



PROJECT IMPACT EVALUATION



**Strengthening Community Resilience
and SGBV Response through Inclusive
Peacebuilding and Enhanced Access to
Justice**

Foreword

For many years, insecurity in Kaduna State has been shaped by weak mediation systems, limited access to justice, and inadequate institutional responses to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), particularly intimate partner violence. Disputes frequently escalated without structured intervention, survivors had limited access to formal justice mechanisms, and public confidence in local institutions remained low.

The *Strengthening Community Resilience and SGBV Response through Inclusive Peacebuilding and Enhanced Access to Justice* project, implemented by Global Rights, adopted a different approach. Across Igabi, Zaria, and Zangon Kataf Local Government Areas, the project strengthened both community and institutional mechanisms by building sustainable systems for prevention, mediation, and access to justice—while intentionally prioritizing women’s meaningful participation.

By the project’s conclusion, 1,428 individuals had directly participated, with women representing 56 percent of beneficiaries. Fifty-six Community Dialogue Committee members were trained and supported to mediate local disputes. Early Warning and Early Response Coordination (EWERC) mechanisms recorded 249 cases. Twelve Police Duty Solicitor Scheme (PDSS) lawyers were deployed across six police divisions, handling 523 cases and ensuring legal representation at the point of arrest.

Beyond these numbers lies deeper change. Community Dialogue Committees are now actively resolving conflicts before they escalate. Women and youth participate more visibly in mediation and governance processes. Legal representation has shifted from discretionary to structured and systematic. SGBV is increasingly recognized as a community concern rather than a private matter. Perceptions of safety have improved, trust in law enforcement has grown, and structured dialogue is becoming the norm rather than the exception.

Crucially, these gains were built *with* communities, not delivered to them. Traditional leaders, civil society actors, GBV response teams, and justice institutions played integral roles in shaping and implementing the interventions, strengthening local ownership and sustainability.

This report distills the evidence of what changed, for whom, and why these shifts matter for the future of inclusive peacebuilding and access to justice in Kaduna State. It demonstrates that structured peace infrastructure, combined with justice-sector reform and gender inclusion, can generate measurable improvements in community stability—even within a relatively short timeframe.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the FCDO-funded SPRiNG programme, led by Tetra Tech; the research team at the Centre for Development Research and Training (CDRT); the study participants; and all stakeholders whose time, expertise, and collaboration made this progress possible.

Abiodun Baiyewu
Executive Director

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION AT A GLANCE

Project Title

Strengthening Community Resilience, SGBV Response & Access to Justice in Kaduna State



Implementer

Global Rights



Project Duration

May 2025 – March 2026



Project Locations

Igabi, Zaria & Zangon Kataf LGAs – Kaduna State



Community Dialogue Committees (CDCs)

56 Members Across 3 LGAs



Most Common Offence

Theft



Total Direct Beneficiaries

1,428



Total Women

799 (56%)



Total Men

629 (44%)



Police Divisions with PDSS Deployment

6 Divisions



Total PDSS Lawyers Deployed

12 (2 per division)



Total PDSS Cases Handled

523



249

Early Warning & Response Cases Recorded (EWERC)

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Primary SGBV Pattern at Baseline

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1. Project Overview

The Strengthening Peace and Resilience in Nigeria (SPRiNG) intervention in Kaduna State was implemented by Global Rights through a project titled “*Strengthening Community Resilience and SGBV Response Through Inclusive Peacebuilding and Enhanced Access to Justice*,” with support from the United Kingdom’s Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) managed by Tetra Tech. This phase is an upscale and consolidation, expanding institutional support to additional communities while deepening systems-based reforms in Igabi, Zaria, and Zangon Kataf Local Government Areas. Previously, Global rights through the project titled “Deploying strategies for increasing access to justice and promoting credible, peaceful, democratic processes in North-West Nigeria – Phase II.” had piloted phase I of the project in Zonkwa community (Kaduna state) and Gagi community (Sokoto state), and had recorded the positive outcome of rapid and increased mainstreaming women’s active leadership participation in intercommunal and interreligious peacebuilding processes and has strengthened community cohesion, promoting greater security.

The intervention was designed in response to structural drivers of instability identified during earlier programming and baseline assessments. These included localized disputes that escalated due to weak and personality-driven mediation structures, limited access to legal representation at police divisions, underdeveloped early warning coordination, and persistent sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), particularly intimate partner violence (IPV), often managed informally and without structured referral pathways.



Critically, the intervention also responded to the systematic exclusion of women, youth, and other marginalized identities from community-level peace and security decision-making processes. At baseline, mediation and dialogue spaces were predominantly male-dominated, limiting the legitimacy, inclusiveness, and effectiveness of local conflict resolution systems. The project therefore sought not only to strengthen mediation and justice access, but to promote inclusive, community-led peace and security processes that reflect diverse voices and strengthen social cohesion.

Community-Level Peace Infrastructure Strengthening

Through the establishment and strengthening of Community Dialogue Committees (CDCs), training of community-based GBV response teams, deployment of Early Warning and Early Response Coordination (EWERC) mechanisms, supported by a digital Early Warning reporting application that enables structured documentation, real-time reporting, and coordinated response and gender-transformative household engagement using the Gender Action Learning System (GALS).

To address these structural gaps, the project was implemented through a dual-track approach:

Justice Sector Accountability at Police Divisions

Through the deployment of the Police Duty Solicitor Scheme (PDSS) across six police divisions, ensuring legal representation at the point of arrest, protection of constitutional rights, and improved trust between citizens and law enforcement agencies.

The project moved beyond awareness creation to institutional embedding, ensuring that both informal community mediation systems and formal justice processes were strengthened simultaneously.

By the end of the implementation period, measurable shifts were observed across safety perception, mediation functionality, trust in law enforcement, SGBV awareness and reporting, and women's participation in peacebuilding structures.

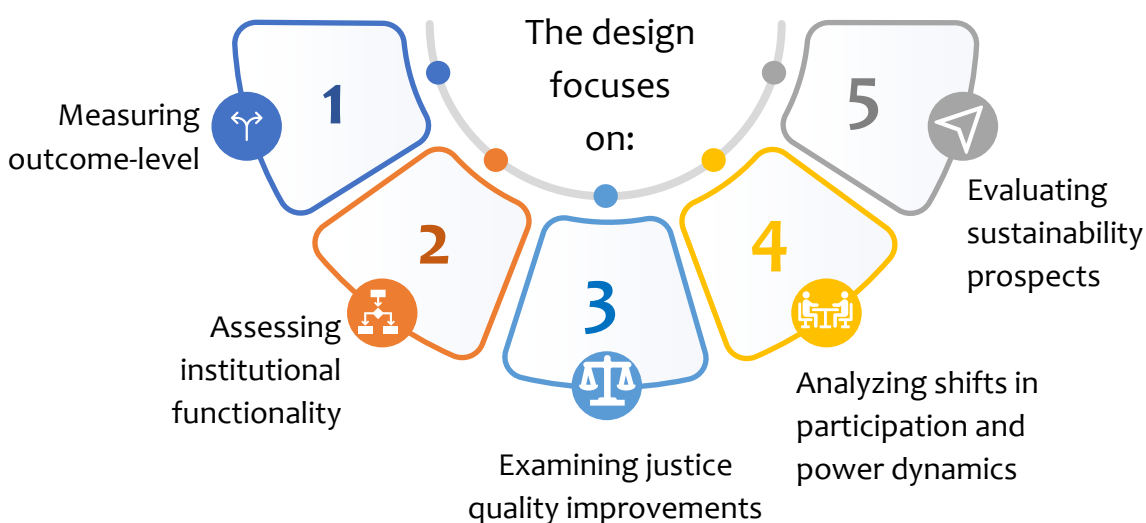


2.0 Methodology

This final evaluation consolidates findings from the three LGA-level endline assessments conducted in Igabi LGA, Zaria LGA, and Zangon Kataf LGA. The evaluation adopts a mixed-methods approach and applies a contribution analysis framework rather than strict attribution. In fragile and conflict-affected contexts, peace and justice outcomes are influenced by multiple interacting factors, including broader security dynamics, governance reforms, and socio-economic conditions. The analysis, therefore, assesses whether available evidence supports a credible and plausible contribution of the intervention to observed changes.

2.1 Evaluation Design

The evaluation integrates quantitative and qualitative evidence collected at the LGA level and synthesizes findings into a consolidated state-level analysis.



The evaluation moves beyond activity verification to assess whether governance routines have become more predictable, whether justice processes demonstrate stronger procedural safeguards, and whether institutional arrangements show signs of durability.

2.2 Data Collection Methods

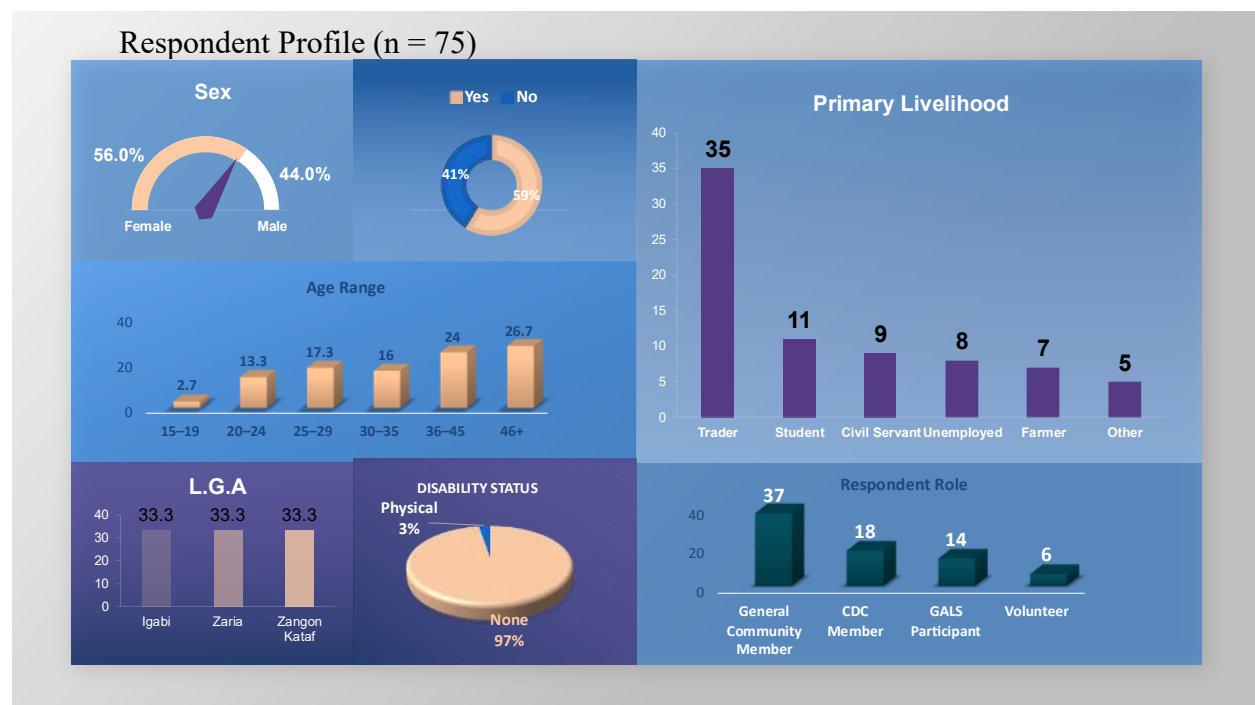
Quantitative Component

Endline surveys were conducted within each LGA to capture perception-based and service-utilization indicators related to:



The consolidated survey sample size was **n = 75**, comprising community members, CDC actors, program beneficiaries, and justice stakeholders. This enabled triangulation between community perception and institutional performance indicators.

It is important to note that findings related to conflict and SGBV trends reflect reported perceptions rather than independently verified incident data.



Qualitative Component

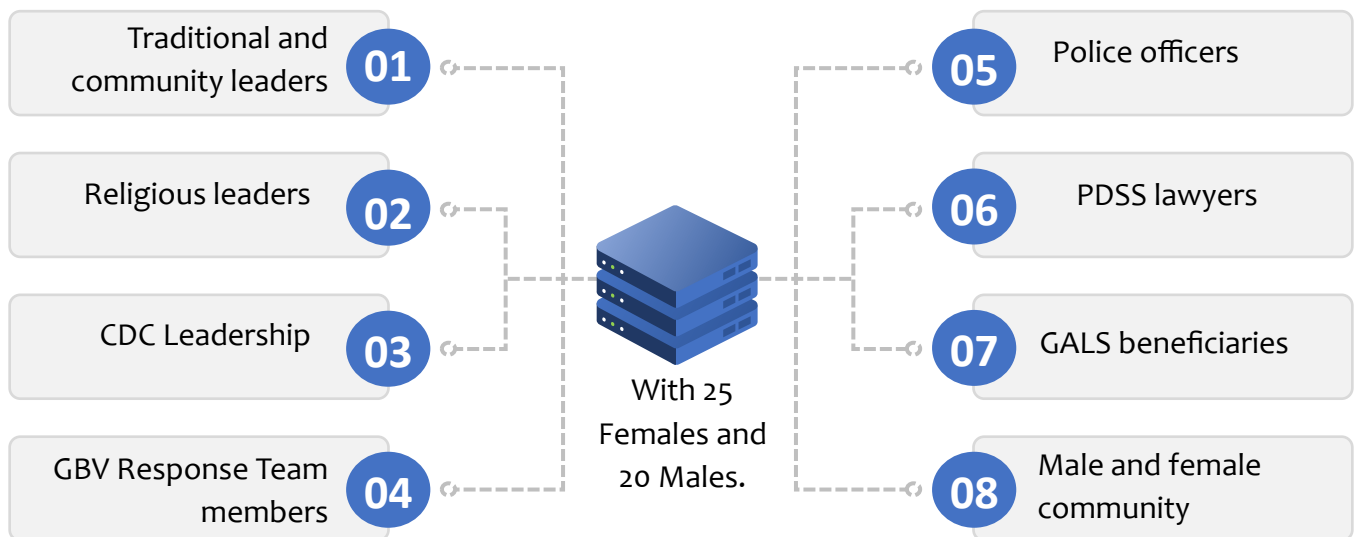
Qualitative data were collected through:

- **12 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)** across the three LGAs
- **45 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)** across the three LGAs

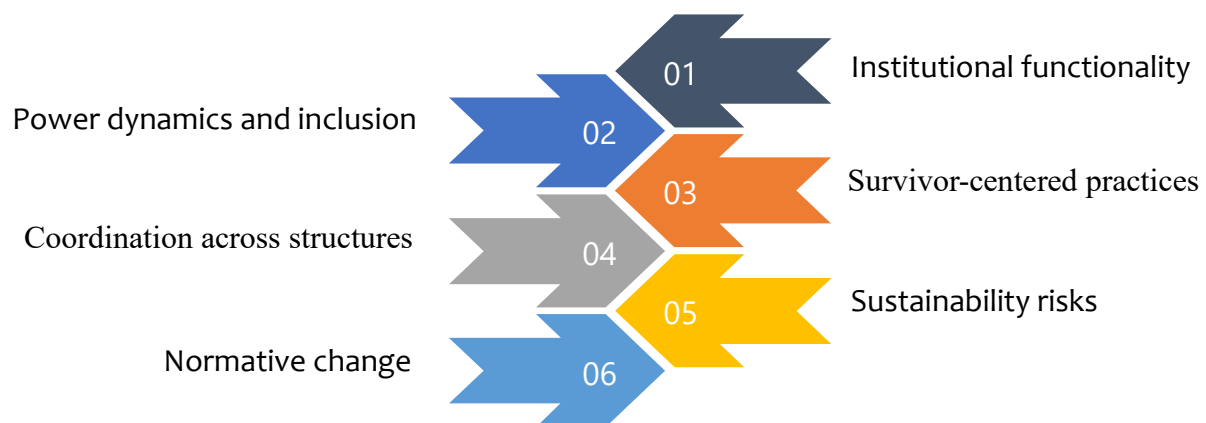
Respondents' profiles for the Focus Group Discussion included:

LGA	STAKEHOLDER TYPE	NUMBER OF PERSONS	GENDER
ZARIA	Community males	8	8 Males
	Community females	8	8 Female
	GALS beneficiaries	8	5 Males 3 Females
	CDC	8	5 Males 3 Females
ZONKWA	CDC	8	4 Males 4 Females
	Community Males	8	6 Males
	Community Females	8	6 Females
	GBVRT	6	1 Males 5 Female
IGABI	Male Community members and GALS Participants	8	8 Male
	Female Community members and GALS Participants	6	6 Female
	GBVRT	8	2 Male 6 Female
	CDC	8	5 Male 3 Female
Total	12	92	43 Male 49 Female

Respondents for the KII included:



Qualitative inquiry enabled deeper examination of:



Qualitative findings provide explanatory depth to quantitative trends and help identify mechanisms of change.

2.3 Administrative Data Review

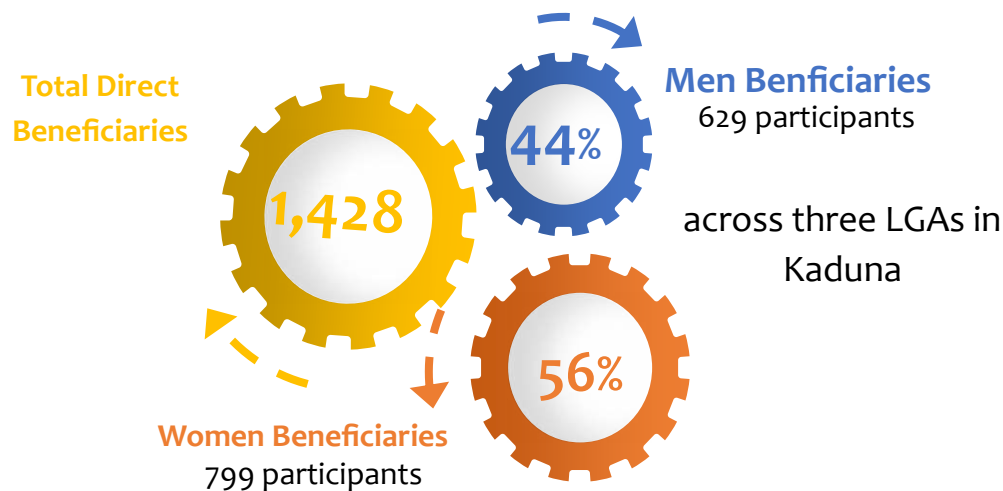
Programme monitoring records were reviewed to validate output-level performance and institutional footprint, including:

- **523 PDSS cases handled across six divisions**
- **249 Early Warning & Early Response (EWERC) cases recorded**, including entries through the digital Early Warning reporting application
- CDC mediation records

- Gender-disaggregated participation data

These administrative sources were used to cross-check reported utilization patterns and assess the functionality of supported systems.

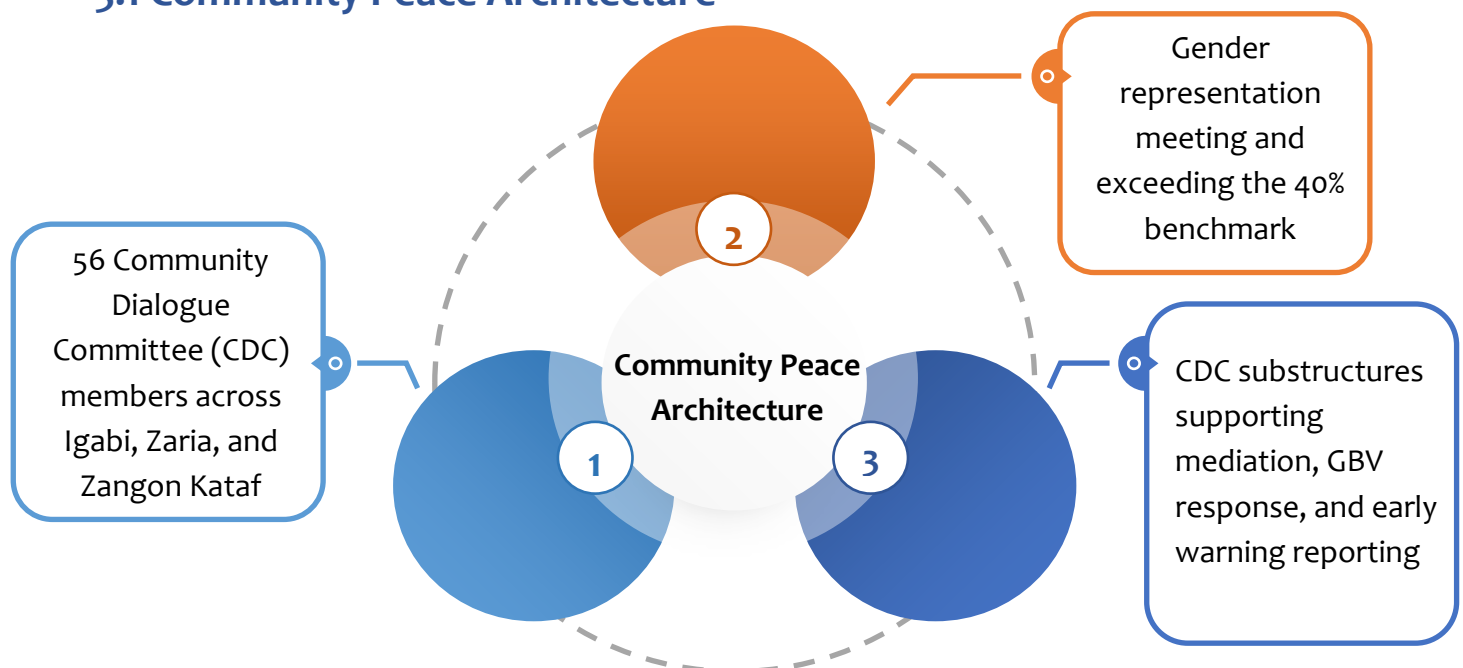
3.0 Scale of Reach & Institutional Footprint



The gender distribution reflects deliberate prioritization of women's inclusion while maintaining balanced male engagement necessary for norm change and institutional legitimacy.

Beyond direct participants, the intervention established and strengthened formal and informal peace and justice infrastructure across community and state levels.

3.1 Community Peace Architecture



3.2 Early Warning & Response System

- 249 cases recorded through the Early Warning & Early Response Coordination (EWERC) system
- Increased community-based monitoring of threats, rumours, and violence triggers
- Strengthened collaboration between community reporters and security actors

3.3 Justice Sector Intervention (PDSS Deployment)

The project deployed **12 PDSS lawyers across 6 police divisions**, embedding two lawyers per division in:

- NPF Divisional Office, Dan Magagji
- NPF Divisional Headquarters, Zaria City
- NPF Rigachikun
- NPF Mararaban Jos
- NPF Divisional Headquarters, Zonkwa
- NPF Samaru Outpost

Across the implementation period, **523 cases were handled by PDSS lawyers**, with theft emerging as the most common offence. The deployment strengthened procedural safeguards at the point of arrest and improved detainee access to legal representation.

3.4 Gender-Transformative Household Engagement

Through GALS implementation and cascading, households engaged in joint decision-making processes, resource planning, and conflict-sensitive dialogue, reinforcing inclusion shifts observed at the community level.

4.0 Major Impact Findings

4.1 Improved Community Safety and Reduction in Violent Conflict

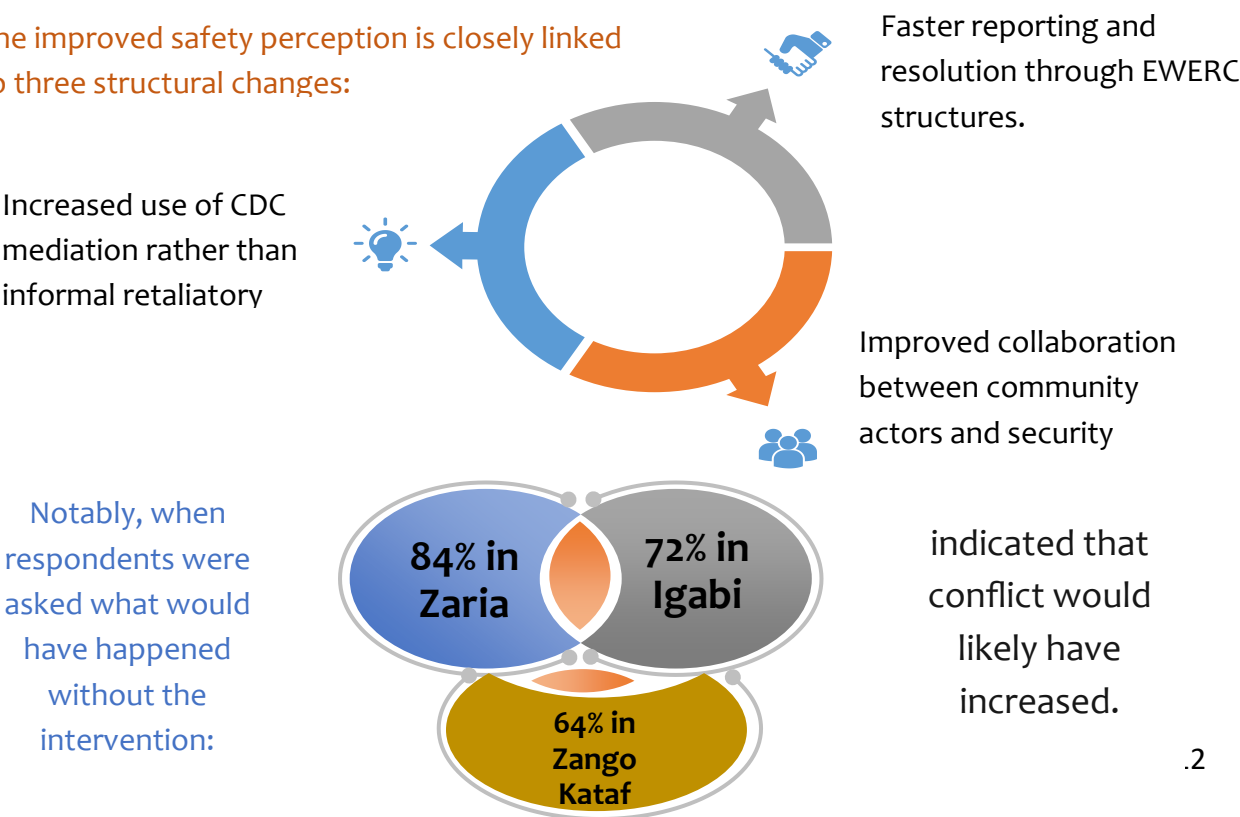
One of the clearest indicators of impact is the shift in community perception of safety and conflict trends across the three LGAs. Respondents across all locations report measurable improvements in community safety since the start of the intervention:



These shifts are significant given the baseline concerns around inter-communal tensions, youth-related violence, and unresolved disputes that characterized the communities prior to intervention.

The most pronounced perception shift is observed in **Zaria**, suggesting stronger consolidation of mediation structures and early response mechanisms. Igabi demonstrates stable gains, while Zangon Kataf reflects moderate but meaningful improvement, indicating progress, though with room for further consolidation.

The improved safety perception is closely linked to three structural changes:



This strong attribution suggests that safety gains are not perceived as incidental, but rather as directly linked to project structures.

Analytical Observation

The intervention appears to have reduced both the frequency of violent escalation and the normalization of unresolved disputes. While conflict drivers remain present, the mechanisms for early containment have strengthened, particularly in Zaria and Igabi.

4.2 Justice Reform at the Point of Arrest: PDSS Impact



A defining feature of this intervention was the structured deployment of the Police Duty Solicitor Scheme (PDSS) across six police divisions in Kaduna State. Unlike community sensitization efforts alone, this component addressed justice access at the earliest point of state interaction, arrest and detention.

Across the implementation period:

- **12 lawyers were deployed** (2 per division)
- **523 cases were handled**
- **Theft emerged as the most frequent offence category**

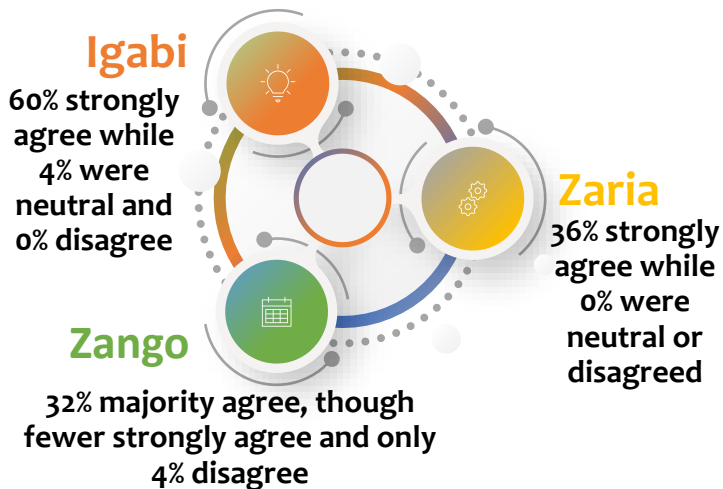
This volume of cases reflects active engagement rather than nominal deployment.

Increased Access to Legal Representation

PDSS lawyers provided legal representation, secured bail within constitutional timelines, facilitated referrals, and monitored detention conditions. The intervention strengthened procedural fairness and reduced arbitrary detention risks.

Trust:

Survey findings reveal significant improvements in perceived trust in law enforcement where PDSS was embedded:



Case Resolution Speed:

Perceptions of case resolution speed improved across all three LGAs, though intensity varied.

Igabi: 72% strongly agree that cases are resolved faster

Zaria: 48% strongly agree; 28% agree

Zangon Katakaf: 36% strongly agree; 40% agree

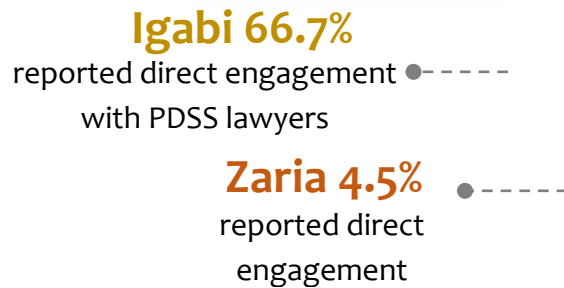
Levels of disagreement were relatively low but present:

- **Igabi:** 12% disagree or strongly disagree
- **Zaria:** 18% disagree or strongly disagree
- **Zangon Katakaf:** 20% disagree or strongly disagree

These findings suggest that while positive perceptions of timeliness are evident across LGAs, the strength of conviction is highest in Igabi. The difference appears to reflect more consistent institutional interaction between CDC structures, PDSS lawyers, and police actors in Igabi during the implementation period.

However, improvements in Zaria and Zangon Katakaf remain directionally positive, even where strong agreement is lower.

Uneven Uptake Across LGAs



Utilization of PDSS services varied significantly across LGAs:



This contrast suggests different justice pathways operating across contexts.

In Igabi, higher PDSS utilization aligns with stronger perceptions of improved case resolution speed and trust in police.

In Zaria, despite lower PDSS utilization, safety perception gains were strong. This may indicate that strengthened community mediation mechanisms are resolving disputes at earlier stages, reducing escalation to police-level intervention.

In Zangon Kataf, moderate PDSS engagement corresponds with moderate gains in perceived justice improvement.

These patterns indicate differentiated institutional pathways rather than uniform uptake across LGAs.

Analytical Observation

The PDSS intervention demonstrates that justice reform at the point of arrest can meaningfully influence:

- Community trust in security institutions
- Speed of resolution
- Perception of fairness



However, institutional depth varies across LGAs. Igabi shows the strongest justice-sector embedding, while Zangon Kataf reflects more moderate consolidation.

The presence of 12 deployed lawyers across six divisions created an accountability layer that did not previously exist, shifting justice access from discretionary to structured.

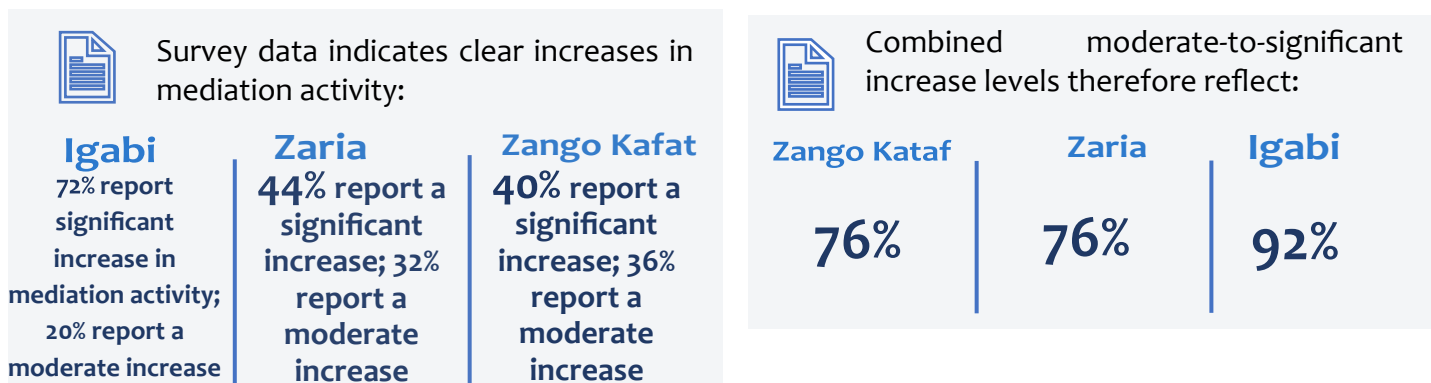
4.3 Strengthened Early Warning and Community Mediation Systems

One of the most visible structural shifts under the project is the normalization of community-led mediation and early warning reporting.

By project end:

- **249 cases were recorded through EWERC**
- **56 CDC members were actively functioning across three LGAs**
- **CDC mediation became the primary first-response mechanism for local disputes**

Community-Led Mediation



Levels of disagreement were minimal across LGAs, suggesting broad acknowledgement that mediation activity has increased.

These findings indicate that while Igabi demonstrates the strongest intensity of increase, Zaria and Zangon Kataf also show substantial growth in mediation utilization.

Utilization data confirms CDC functionality:



While utilization demonstrates operational visibility, usage alone does not automatically indicate effectiveness. To assess quality, respondents were further asked about perceived outcomes of mediation processes.

Across LGAs:

- A majority reported that disputes handled by CDCs were resolved satisfactorily.
- Reports of unresolved or poorly handled cases were limited but present.
- Some respondents noted that complex disputes still required referral to police or higher traditional authorities.

For example, in Zaria and Igabi, respondents emphasized timeliness and confidentiality as strengths of CDC processes. However, in Zangon Kataf, a small proportion of respondents indicated that certain sensitive disputes (particularly related to SGBV or family matters) were still handled cautiously or informally.

These findings suggest that CDC structures are not only utilized but are generally perceived as functional, though effectiveness varies by dispute type and LGA context.

What Changed on the Ground



Community members described a shift from silence and retaliation to structured dialogue:

In Zonkwa, respondents described that:

“Before, when two families had issues, it would drag. People would take sides. Now we call the CDC first.” – Zonkwa FGD Women 02

“There were times small misunderstandings turned into big problems. Now we report early, especially when youth start gathering.” – Zonkwa FGD WOMEN 05

“Even rumors are now reported. Before, we ignored them until something happened.” – Zonkwa FGD Women 03

In Zaria, respondents emphasized confidentiality and safety:

“Not everybody knows who the CDC members are. That is intentional. People know where to report quietly.” – Zaria FGD Male 02

In Igabi, respondents described a more direct collaboration with security actors:

“We don’t wait until the police come. We talk first. If it is beyond us, then we involve them.” – Igabi FGD Women 04

These accounts reflect behavioural change rather than awareness alone.



Early Detection and Containment

A total of **249 cases** were recorded through the Early Warning and Early Response Coordination (EWERC) system during the implementation period, including reports logged via the digital Early Warning reporting application. These cases included tensions, suspicious movement, youth-related disturbances, GBV alerts, and community disputes.

Beyond reporting volume, resolution patterns provide clearer insight into system functionality.

At endline, the proportion of early warning cases reportedly resolved through dialogue mechanisms was:

- **Zaria:** 84%
- **Igabi:** 65%
- **Zangon Kataf:** 60%

The consolidated state-level average resolution rate stands at approximately **65%**, exceeding the 50% target benchmark.

These figures indicate that early warning alerts are not only being reported but are frequently processed through structured mediation channels prior to escalation.

However, some participants acknowledged documentation fatigue:

“Sometimes we settle issues and don’t record everything.”

This suggests that while resolution may be occurring, formal record-keeping practices remain uneven, potentially underestimating total mediation activity and indicating a need for strengthened documentation discipline.

Comparative Observations Across LGAs

- **Igabi** demonstrates the strongest operational linkage between CDC mediation and formal security structures, reflected in higher PDSS engagement (66.7%) and strong perceptions of faster case resolution (72% strongly agree).
- **Zaria** shows the highest early warning dialogue resolution rate (84%), though formal justice uptake remains comparatively low (4.5% PDSS usage), suggesting greater reliance on community-level dispute management.
- **Zangon Kataf** reflects steady but more moderate reporting confidence, with 60% dialogue resolution and lower full reporting safety confidence (28% fully safe reporting SGBV).

Analytical Observation

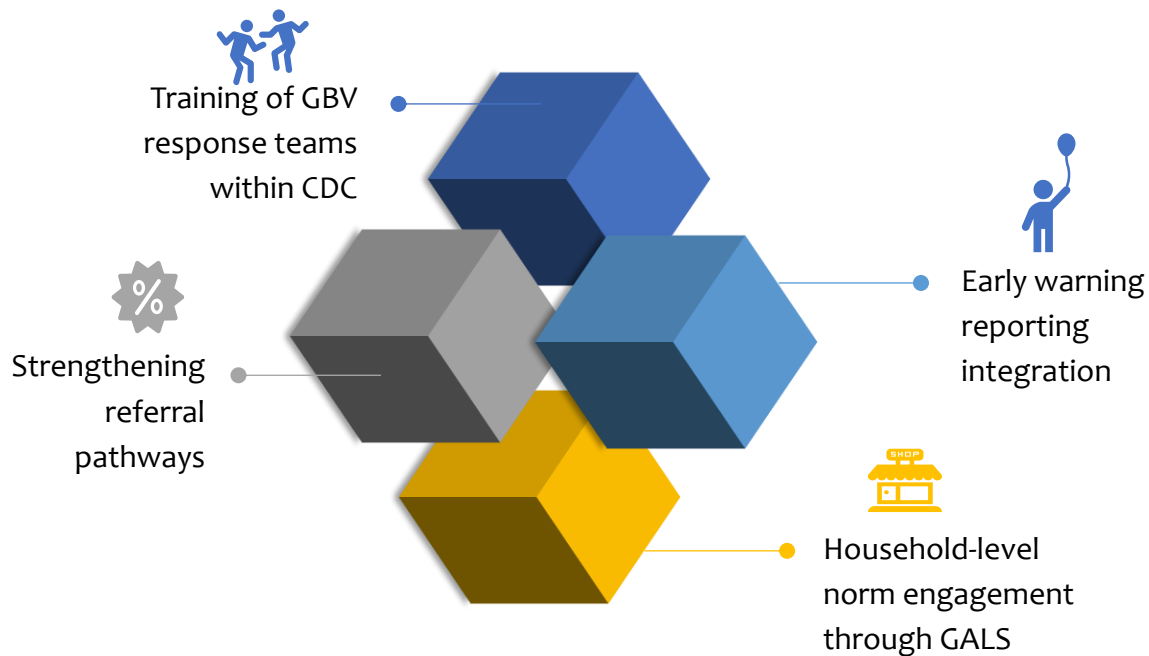
The data suggests that the most meaningful shift is not solely the number of early warning reports (249), but the proportion routed through structured dialogue before escalation. Community members increasingly describe conflict management as a process involving reporting, mediation, and referral rather than reactive confrontation.

While institutional consolidation remains uneven, this shift toward preventive engagement represents measurable progress in community resilience structures.

4.4 SGBV Prevention, Reporting and Survivor Response

At baseline, intimate partner violence (IPV) was identified as the most prevalent form of SGBV across the target communities. Reporting was often informal, mediated within families, or suppressed due to stigma and fear of escalation.

The project sought to address this through:



Reported Reduction in SGBV Incidents

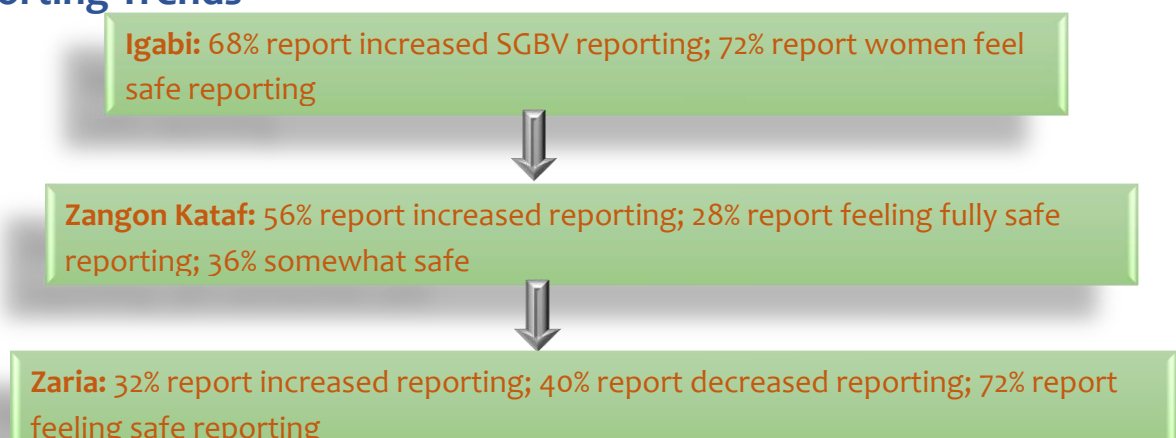
Endline data shows that a majority of respondents across LGAs report a perceived reduction in SGBV incidents:

Zaria – 76% report reduction → **Igabi – 68%** → **Zangon Kataf – 64%**

However, perception of reduction does not independently confirm a decrease in actual incidence. In fragile and stigma-sensitive environments, lower perceived prevalence may also reflect underreporting, fear of disclosure, or diminished confidence in reporting pathways.

To better interpret these findings, reporting behaviour and confidence indicators were analyzed alongside reduction perception.

Reporting Trends

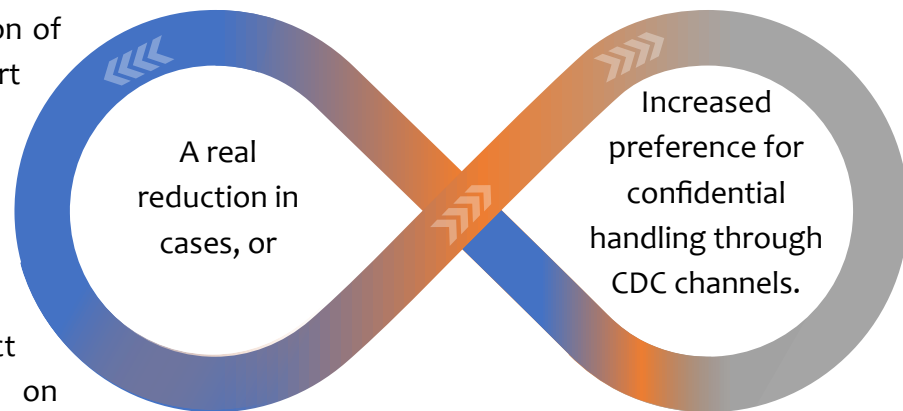


This divergence suggests different dynamics.

In **Igabi**, perceived reduction coincides with increased reporting and higher safety confidence, which strengthens the plausibility of real behavioural and normative shifts.

In **Zangon Kataf**, moderate increases in reporting alongside lower full safety confidence indicate partial progress but continued stigma constraints.

In **Zaria**, where a portion of respondents report decreased reporting despite high perceived reduction, interpretation is more complex. The decline in reporting may reflect increased reliance on



confidential mediation channels, reporting fatigue, or lingering barriers to formal disclosure.

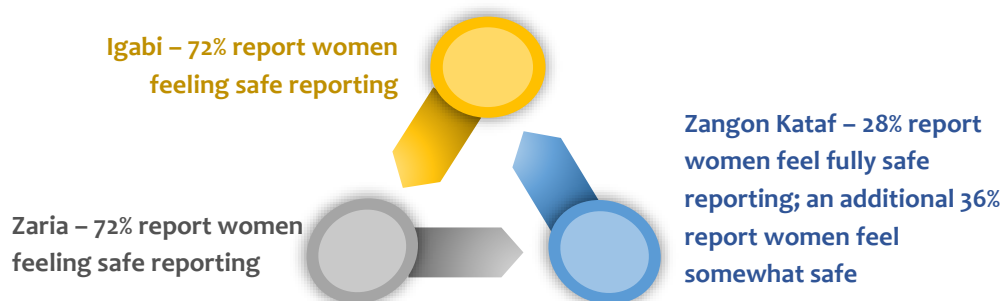
Analytical Interpretation

Taken together, the findings suggest that normative awareness around SGBV has improved across LGAs, and reporting pathways have strengthened in some contexts. However, perceived reduction should be interpreted cautiously and in conjunction with reporting confidence indicators.

The most consistent shift across LGAs is not necessarily confirmed incident reduction, but increased recognition of SGBV as a community concern rather than a purely private matter. Consolidation of survivor-centred, confidential, and trusted reporting mechanisms remains essential to sustain and accurately measure progress.

Reporting Confidence

When asked whether women feel safe reporting SGBV:



These figures provide a snapshot of perceived reporting safety at project close.

In Igabi and Zaria, relatively high reporting confidence aligns with reported increases in SGBV disclosure and strengthened referral pathways. However, without baseline comparison data, these figures should be interpreted as current confidence levels rather than confirmed improvement.

In Zangon Kataf, lower full-confidence levels suggest that stigma and social risk remain more pronounced, despite broader awareness gains.

Taken together, the data indicate varying degrees of reporting confidence across LGAs. While reporting pathways appear more visible, sustained efforts to strengthen confidentiality, survivor protection, and trust in justice follow-through remain critical for long-term reporting normalization.

Structural Improvements

Evidence from both survey findings and qualitative interviews suggests strengthening of GBV response integration within CDC frameworks across LGAs.

Survey data indicate that:

- In **Igabi**, 68% report increased SGBV reporting.
- In **Zangon Kataf**, 56% report increased reporting.
- In **Zaria**, reporting trends are mixed, with 32% reporting increased disclosure and 40% reporting decreased reporting.

Qualitative interviews with CDC members and GBV Response Team actors further indicate that cases are more frequently discussed within structured mediation forums prior to referral.

For example, a CDC member in Zaria noted:

“Before, these issues were kept within the family. Now at least they come to us first.”

Similarly, in Igabi, stakeholders described more deliberate referral conversations with police and PDSS lawyers when cases exceeded community mediation scope.

These findings suggest:

- Improved early identification of SGBV-related concerns within community structures.
- More structured referral discussions before escalation.

- Increased involvement of women in mediation panels (women's representation $\geq 40\%$ across LGAs).
- Greater visibility of SGBV as a public dialogue issue compared to baseline accounts, where FGDs described silence and stigma as dominant responses.

However, formal prosecution pathways remain uneven, and in some contexts, informal settlement practices continue.

Taken together, the data indicate movement toward greater openness and structured response, though full institutionalization of survivor-centred reporting mechanisms remains in progress.

4.5 Women and Youth Inclusion in Peace Architecture

Beyond mediation and justice reform, the project aimed to rebalance participation within local peace and governance structures, particularly increasing women's and youth voices in decision-making processes.



Women's Representation and Voice

Across the three LGAs, women's participation in Community Dialogue Committees meets or exceeds the 40% benchmark. Administrative records confirm that women constitute at least 40% of CDC membership across all LGAs.

While comparable baseline quantitative data on representation levels were not systematically collected, qualitative baseline findings described mediation spaces as predominantly male-dominated.

Support for Women's Equal Participation

Survey findings indicate broad support for women's equal participation in peace processes, though intensity varies:

Location	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
Igabi	72	20	6	2
Zaria	52	30	12	6

Zangon Kataf	36	40	16	8
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These figures indicate majority support across all LGAs (76%–92% combined agree/strongly agree), though stronger conviction is observed in Igabi and Zaria compared to Zangon Kataf.

Women's Voice in Meetings

Respondents were also asked whether women now speak more openly in community meetings.

Location	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)
Igabi	64	24	8	4
Zaria	64	20	10	6
Zangon Kataf	28	36	24	12

These findings suggest that while participation is broadly accepted, the intensity of perceived voice shift varies across LGAs. Zangon Kataf reflects more mixed perceptions, with a higher proportion expressing disagreement compared to Igabi and Zaria.

Community testimonies illustrate this shift:

“Before, women would sit and listen. Now they contribute when disputes are discussed.” (Zangon Kataf FGD Women 01)

“Sometimes the women suggest solutions the men do not think about.” (Zaria FGD Women 03)

“At first, some men resisted. But when they saw results, they began to accept it.” (Igabi FGD Women 04)

These comments reflect cautious but real shifts in gender dynamics.

Analytical Interpretation

The data indicate that women's inclusion is not only structural (membership representation) but is increasingly perceived as participatory (voice in meetings). However, the presence of disagreement in all LGAs suggests that normative consolidation remains uneven and context-dependent.

Without baseline quantitative comparison, these findings should be interpreted as endline perception levels rather than the confirmed magnitude of change. Nonetheless, convergence between participation data, voice indicators, and qualitative testimony suggests movement toward more inclusive mediation spaces.

Household-Level Norm Shifts

Through GALS engagement, households reported improved joint decision-making and dialogue from 52% of Respondents in Igabi and 20% of Respondents from Zaria. Participants from Zangon Kataf described:

“Now we plan together as husband and wife.” (Zangon Kataf Male FGD 03)

Youth Participation

Youth inclusion expanded significantly during implementation:

- **Zaria – 84% report increased youth participation in security discussions**
- **Igabi – 72%**
- **Zangon Kataf – 56%**

Youth engagement has strengthened early warning responsiveness and reduced idle group formation, often associated with escalation risks.

One youth participant explained:

“Before, they would say security issues are for elders. Now they invite us.” (Zangon Kataf FGD Women 005)

Analytical Observation

The intervention moved inclusion from symbolic representation toward participatory engagement. However, the intensity of normative shift varies across LGAs.

Igabi shows the strongest integration across women, youth, and justice structures. Zaria demonstrates strong voice shifts but weaker formal justice uptake. Zangon Kataf reflects steady but slower normative consolidation.

Inclusion gains are visible, but long-term institutional entrenchment will depend on continued reinforcement beyond project support.

5. Indicator Achievement Summary

This table consolidates core outcome-level performance indicators across safety, justice access, SGBV response, and inclusion.

Outcome-Level Indicator Performance

Outcome Domain	Indicator	Target	Achieved	Status
Community Safety	% of respondents reporting improved community safety	≥ 60%	64% – 88% across LGAs	✓ Achieved
Violent Conflict Reduction	% reporting reduction in violent conflict	≥ 60%	60% – 88%	✓ Achieved
Early Warning Responsiveness	% of reports resolved through dialogue	≥ 50%	65%	✓ Surpassed
Justice Access (PDSS)	% reporting improved trust in police	≥ 50%	Up to 60% strongly agree	✓ Achieved
Case Resolution Efficiency	% reporting faster case handling	≥ 50%	Up to 72% strongly agree (Igabi)	✓ Surpassed
SGBV Reduction (Perception)	% reporting reduction in SGBV	≥ 60%	64% – 76%	✓ Achieved
Women's Participation	Women representation in CDCs	≥ 40%	≥ 40% across LGAs	✓ Achieved
Youth Participation	% reporting increased youth inclusion	≥ 50%	56% – 84%	✓ Achieved
Project Attribution	% believing conflict would increase without project	≥ 60%	72% – 84% (Igabi, Zaria)	✓ Strong Attribution

6. Impact Dashboard: Comparative LGA Snapshot

Performance Overview Across LGAs

Impact Domain	Igabi	Zaria	Zangon Kataf
Community Safety Perception	72% improved	88% improved (Highest)	64% improved
Reduction in Violent Conflict	60% report reduction	88% report reduction	64% report reduction
CDC Mediation Utilization	61% accessed	68% accessed	75% accessed (Highest usage)
EWERC Reporting & Responsiveness	Strong integration	Active but selective	Moderate consolidation
PDSS Utilization	Highest utilization (66.7%)	Very low utilization (4.5%)	Moderate (31.3%)
Trust in Police (PDSS Effect)	60% strongly agree that improved	36% strongly agree	Moderate agreement
SGBV Reporting Confidence	72% feel safe reporting	72% feel safe reporting	28% fully safe; 36% somewhat safe
Reduction in SGBV (Perception)	68% report reduction	76% report reduction	64% report reduction
Women's Participation Strength	Strongest normative shift	Strong voice shift	Growing but slower shift
Youth Participation Increase	72% report increase	84% report increase	56% report increase
Attribution to Project	72% believe conflict would increase without the project	84% believe conflict would increase	Lower intensity attribution

7. Stories of Change

7.1 From Community Mediation to Campus-Based Peacebuilding

What started as a community-level intervention is beginning to take root within formal institutions. Following engagement with CDCs, Kaduna State University (KASU) has taken steps to establish youth mediation groups within the university. This shift reflects a growing recognition that conflict prevention and mediation are skills that can be institutionalized and transferred to younger generations, and not just community responsibilities.

For students, this creates an opportunity to develop practical skills in dialogue, negotiation, and conflict resolution, skills that are directly relevant to the social dynamics within and beyond the campus. It also positions young people as active actors in peacebuilding processes. This development also signals early evidence of sustainability. The adoption of the model by KASU suggests that the intervention is seen as valuable and adaptable beyond its original context. As the university explores further steps, including integrating mediation into its structures and programming, it creates a pathway for building a pipeline of trained mediators who can contribute to community and state-level peace efforts over time.

In this way, the project is no longer only strengthening existing systems, but helping to seed new ones, and ensuring that the principles of inclusive dialogue and conflict resolution continue to evolve and expand beyond the life of the project.

7.2 Representation in Traditional Leadership

In Zonkwa, a notable shift has taken place within a space traditionally dominated by men. Following sustained engagement through the project's community dialogue processes, a woman has been formally appointed into the traditional council of HRH Luke Yohana Adankat, the Hakimi of Uguwan Gaya. While women's inclusion in dialogue platforms had been increasing, their presence within traditional leadership systems remained limited. This appointment signals a shift in both perception and practice, where women are recognized as legitimate contributors to governance and conflict resolution.

Traditional councils play a central role in shaping community norms, resolving disputes, and guiding local decision-making. The inclusion of a woman within this structure creates space for more diverse perspectives, and suggests that exposure to inclusive dialogue processes and the demonstrated value of women's contributions can translate into shifts within deeply rooted institutions. This is also a critical milestone in terms of sustainability. Unlike project-

based participation, formal appointments within traditional systems are more likely to endure beyond the life of the intervention. It indicates that the principles of inclusion are being internalized and integrated within existing governance structures.

This change represents a move toward more inclusive and representative local leadership, with the potential to influence decision-making outcomes and community attitudes toward women’s roles in peace and governance.

7.3 Scaling Women’s Roles in Peacebuilding

Across the project communities, women who were trained and engaged as part of the CDCs are now being onboarded into the Kaduna State Women Mediators Network. Through the project, these women were trained with practical mediation skills and actively engaged in resolving disputes within their communities. Their onboarding into the network builds on this foundation, connecting them to a wider platform for continuous learning, mentorship, and engagement.

Being part of a formal mediators’ network positions these women as credible actors within the peacebuilding space, and creates opportunities for them to engage beyond their immediate communities. This change also strengthens sustainability. Linking CDC women to an existing institutional structure helps ensure that their skills and roles do not end with the project lifecycle. Instead, they become part of an ongoing system that can continue to build their capacity and expand their impact over time.

This ultimately reflects a broader shift where women are increasingly being recognized, connected, and supported as long-term actors in mediation and conflict resolution.

8. Sustainability & Strategic Outlook

The intervention has moved beyond short-term activity delivery toward structural embedding in several domains. However, sustainability varies across components and LGAs.



**Social Sustainability –
Strong**

Community Dialogue Committees are now recognized dispute-resolution platforms. Mediation routines are normalized, and early reporting through EWERC structures is increasingly embedded in community practice.

Community members in Igabi and Zaria described CDC engagement as “the first step” before escalation. This normalization suggests strong social ownership.

Women's participation in dialogue platforms has also become more accepted, reducing the likelihood of regression to exclusively male-dominated mediation structures.



Institutional Sustainability – Moderate

Institutional embedding is strongest where linkages between CDCs, police actors, and PDSS lawyers are consistent, particularly in Igabi.

However:

- Documentation discipline within CDCs remains uneven.
- PDSS deployment remains dependent on structured support.

The justice-sector reform component, particularly PDSS requires continued operational funding and administrative coordination to maintain gains in procedural fairness.



Financial Sustainability – Fragile

While community mediation structures require minimal financial input, continued deployment of 12 PDSS lawyers across six police divisions requires sustained funding and

coordination.

Without continued legal presence:

- Gains in trust and procedural fairness may erode.
- Case resolution timelines may regress.
- Access to justice for marginalized persons may weaken.

Early warning systems also require periodic capacity reinforcement and documentation support.



Differential Sustainability Across LGAs

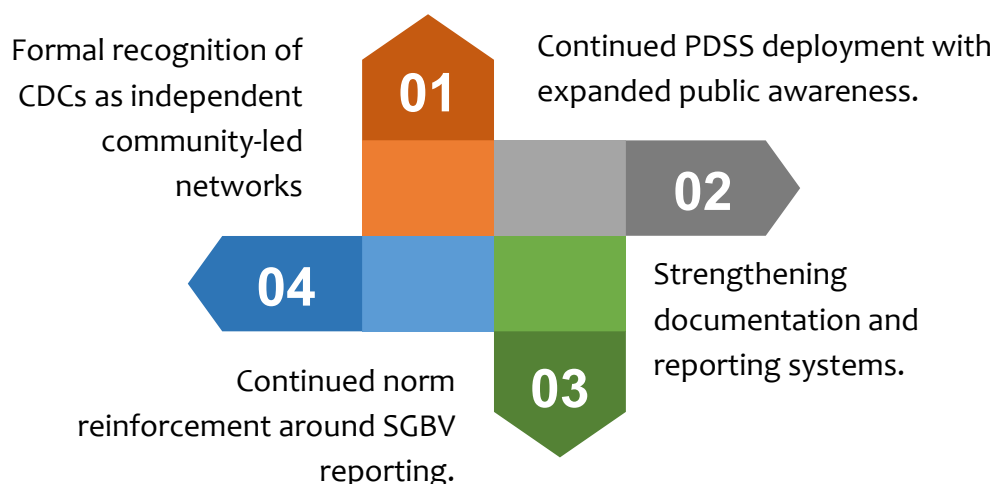
Igabi demonstrates the strongest prospects for institutional durability.

Zaria shows strong social legitimacy but requires deeper formal justice integration.

Zangon Kataf requires continued support to consolidate reporting confidence and attribution intensity.

Strategic Outlook

The intervention has created a functioning peace and justice infrastructure within a relatively short implementation window. To prevent stagnation or regression, future programming should prioritize:



The project has built foundations. Consolidation, rather than expansion, is the next strategic priority.

8. Conclusion

Global Rights' intervention in Kaduna State demonstrates that structured peace infrastructure, when combined with justice-sector reform and gender inclusion, can produce measurable improvements in community stability within a relatively short timeframe. Across Igabi, Zaria, and Zangon Kataf LGAs, the project strengthened the architecture of conflict management rather than merely responding to incidents. Community Dialogue Committees are functioning and utilized. Early warning systems are recording and resolving cases. Legal representation is present at the point of arrest. Women and youth are participating more visibly in mediation and governance processes.

The data shows that safety perceptions have improved, violent conflict has reduced, and confidence in dispute resolution systems has increased. Justice access at police divisions has shifted from discretionary to structured where PDSS lawyers are active. SGBV is increasingly recognized as a community issue rather than a private matter. Youth engagement in peace and security discussions has expanded.

Importantly, these changes are not viewed as incidental. The most significant achievement of this project is not any single indicator. It is the normalization of structured response, mediation before escalation, reporting before silence, legal representation before arbitrary detention, dialogue before retaliation.

Sustainability now depends on consolidation. Community ownership is visible. Institutional embedding is progressing. Financial continuity, particularly for justice-sector components, remains critical. Overall, the intervention has shifted the operational logic of peace and justice in target communities. While structural reform remains a long-term process, the foundations established through this project are credible, measurable, and community-recognized.



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