



United Nations in Nigeria

## The Peace Project

Transitioning from Humanitarian Relief to Long Term Development:  
Addressing the Herdsmen-Farmers Conflict in Nigeria



# The Peace Project

The competition for scarce resources between farmers and herders has had devastating impacts on communities in Nigeria's Middle-Belt region. These disputes stem from the struggle for the use and management of resources including water, land, crops, livestock. The conflict has resulted in the loss of lives and property, as well as the displacement and disenfranchisement of many .

The UN in Nigeria, with support from the Human Security Trust Fund, is addressing the crisis by supporting Nigeria's response to the conflict between farmers and herders. The targeted states are Benue and Nasarawa with the local population in the local government areas namely: Agatu, Guma, Logo, Kwande and Buruku; mainly from the Tiv and Idoma ethnic groups in Benue State, and the predominantly Fulani herder community in Nasarawa state.

**The overall goal of the project** is to contribute to ending the herdsmen-farmers conflict in Benue and Nasarawa States in Nigeria.

The project, otherwise known as the "Peace Project" is being implemented with the following objectives:

- (a) reduce the vulnerability of affected persons through community-based protection by enhancing ability of affected communities to identify and mitigate risks and threats while ensuring that there is no interruption in livelihoods and productive activities;
- (b) support livelihood and empowerment of community members through targeted initiatives to promote farming and livestock activities and establish synergies between these industries;
- (c) prevent violent conflicts and build peace by establishing a state peace architecture; local peace committees in conflict affected LGAs to foster dialogue and non-violent resolution of disputes, reconciliation, co-existence and social cohesion;
- (d) mobilize national and regional efforts in the promotion of human security at national and sub-regional levels.



## The expected outputs are:

Community protection interventions implemented in five target local governments

Livelihood and economic empowerment provided for farmers and livestock breeders

Functional peacebuilding architecture established at the state and community levels

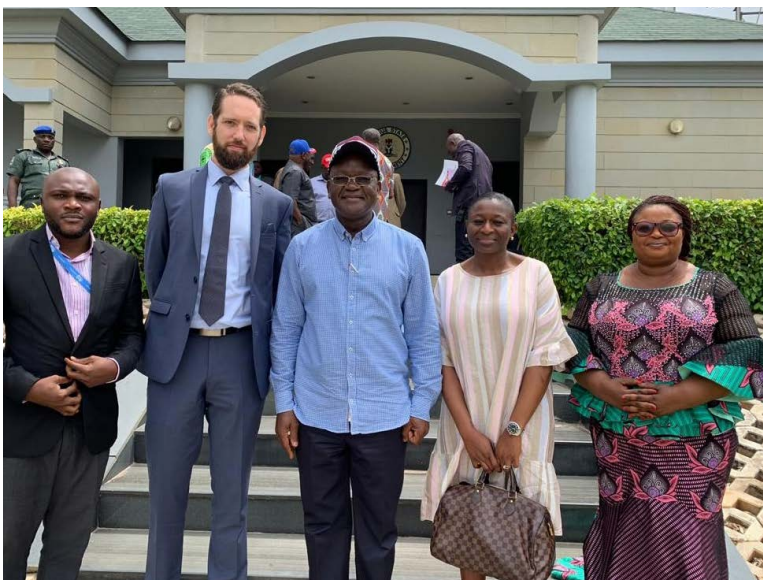
National and regional framework for addressing herdsman-farmers conflict established



## Achievements:

The project has created new farmlands with irrigation facilities, and diverse food crops for people and animals, new residential houses, sustainable agriculture-based activities and income sources, and peace among the conflicting parties.

Specifically; a) Advocacy visits paid to Governors in Benue



and Nasarawa States, the Local Government Chairmen in Guma, Agatu, Logo, Buruku and Kwande and Traditional Leaders of the ten communities in Mbawa (Daudu), Nzorov, Usha, Aila, Tombo, Ukemberaga/ Tswarev, Mbaya, Binev, Moon and Yaav to facilitate project implementation, with town hall and peace advocacy meetings with the members of the communities.

b) The Peace Seminar conducted and attended by over 250 participants from Benue and Nasarawa States where the Herdsmen-Farmer Peace Forum was established with a signed commitment by Herdsmen, Farmers, CBOs, CSOs, Academia, etc. to build peace in Benue State and Nasarawa States.



c) Three-day Human Security Training for stakeholders held in Makurdi followed with a Policy Dialogue convened by the Resident Coordinator.



d) Procurements concluded for land-based activities in respect of the project e.g. water irrigation equipment and systems, land clearing and cultivation, and diverse seeds for planting



e) Establishment of ICT based Early Warning systems in Benue and Nasarawa States.

f) Profiling of the IDPs completed for the distribution of the relief materials, shelter and livelihood support scheme.



g) Completion of three important assessments; these are - Agronomy, Irrigation and Market Mapping. The assessments are guiding crop selection and appropriate land clearing methods based on the quality of soil, identification of opportunities for market linkages on fodder, milk and other livestock products to support economic inter-dependence between farmers and herders in Benue state and beyond and to determine appropriate irrigation systems to be installed.

h) Motivating the state and local government authorities to provide 402.21ha of land needed for new farms and residential buildings with allocation of land in Guma, Logo, Kwande, Buruku and Agatu, for project use.



i) Government allocation of land to IDPs for shelter and agricultural purposes. The project team conducted a profiling exercise to determine the beneficiaries of the shelter allocation and agricultural purposes. Benue State Government also donated tractors worth \$250,000, one in each focal LGA.



j) The Protection Action Groups (PAGs) continue to serve as a community level network for data collection and monitoring of conflict early warning signals and first level-responders to facilitate peaceful dialogue and mediation at the community level.

1) Developing economic inter-dependence between farmers and herders in Benue state: The project has begun the planting of seeds and pasture with other economic activities, establishment of waterpoints and irrigation systems, and supply of tools and farming equipment.

