts in Katsina, Zamfara, Sokoto, and Niger states affect these groups differently. Environmental factors also play a critical role in shaping conflict dynamics in the region. During the dry season from April to June, water scarcity and reduced agricultural productivity exacerbated tensions between communities. Effective water management systems and the introduction of heat-resistant crop varieties, along with shade and cooling systems for livestock, are necessary to mitigate resource competition. Food insecurity remains a pressing challenge, requiring measures to boost local food production, provide humanitarian aid, and ensure fair distribution. Stabilizing the economy through inflation control and support for small businesses is equally critical, particularly for women and youth who bear the brunt of financial pressures. The development of the North-West Peace, Security and Development Framework (NWPSDF) further strengthened the project's gender and inclusion approach. Through extensive consultations with 826 stakeholders across the seven states and the FCT, the process captured the perspectives of women, youth, displaced persons, pastoralists, farmers, and other vulnerable groups. Their inputs informed the Framework's priorities, ensuring that the differentiated impacts of conflict and the	Evidence 1: example

unique needs of these groups are explicitly addressed. The Framework now outlines practical pathways to improve protection, livelihoods, participation, and service access for women and youth. Validation sessions with over 100 state, federal, and development actors reinforced these commitments, resulting in a consensus driven document that embeds gender equality and social inclusion across its objectives and implementation mechanisms.

4.2 Digital Solutions

UNDP supported the Sokoto State Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Social Welfare and Katsina Enterprise Development Agency (KASEDA) in developing and deploying a digital tool for selecting beneficiaries of the vocational and skills component of the project.

4.3 Partnerships

Throughout the reporting period, the project strengthened several strategic partnerships that were essential to advancing regional cooperation, improving cross-border governance, and enhancing peace and security outcomes in the North-West. These partnerships were instrumental in mobilizing state, federal, and community level actors, shaping policy direction, and ensuring sustainability of interventions.

The project deepened its engagement with the NWGF, positioning itself as a key facilitator of regional cooperation and consensus building among the seven North West states. This partnership enabled coordination across state lines and secured high-level political commitment at state, federal, and local levels for a shared, harmonized regional approach to peace and security. Through this collaboration, the project supported the convening of the inaugural North-West Peace and Security Summit and the development of the North-West Peace, Security and Development Framework (NWPSDF), which now serves as the region's guiding instrument for coordinated action.

The project strengthened federal linkages through close collaboration with the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), particularly the National Counter Terrorism Centre and the National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons. This partnership ensured alignment with federal mandates and enhanced coordination on issues related to arms control, border security, and cross-border peace cooperation. The engagement has created the institutional foundation required to implement initiatives that address the proliferation of illicit arms and strengthen security along border corridors, which fall directly under federal responsibility.

The project also strengthened its collaboration with the Governments of Sokoto, Zamfara, and Katsina. This partnership created space for tailoring activities to the specific needs and conflict dynamics of each state and influenced wider state-led programs aimed at addressing peace and security challenges through inclusive development approaches. A critical milestone was the project's

ability to catalyze and leverage state resources for selected interventions, demonstrating growing local ownership and enhancing prospects for sustainability and scalability beyond the project's lifecycle.

Engagements at the community level helped reinforce the social contract between citizens and the state. Through confidence-building activities, victim-support packages, and livelihood revitalization efforts, the project supported community recovery and strengthened social cohesion in frontline LGAs. The empowerment of insider mediators and traditional structures was key to enabling communities to initiate and sustain local peace compacts. These partnerships also contributed to revitalizing cross-border relations and economic interactions between communities in Nigeria and neighboring Niger Republic.

The partnership between UNDP and the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) has been central to mobilizing a wide range of actors at state, federal, and regional levels. This collaboration has promoted multisector cooperation and contributed to the development of a resilience model for the North-West. The combined efforts of UNDP and GFFO have played a significant role in reshaping the peace and security landscape in the region, where early signs of improvement are beginning to emerge. The success achieved during the reporting period also informed the approval and extension of the project into a new three-year phase for 2025 to 2028.

4.4 Environmental Considerations

Relating the environmental considerations for the whole year 2025 to conflict prevention in Northwest Nigeria involves understanding the interconnectedness of these factors and addressing them to mitigate conflict risks:

- **Water Resource Management:** The extended dry season and water scarcity can heighten tensions between communities over limited resources. Implementing efficient water management and irrigation systems can help reduce conflicts.
- **Heat Mitigation Strategies:** High temperatures reduce agricultural productivity, leading to competition over fertile land. Introducing heat-resistant crop varieties and providing shade and cooling systems for livestock can alleviate pressure.
- **Food Security Measures:** Addressing food insecurity by increasing humanitarian aid, supporting local food production, and ensuring fair distribution can reduce desperation and potential conflicts.
- **Economic Interventions:** The economic crisis exacerbates food insecurity. Policies to stabilize the economy, such as controlling inflation and supporting small businesses, can alleviate financial pressures on vulnerable communities.
- **Strengthened Security and Mediation:** Protecting agricultural activities and facilitating dialogue between conflicting parties, such as farmers and herders, can address disputes exacerbated by resource scarcity and economic hardship.

By addressing these environmental and economic factors comprehensively, conflict prevention efforts in Northwest Nigeria can be more effective, fostering stability and resilience in affected communities.

4.5 South to South and Triangular Cooperation

Guidance: List the types of Souths to South and Triangular Cooperation that the project was involved in during the year. Which countries (1st column) and type of cooperation (2nd column)

To be reported in the next quarter.

Country	Type of cooperation
1. N/A	

4.6 Strengthening national capacity

Guidance: Describe national capacity strengthening initiatives and results for the quarter.

To be reported in the next quarter.

Institution	Areas of capacity provided	Results achieved
1) N/A		
2) N/A		

5. Monitoring of Project Activities

Monitoring activities conducted during the whole year 2025 [ensure alignment to section 3 - how progress was monitored].

Monitoring activity (monitoring visit, output verification, review exercise)	Observation or concern	Recommendation	Action taken.
Activity 1: A monitoring visit and output verification exercise was conducted in Katsina and Sokoto state.	Movement restrictions and localized security incidents in some border communities affected the team's ability to access certain sites within the planned timeframe.	Work with UNDSS and local security actors to create flexible route plans and backup locations in case primary areas become inaccessible.	The monitoring team revised the field itinerary and added extra verification days to accommodate communities that were initially inaccessible or had low attendance.
	Some beneficiaries lacked sufficient documentation (IDs, business verification evidence), complicating the verification process and extending the time needed for cross-checking	Prior to field visits, request local partners to validate beneficiary lists and ensure basic documents are ready to speed up verification.	Local focal persons were engaged to provide door-to-door reminders and ensure beneficiaries were prepared with the required documents.
Activity 2: Beneficiaries Selection Assessment was conducted in Sokoto and Katsina States, to select the 1000 SMEs, and MSMEs beneficiaries (500 in each state) that will benefit from the commercial revival activities across the border area supported by the project.	Most expected male participants were not around to be interviewed on the day of the exercise.	An advocacy visit should be conducted to the community heads prior to the field data collection day, to notify the selected beneficiaries that will be interviewed.	The activity was paused, and one day was allocated for an advocacy visit to the community heads to verify and inform the targeted beneficiaries to be available for the interview on the subsequent day.

Activity 3; Project Perception survey in Sokoto, Katsina and Zamfara states	Low initial response rates in some LGAs due to limited awareness among community members about the purpose of the survey.	Low initial response rates in some LGAs due to limited awareness among community members about the purpose of the survey.	Advocacy and sensitization meetings were conducted with community leaders, ward heads, and youth/women representatives , resulting in improved participation and smoother fieldwork.
	Some target respondents, especially women and youth , were initially unavailable during the first day of data collection.	Adjust field schedules to align with respondents' availability and seek community leaders' support to mobilize households.	Field teams revised the data collection plan and added extra mobilization support through local leaders, ensuring better representation of women and youth.
	Security concerns and restricted movement in parts of Sokoto East, Katsina South, and Zamfara Central, which slowed access to selected clusters.	Use real-time security updates and coordinate with community security structures to identify safer access windows.	Fieldwork was rescheduled in sensitive locations, and data was collected during secure time windows with community escorts where necessary.
	Some enumerators reported difficulty with Kobo Toolbox uploads due to network fluctuations in rural communities.	Prepare offline-first data collection workflows and ensure enumerators synchronize data in networked locations.	Enumerators collected data offline and later uploaded all submissions at designated upload points (LGA HQs/nearest towns).

5.1 Risk management matrix

Risks	Mitigation Measures
<i>Identify the different types of risks faced during the year and include here. Please also refer to the risks identified in the project AWP during planning. Look at all types of risks (environmental, financial, political, security, operational, etc.).</i>	<i>Describe the measures that were taken by the project / UNDP to mitigate or avoid the negative impact of the risk on the achievement of project results.</i>
Evolving nature of the crisis in the Northwest might create more complex humanitarian need, with widespread displacement, destroyed infrastructure and collapsed basic social services across Communities located within the Border environs due to forced Population movements within many LGAs and communities bordering Niger Republic	Sustained consultation and co-creation approaches are adopted, including at inception and implementation stages. Implementation will leverage State and local government structures, community-based organizations that allow for citizen's voice and participation.
Erratic changes in government policies including the removal of fuel subsidies and other financial policies related to foreign exchange rates, may impact very highly towards cost of living directly /indirectly affecting Market stock and food prices.	Sustained engagement with the newly inaugurated government agencies and appointees to constantly consolidate on planned activities / interventions ensuring that they in line with the Project set milestones and objectives to maximize on value for money principles.
Insecurity posed by banditry, kidnapping, farmer-herder clashes, and the threat of Lakurawa, etc. are likely to increase protection-related issues such as Gender-based Violence, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, limited movement of people, attrition of healthcare workers by development agencies and hampering of economic-related activities.	The project has been designed guided by considerations for human rights, conflict sensitivity, and gender lenses. The project field teams are expected to consider women's meaningful participation in all project activities and adhere to UNDP's Gender Strategy.

6. Challenges

The evolving crisis in Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara states has created a complex humanitarian situation characterized by widespread violence in the forms of banditry, kidnapping, community raids, and displacement. Prolonged insecurity has severely restricted access to farmlands, exacerbating food insecurity and depleting household resources due to the influx of displaced persons, most of whom are sheltered within already overstretched host communities.

Despite efforts by various programs and government agencies to reach and support affected populations, access to certain locations remains restricted due to ongoing insecurity and related

peace and security challenges. In response, the project team has worked closely with security agencies, offering team security training and aligning activities with established security protocols, including collaboration with the United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS). These measures aim to ensure the safety of personnel while maximizing reach to vulnerable communities.

The spread of the conflict across multiple states has also increased demands on the project, creating resource constraints as needs continue to grow beyond available funding and operational capacity.

7. Lesson Learned

Lessons learned this year revolve around the value of collaboration, thorough documentation, and replicating successful proven practices for sustained impact.

- **Engaging communities and government stakeholders** in developing intervention strategies has consistently led to more effective outcomes. However, a key challenge remains the persistent and uncontrolled rising cost of goods and services due to the naira's devaluation and increase inflation, which is posing a threat to resource management and delivery of the project anticipated target. To mitigate this, the project team maintains close contact with government partners to accelerate the project delivery by ensuring timely procurements and minimizing impact on target outcomes.
- **The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs in Sokoto exemplified this approach by partnering with various agencies**, including the Ministry of Women Affairs, Youth, and Development, and the leadership structures of local government authorities in Illela. This coordinated effort underscores the strength of inter-agency collaboration in the planning and implementation of vocational skills acquisition and livelihood intervention programs, resulting in more cohesive and impactful initiatives.
- **Effective Collaboration Enhances Training Outcomes:** Engaging the Ministry early in the planning process enables stronger alignment between capacity-building training goals and government priorities. This collaboration facilitated access to essential resources, minimized bureaucratic delays, and bolstered buy-in from stakeholders, including security providers and rehabilitation center staff.
- **Tailored Content Yields Greater Impact:** Training security providers in border trade facilitation require customized content specific to the roles of each security agency and the local border context. Similarly, working with Social Rehabilitation Center staff involved addressing unique challenges related to confidentiality and sensitive activities. Tailored training materials and practical case studies ensured that participants found the sessions relevant and applicable.
- **Building Awareness Requires Time and Ongoing Engagement:** Raising awareness among Social Rehabilitation Center staff about confidentiality and professional conduct needed ongoing engagement. Single training sessions were insufficient to instill lasting behavioral change. Follow-up sessions, consistent monitoring, and refresher training helped reinforce essential messages and establish sustainable practices.
- **Transparency and Fairness:** Open and fair beneficiary selection builds trust and social cohesion, preventing elite capture through clear criteria and community involvement.
- **Inclusivity Challenges:** Efforts included women and youth well but showed limited access for

persons with disabilities needing adapted tools and venues. Measurable inclusivity targets and conflict-sensitive approaches foster accessibility and peace dividends.

- **Combined Support Strategies:** Financial aid paired with skills training empowered youth and women, creating stronger pathways to resilience.
- **Operational and Accountability Issues:** Challenges like travel costs reduced participation; grievance mechanisms are essential for resolving disputes and maintaining accountability.
- **Regional Framework Development Reinforces Collective Action:** The process of developing the North-West Peace, Security and Development Framework demonstrated that effective regional cooperation is essential for addressing the interconnected and multifaceted challenges facing the North-West. The consultations highlighted both the shared and unique experiences of each state, reinforcing that sustainable solutions require a coordinated regional approach. The strong engagement and endorsement by state governments throughout the process also signified growing political ownership and commitment to implementing shared priorities.
- **Strengthened State Partnerships Improve Institutional Mechanisms:** Continued collaboration with state governments has helped reinforce institutional processes, including procurement practices, recordkeeping systems, and evidence-based planning. Through joint implementation and consistent engagement, states increasingly adopted community driven and conflict sensitive approaches that ensure interventions are tailored to local needs. This partnership model has improved accountability, enhanced government responsiveness, and ensured communities remain engaged throughout the project cycle.

8. Evidence

- List evidence of achievements of the project towards the outputs during the reporting period.

Report Section	Title	URL link
Share point	Weekly Summary of Reported (Incident) News from Our Operational Regions	Weekly summary of reported news.docx (sharepoint.com)
YouTube	Inaugural North-West Peace and Security Summit (Recordings)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMpvMgTjbAs https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fb776UJqpAo
Newspaper	Inaugural North-West Peace and Security Summit	The North-West peace and security summit, By Jibrin Ibrahim (premiumtimesng.com) North West Peace and Security Summit: Musawa, Hamza Idris, Others, Proffer Solutions to Region's Conflicts - Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation (fmino.gov.ng)
UNDP Website	Beneficiary Stories published on the UNDP Website	https://www.undp.org/nigeria/stories/boosting-msmes-katsina-state-how-nuras-business-transformed-through-prevention-facility https://www.undp.org/nigeria/stories/crafting-hope-ibrahims-story-resilience-and-skill-against-all-odds https://www.undp.org/nigeria/stories/rebuilding-roots-umars-journey-survival-and-transformation https://www.undp.org/nigeria/stories/sewing-her-dreams-rukkayats-path-aspiring-designer-business-owner https://www.undp.org/nigeria/stories/survival-strength-how-empowering-msmes-rebuilding-lives-jibia-katsina-state

		https://www.undp.org/nigeria/stories/how-young-farmers-are-rebuilding-their-market-chain-through-modern-farming-and-community-collaboration https://www.undp.org/nigeria/stories/right-support-food-security-possible-illela-farmers https://www.undp.org/nigeria/stories/empowering-farmers-thrive-how-prevention-facility-project-transformed-lives-illela https://www.undp.org/nigeria/stories/markets-peacebuilders-strengthening-social-cohesion-through-trade-illela-lga-sokoto-state
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9. Financial Summary

Outputs / Activity Result		Current Annual Budget (US\$) (Jan – Dec 2025)	Expenditure (Reporting Period) (Annual 2025)	Cumulative Expenditures	% Expenditure (Cumulative)
		A	B	D	D/A*100
Output 1: Strengthened Capacities for political accountability and shared commitment on peace and security in Sokoto, Zamfara and Kebbi States					
Activity Results 1.1 & 1.2	Support the establishment of a high-level political engagement and consensus building structure on the evolving Security Situation in the Northwest & Support the development of a strategic	148,500	122,794.83	122,794.83	82.69%

	framework to guide political and security engagement and cooperation on the Northwest				
Activity Results 1.3 & 1.4	Development of a dialogue and negotiation strategy for engaging parties to the Northwest conflict (incl. bandits) to inform local peace deals and production of systematic conflict trends and dynamics analysis to inform policy and decision making.	227,880	26,934.85	26,934.85	11.8%
Output 1 Sub-total		376,380	149,729.68	149,729.68	39.8%
Output 2: 'Improved capacities for community-based conflict transformation, peacebuilding in Zamfara, Katsina and Sokoto					
Activity Result 1	Support for local level peacebuilding platforms addressing natural resource-based conflicts initiated	100,000	90,000	90,000	100.0%
Activity Result 2	Support the establishment or strengthening of State level systems working to manage the proliferation	75,000			

	of illicit small arms and light weapons provided				
Activity Result 3	Support efforts towards the negotiation of local peace deals in communities affected by banditry	260,000	196,400.49	196,400.49	75.5%
Activity Result 4	Support civilian – military platforms contributing to peaceful co-existence within communities	140,000	34,191	34,191	24.4%
Activity Result 5	Number of Provided communities with integrated social rehabilitation services in Project States (incl. MHPSS, Trauma Healing and communal livelihoods support)	1,666,000	1,666,000	1,666,000	100%
Output 2 Sub-total		2,241,000	1,986,591.49	1,986,591.49	88.6%
Output 3: Improved capacities for cross-border governance, peace and security cooperation, economic revitalization strengthened					
Activity Result 1	Provide support towards strengthened inter-agency cooperation between key security and border	50,000	0		

	governance institutions in Illela border area				
Activity Result 2	Rehabilitate and build capacity of Security institutions for improved public service delivery along the Illela – Konni border areas of Nigeria and Niger Republic	150,000			
Activity Result 3	Rehabilitate and build the capacity of cross-border trade systems, structures and platforms for economic empowerment including physical infrastructure	140,583			
Activity Result 4	Provide support to 4,500 youth and female headed SMEs, and MSMEs for revitalized cross-border trade	500,000	500,000	500,000	100%
Activity Result 5	Deploy the services of Civil Engineers to support the	196,846.64	82,813.33	82,813.33	42.1%

	implementation of activities				
Output 3 Sub-total		1,037,430	582,813.33	582,813.33	56%
Programme Management DPC and GMS		1,167,357	1,117,656.85	1,117,656.85	95.7%
Grand total		4,822,167	3,836,791.35	3,836,791.35	79.6%