



European Union



November/December 2017 Newsletter - Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (RoLAC)

RoLAC is a 4-year €23.3m EU funded programme that aims to enhance good governance in Nigeria by strengthening the rule of law, curbing corruption and reducing impunity. British Council is implementing the programme at federal level and in four focal states – Adamawa, Anambra, Kano and Lagos.

Key Activities – Quarter ending December 2017

Formal Launch of RoLAC programme	Anti-Corruption Day
SARC Network Meeting	Implementing the Nigerian Criminal Justice Reform Agenda

Launch of RoLAC Programme

The RoLAC programme was launched at a public event on Tuesday 28 November 2017.



The highlight of the day was the presentation of the programme by the Attorney General and Minister for Justice and the formal handover of the RoLAC work plan by the Minister to British Council

Key stakeholders committed to working with the programme and adopted the work plan after minor changes. RoLAC engaged with 137 individual stakeholders (46 agencies) at federal level and 73 individuals (42 agencies) at state level.



The event was reported by local news across a range of platforms encompassing five print media outlets (including the Guardian and Daily Trust), four radio channels, four key TV channels and three online services.

Figure 1: RoLAC Launch Event 28 November 2017 (all photos)

Network Meeting of Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARCs)

The RoLAC programme supported the third meeting of the SARC Network on 2 November 2017 in Abuja bringing together a broad selection of SARC stakeholders.

The meeting was well attended by 81 participants from 13 states - Adamawa, Akwa-Ibom, Anambra, Borno, Cross River, Enugu, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Lagos, Niger, Yobe and Zamfara.



Figure 2: SARC Network meeting participants 2 November 2017

Representatives came from Ministries of Health, Gender/Women's Affairs and Justice; the Office of the Vice President; Police, NAPITIP, CSOs and the SARCs.

Over the next four years, RoLAC will continue to support the SARC Network to secure state government and private sector commitment to keep SARCs running in the long term and

strengthen the cross-sector linkages that enable the provision of comprehensive support services to survivors of sexual assault.

In 2017, eight SARCs across Nigeria, including those in Lagos and Kano assisted a total 1970 victims of sexual assault.

Fostering coordination for effective implementation of the Violence against Person's Prohibition (VAPP) Act in the FCT

RoLAC has initiated a coordinated platform comprising of multiple stakeholders interested in the implementation of the VAPP Act in the FCT. The meeting held on 13 December 2017 and was attended by representatives of MDAs, Civil Society and Security Agencies.

The meeting successfully delineated roles and responsibilities of stakeholders and built consensus on the need to sustain a coordination platform where stakeholders will meet quarterly to review progress, build synergies and ensure complementary efforts in the implementation of the law.

Anti-Corruption Day

ROLAC supported the Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) to deliver a high level interactive event to mark International Anti-Corruption Day on Monday 11 December 2017 at the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Centre, Abuja

A total of 300 people attended, including senior government officials, representatives of Ministries and Departments, international development partners and members of the diplomatic corps, schools, media, CSOs and women's groups. Several Anti-Corruption Agencies (ACAs) and other law enforcement agencies including the EFCC, ICPC, BPP, NEITI, PCC and the Office of the Auditor General of the Federation (AuGF) were also present.

The event had two break out discussions. One focused on **"A strategic and inclusive approach to the fight against Corruption - implementation of the National Anti-**

Corruption Strategy (NACS)" led by panellists from the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP), Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiatives (NEITI), the Public Complaints Commission (PCC) and Office of the Auditor General.

*The second session focussed on; **"Recovering proceeds of crime for sustainable development"**, led by representatives from the EFCC, ICPC, FIRS and the NPF. Citizens and representatives of various CSO groups actively participated.*

IATT supported a roadshow and a school debate competition award ceremony was part of the event. The debate was on, **"Who has the greater role to play, the government or the people?"**; Aduvie International School Abuja emerged as the best debating group.



"...there is need for the deployment of practical ethical codes in order to increase citizens' participation in the fight against corruption."

Dr Kayode Fayemi, Minister of Mines and Steel and Chairman of the IATT



Implementing the Nigerian Criminal Justice Reform Agenda

Progress has been made in advancing domestication of the ACJ Law in Kano and Adamawa states. In November, RoLAC supported the 17-member Technical Committee inaugurated by the Attorney General of Kano State, Mr. Ibrahim Mukhtar, to review the draft ACJ Bill and the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC). A follow up meeting held in December produced a draft bill.

The clean draft will be subjected to validation by wider stakeholders before it is transmitted to the Executive Governor of the State for onward submission to the State House of Assembly as an Executive Bill. The Programme

supported the working sessions of the technical committee that prepared the draft bill and will support the stakeholder validation workshop scheduled for January 2018.

In Adamawa, RoLAC facilitated meetings with the Attorney-General of the State, Chairman House Committee on Justice and Judiciary and the Chairman NBA, Yola chapter to reach a common understanding on support for the ACJ Bill on the floor of the State House of Assembly. This approach contributed immensely to the bill being passed after the second reading on 28 November 2017 and its progression to the committee stage.

Network Conference of Justice Sector Reform Teams

The biannual Network Conference of Justice Sector Reform Teams (JSRTs) held in Lagos from 20-23 November. The Conference brings together representatives of JSRTs from across the country to discuss and share experiences and best practice in justice sector reform.

Participants at the conference included the Attorney-Generals of Lagos, Kano, Kebbi, Plateau, Abia, Adamawa and Ogun States. Also attending were judges, magistrates, Solicitors-General, legal officers, prison officials, police officers and CSO officials.

Other Activities

Support was provided to the Nigerian delegation to attend the 7th Session of the Conference of State Parties (CoSP) to the United Nations Anti-Corruption Convention in Vienna, Austria

Upcoming Activity – January 2018

Validation Meeting on the mapping exercise of SGBV Protection Services in FCT (24 January); Adamawa (30 January); Lagos (31 January);

Focus Group Meetings on level of implementation of the Child Rights Act in Anambra (Jan. 22); Lagos (Jan. 26)

Validation workshop on the Draft Strategy for the implementation of the VAPP Act in FCT (Jan. 30)

Stakeholder validation of the ACJL Kano (Jan. 16)

Federal Justice Sector Reform Coordinating Committee Retreat / Inauguration of Abia State JSRT (29-31 January)

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