



SEPTEMBER 2021 PROGRESS REPORT

The various CYPAN countries went all out on September 21st. They really celebrated this year's International Peace Day in grand style. From Gambia's webinar to Uganda's social media peace campaign, September has been a fruitful month despite a few challenges. With increased access to vaccines, African networks especially are looking forward to less restrictions on social gatherings. Cameroon initiates an award scheme and had to deal with rumours of separatist attacks to the seat of the West Region.

The executive team has been busy planning alongside the consultant to deliver the Youth Peace and Security Policy recommendations. The team has also been in talks with the Commonwealth's Secretary General Good Offices for the collaboration on the Commonwealth Peace Connectivity Initiative project and this had led to a number of discussions between the two teams. CYPAN recently met with Dr Dinusha Panditaratne, Political Adviser and Head of Asia Region who lead us on design of the initiative.

COVID 19 AND NATURAL DISASTERS

Restrictions on activities and gatherings due to high numbers of recorded COVID-19 cases is being eased gradually in Pakistan and hopefully this will culminate into increased growth of CYPAN in Pakistan.

Botswana after experiencing severe cases of COVID-19 and the deadly Delta variant has recorded a massive recovery and the nation-wide vaccination which started with teachers who were badly affected has now included people who are aged thirty years and above.

Uganda was also hit by a massive surge of COVID-19 cases but has recovered very well. More people are getting vaccinated and restrictions are being eased

gradually, places of worship are now opened and CYPAN hopes this extends to social gatherings for more physically visible activities to be organized.

SOCIAL MEDIA, STAKEHOLDER AND VISIBILITY ENGAGEMENT

CYPAN Botswana was invited to a virtual meeting organised by the Botswana National Youth Council (BNYC) in conjunction with the Ministry of Youth, Sports Development and Culture on the theme, Cascading of Grants Management Tools and Character Building Strategy on the 23rd September, 2021. Other non-governmental organizations who are partners of BNYC and are youth focused were also in attendance.

BNYC made a presentation on 2021/22 available grants, the proposal requirements and the deadline for submissions which was on the 29th September 2021. Unfortunately, due to limited funds, these grants are not open to all areas in Botswana and our current place of operation falls under the excluded areas.

CYPAN Gambia embarked on a 3-day social media campaign to spread peace messages written by young Gambians to sensitise the youth especially on the need for peace before, during and after the upcoming general elections. Many young people reacted positively to the messages and some pledged to make personal commitments to maintain peace in this period and after.

Gambia also participated in a radio discussion on Transitional Justice and the role of civil society organizations in lobbying with the government to implement the recommendations of the Truth Reconciliation and Reparations Commission to bring sustainable peace.

DEMOCRACY, ELECTIONS AND THE POLITICAL ECONOMY

Afghanistan and the Taliban issue still rages on and Pakistan has to rise and protect its peace and people as it is a very delicate situation. This combined with

the effects of COVID-19 on the economic fortunes of Pakistan has resulted in loans making up 82% of the national budget.

The month of September thankfully marked the end of Botswana's state of emergency which was first declared on the 1st of April 2020 and was later extended twice with each extension accorded a six months tenure.

The Gambia goes to the polls in the next two months for the Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government elections. The independent electoral commission is doing all it can to ensure the whole electoral period is not disruptive, abusive and violent. CYPAN closely monitoring developments and addressing issues as and when they arise.

OUTREACHES, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS AND PROJECTS

The Commonwealth Secretariat on 27th September, 2021 organized the Countering Violent Extremism Regional Workshop. The theme was; Preventing Terrorist Use of the Internet: The Role for Commonwealth Governments in Africa. It is now evident that terrorist groups just like everyone else are advancing on their use of the internet to spread and recruit potential individuals to join their organizations. They employ several social media platforms and other secretive applications.

A number of counter-terrorism organizations made presentations on what methods they are employing to detect and trace the origin of hidden terror messages, so that they squash the threats as they emanate. The developed Commonwealth countries promised to establish partnerships with the African counter-terrorism organizations to share information and resources as Africa is increasingly experiencing terrorism attacks, the Cabo Delgado province in Mozambique being the most recent and still an on-going attack. The country coordinator and one member represented CYPAN Botswana.

The country coordinator of Pakistan participated and gave a presentation in a webinar on Peace Promotion organized by CYPAN Bangladesh. He was also the moderator for the training on Networking.

CYPAN Cameroon initiated an award scheme to reward its members. The Centre Region was awarded with a cash prize the most active CYPAN Cameroon region for the month of August, while a South West region representative was recognised for his proactiveness.



A token of 5000frs and a certificate was given as recognition to the most active CYPAN Cameroon member for the month of AUGUST by the Country Coordinator and his national team. The awardee, a West Region ambassador, immediately mobilized some ambassadors who purchased some foodstuffs and made their way to the orphanage and shared the joy with orphans.

The training team of CYPAN headquarters held a training on **Networking** on 27th September, 2021 on Zoom. The training aimed at equipping the members with skills to confidently seek successful partnerships with other association members and stakeholders outside the network.

It was moderated by Ali Asif, country coordinator for Pakistan and was facilitated by Bening Ahmed Deputy Secretary General for Pan African Youth Union.

178 members registered to attend and the majority of this were in attendance. A feedback form was shared with participants and 23 responses were recorded. Participants expressed their satisfaction with the training and encouraged the organisers to schedule more training sessions as it is broadening their knowledge and is very valuable and timely in facilitating their endeavours as peace ambassadors.

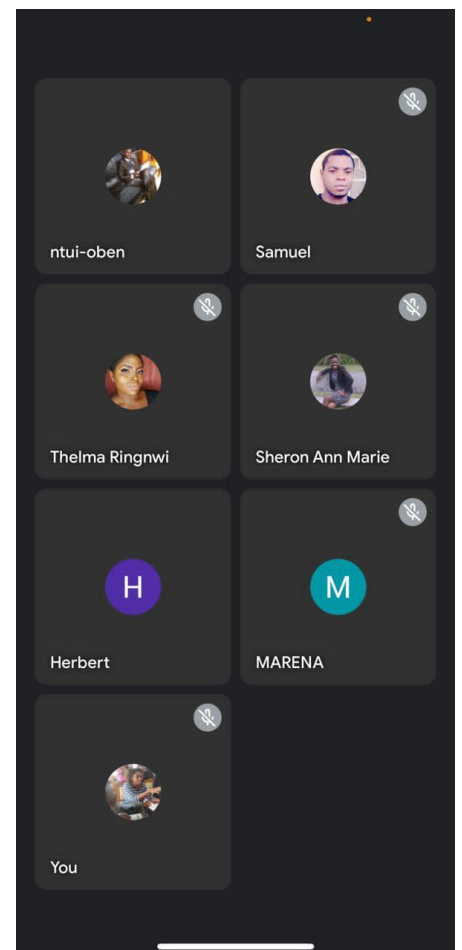
INTERNATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

The International Peace Day is celebrated on 21st September each year. CYPAN Uganda participated in the celebration with a number of online engagements aimed at increasing the awareness of the general public on the need for peaceful conflict resolution, the need for youth participation in peace promotion and improve CYPAN's visibility. Also, the posts shared on their social media platforms garnered a lot of engagements.

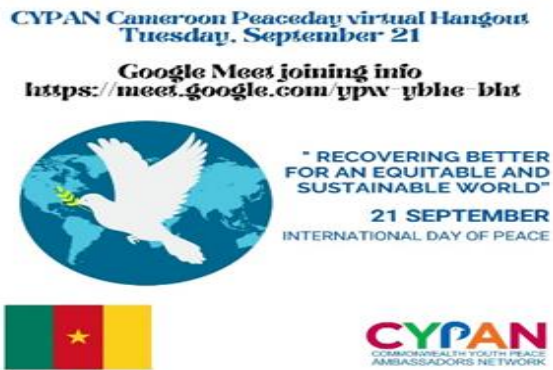
CYPAN Gambia, to celebrate the International Peace Day, held a 2-hour webinar with experts on youth peace and security as guest speakers. The speakers spoke on themes including criminal justice, the role of women in peace building and the role of parliament in ensuring sustainable peace and security.

The webinar resulted in an increased understanding on the role of youth in entrenching sustainable peace. CYPAN members who are research students also used the presentation on criminal justice as reference for their research. A total of 50 persons participated.

CYPAN Cameroon organized a virtual event to commemorate the International Peace Day. Young Cameroonians came together and shared their peace initiatives and achievements for the promotion of peace in the country. 10 CYPAN Cameroon' ambassadors participated; three facilitators shared their experiences in the promotion of peace, social cohesion and pacific coexistence in the country.



18th September is universally celebrated as World Clean-up Day. CYPAN Cameroon members in the west region of Cameroon partnered with other youth focused organizations to voluntarily clean up some public places in the west regional headquarters- Bafoussam.



CYPAN- Nigeria in conjunction with Centre for Peace Advocacy and Sustainable Development (CEPASD) hosted a global virtual event in commemoration of International Peace Day 2021



Nigeria had a dialogue discussion topic on post COVID 19 and how we can harness available resources (ingredients) for sustainable peace. The event was convened by Austine Igweshi a CYPAN member from Abuja, Nigeria and founder of the Centre for Peace Advocacy and Sustainable Development (CEPASD) and had seasoned speakers and panellists from within and outside the

country facilitating the event. The online event was attended by lots of passionate young changemakers and peacebuilders across the country.

PEPNET, known as the Peace Education and Practice Network also organized the International Peace Day 2021 event. The PEPNET team is led by Moses Abolade Adurasegun a committed and devoted member and peacebuilder from Oyo State, Southwest Nigeria.

The theme of the event was on War Stories for Peacebuilding and had lots of young passionate changemakers come together to share stories on the effects of war and insecurity on them. It was really a great event



CHALLENGES

- Though restrictions are gradually easing, it is still not allowed for meetings and certain activities to be organised in Pakistan.
- Botswana is unable to organise very successful virtual activities because most of its members do not have access to the internet.
- Due to frequent internet network disconnections during Gambia's webinar, participants were unable to enjoy the webinar fully.

- Cameroon's West Region has no roll-up or sticker to mount during events and also lacks a projector to facilitate their discussion session and they lack facilities for proper documentation e.g., computer/ laptop. Also, regional representatives do not submit their monthly reports though very active on the ground.
- Lack of funding crippled projects in Nigeria, causing disinterestedness in members who have lots of ideas but no funding for them and we do hope we find solution to this challenge
- Additionally, key state leads for CYPAN Nigeria fell ill during the month, which affected activities.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

- Pakistan will still participate in all trainings and seminars organised by the CYPAN training team whilst organising themselves for a massive membership drive as soon as the current covid measures allow.
- Botswana plans to host a webinar on mental health in October. This is to educate and sensitise members and the general public as two suicide cases were recorded in the last weeks of September.
- Uganda will be celebrating its 59th Independence Day celebration and CYPAN will also participate in the celebration.
- Gambia is ready to roll out the schools outreach programme which had to be postponed numerous times due to seeking approvals from school authorities and logistic challenges. CYPAN has identified 5 schools within two regions in the Gambia to start with next month.
- Cameroon's West Region plans to initiate CYPAN clubs in some secondary schools in the West Region.