

COURT ADMINISTRATION AND CASE MANAGEMENT (CACM)

NEWSLETTER

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Justice cannot be for one side alone, but must be for both — Eleanor Roosevelt

We are delighted to bring you the latest edition of our newsletter. In this edition, we highlight our ongoing efforts to transform criminal justice delivery in Kaduna, Nasarawa, and Plateau states by creating a more efficient, timely, and transparent criminal justice system.

This edition serves as a remarkable testament to the highly productive and synergistic partnership that has evolved between PPDC's Court Administration and Case Management project team and our invaluable stakeholders in the respective states. Together, we have achieved significant milestones that have facilitated transformative change. We are delighted to share with you the latest updates from the field, showcasing the progress made through this collaborative endeavour.

HIGH-LEVEL STATE VISIT WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AFFAIRS (INL) TO PARTNERS

The Plateau State PPDC-CACM team had the privilege of hosting a visit from the INL team, led by Mr. Jason Smith, the Country Head. Joining them were the PPDC, CEO Mr. Jubril Shittu, and the CACM National team, led by the National Coordinator Dr. Toyin Badejogbin. During their visit, the team had the opportunity to engage with our partners in the Ministry of Justice, Plateau State Correctional Services, Magistrate Court, and the High Court. This visit fostered meaningful discussions, strengthened partnerships, and allowed for a firsthand understanding of the project's implementation in Plateau State.



The primary goal of the visit was to foster closer collaboration in the delivery of the project and assess progress in the delivery of the CACM project. The team also visited project sites where they witnessed the renovation of a courtroom where INL-funded equipment will be deployed.

The Plateau State Honourable Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice Hon. Chrysanthus T. Ahmadu Esq appreciated INL and PPDC for

the CACM project and for the visit. He pointed out that an efficient case management system is fundamental in the justice sector of the State, hence the decision of the Ministry of Justice under his watch to wholeheartedly embrace the CACM project.



Cross section of our visit with partners in Plateau state

MAXIMIZING IMPACT THROUGH EFFECTIVE MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In order to maximize our project's impact and ensure successful outcomes in our pilot states, the CACM project recently organized a comprehensive Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning Workshop. This crucial event brought together key stakeholders, including Chief Registrars, the Secretary of the Nasarawa State Judicial Service Commission, senior magistrates, and staff from the Public and Private Development Centre.

We were honoured to have distinguished guests in attendance, including Mr. Chibuzo Ekwewuo, the Board Chairman of PPDC, and Mr. Jason Smith, the representative from the United States Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

The CACM National M&E Officer, Mr. Emmanuel Uche, facilitated sessions, starting with the fundamentals of monitoring and evaluation. He contextualized how the project contributes to

improved national security and stability through a more effective justice delivery system. The importance of managing results across all life systems was emphasised. The distinction and relationship between performance monitoring and evaluation were explained, highlighting the significance of effective results management. This involves establishing connections between problems, causal factors, and a program's purpose.

Various monitoring and evaluation tools were also discussed, including program design, work plans, log frames, and reporting criteria. Mr. Uche further elaborated on the program design and proposal development process, starting from identifying problems, defining objectives and indicators, and determining the methods and individuals responsible for monitoring and evaluation as it relates to the criminal justice system in Nigeria.



The workshop equipped participants with a comprehensive understanding of the primary change, key results, and critical indicators, to which PPDC-CACM has committed itself to INL. Participants also learned how to design and implement effective monitoring and evaluation systems, develop indicators to measure performance, collect and analyze data, and use results to improve project outcomes in their respective courts.

“The M&E training has exposed us to record keeping, we have also been exposed to international best practices for reporting which will aid my work”

Mr. Yahaya Shafa,
Secretary Nasarawa Judicial
Service Commission

“The training has made us appreciate the need and issue of our filing system especially in the area of taking care of our files and securing them, and this will enhance the delivery of justice in the state

Murtala J. Zuairu
Chief Registrar
Kaduna State

It was an impactful and memorable training, something that stood out to me was record keeping is everything and everything is a record. Many people have lost cases due to poor record management and with the knowledge gained at the training, I will ensure that the liberty of an individual is not compromised due to poor record keeping”

Mrs. Esther Ejeh, Chief Registrar Nasarawa State High Court

MOVING FROM STRATEGY TO ACTION: THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE COMMENCES

Following the successful completion of the needs assessment phase, we are excited to announce that the CACM project has now entered the implementation phase, marking a significant transition from strategy to action. This pivotal stage involves the deployment and integration of digital case management and court administration systems to enhance efficiency and effectiveness within the judicial process.

Recognizing the significance of organized records, the project deployed consultants to sort, arrange, index, and catalogue all criminal case files at the Plateau State High Court. These files will be boxed and kept in a standard case-filling unit for easy retrieval, thus minimizing the risk of loss or damage. This process will be replicated across CACM pilot states.

In Nasarawa state, the state Correctional Service provided the project with secure space within the medium security custodial centre to allow for the

establishment of a virtual court; the project has provided computers, cameras, furniture, and an alternative power supply (inverters), allowing individuals in custody or detention to participate in their legal proceedings without physically being present in the courtroom.

This phase signifies a significant milestone in the CACM project, as plans and concepts transform into tangible case management solutions, ensuring streamlined processes, improved accessibility, and ultimately enhancing the justice system.

At the end of the implementation phase, our pilot state Nasarawa, Kaduna, and Plateau will have virtual courts within their custodial centres, speech-to-text solutions in select courtrooms, organized criminal case files that will be indexed and stored in standard case-filling units, and finally a magistrate court secretariat pool equipped with computers, furniture, printers, and inverters.

CREATING A WINNING TEAM BY BUILDING STAFF MORALE

In today's fast-paced and demanding work environments where success is measured by individual achievements, promoting work-life balance, managing security risks, and maintaining mental health support, have become paramount in sustaining the high morale of staff, increased productivity, and relative program success.

In fostering a positive work environment for a more resounding impact harvest, the PPDC Management organized a staff retreat aimed to equip teams with the necessary tools, strategies, and insights to better navigate programme challenges.

PPDC Staff witnessed the power of celebrating milestones through team-building games, activities and feedback loops; acknowledging and reinforcing the shared purpose that drives collective effort and results. Our Team leads held presentations that reiterated a sense of belonging, positive work culture, effective communication, and the well-being that unlocks the full potential

of an individual, ultimately leading to a more effective and efficient team.

Through personal stories and expert insights, our staff also had the privilege to interact with professional health officers and security leads who provided a holistic approach to addressing the challenges faced by teams in stress-prone work environments.



PHOTO STORY

Here are some pictures from the CACM activities in the last quarter



Pictures from our meeting with the Plateau State Controller of Correctional Service, Mr. Raphael Ibinuhi



Meeting with the Plateau State Honourable Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice Hon. Chrysanthus T. Ahmadu Esq



The team inspecting the space allocated by the Nasarawa State Judicial Service Commission for the Magistrate Secretariat Pool

ABOUT PPDC

Public and Private Development Centre (PPDC) is a non-governmental organisation and social enterprise driven by the desire to have a more transparent and accountable government and to increase citizens' participation in governance processes. Our programs are designed to promote values and initiatives which drive institutional, behavioural and systemic change in our society.

PPDC OFFICES:



Block L, House No. 2, Plot 622,
Mercy Samuelson Estate, Karmo District, Abuja.

29, Ndjamenana Crescent, Wuse 2, Abuja

GET IN TOUCH:



0913 219 5962
0706 661 8896



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