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Funded by the European Union, [the Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation \(MF\)](#) and local partners [Grassroots Researchers Association \(GRA\)](#) and [Youth Initiative against Terrorism \(YIAT\) formerly YOCAT](#), will launch an innovative new project to bring together young people from diverse conflict-affected regions in Northern Nigeria in order to develop and implement their own priorities and action plans for civic engagement.

Because of ongoing conflict in the region, many young people in Northeastern Nigeria have been forced to leave their villages and are displaced. They often face crowded living situations, have irregular access to food, and experience high levels of unemployment. These circumstances limit their opportunity to influence decision-making on topics that directly affect their current and future well-being.

This initiative, called ***Nigerian youth, community peacebuilding, and resilience to crises and fragility***, will provide young people with an opportunity to overcome such barriers to their effective participation in society.

The project invites young people, aged 18 to 29, from Yobe, Adamawa, and Borno States to organise themselves into clubs from which they can initiate and partake in meaningful advocacy and civic action, both locally and nationally, on topics such as conflict resolution and protecting the rights of the most vulnerable in society, such as survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. The first club meeting will take place today.

From the outset, clubs will set up their own governance and host meetings and trainings designed to help young people better understand their rights and address their challenges in an efficient and peaceful manner. Throughout the project, club members will deepen their learning on democratic governance, peacebuilding and transitional justice and participate in structured forums to advance the Women Peace and Security, or the Youth Peace and Security, agendas.

This action is funded by the European Union (up to 450,000 Euros), has an overall duration of 24 months, and will benefit 270 young people from Yobe, Adamawa, and Borno States.

For more information, please contact the Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation at info@mukwegefoundation.org

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Youth Initiative
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