

## LITE-Africa

The Leadership Initiative for Transformation and Empowerment (LITE-Africa) is a Nigerian non-governmental organization (NGO) operating in Nigeria since 1999. LITE-Africa's vision is to create a safe space for peace and development. Our mission is to facilitate sustainable peace and development, promote human rights and participatory governance in Nigeria through partnerships, advocacy engagements, public awareness, research and capacity building initiatives. Our programmes focus on six thematic areas which are: Human Rights, Security Sector Reform and Peace-building, Good Governance and Accountability, Sustainable Livelihoods, Development Finance Programmes, Humanitarian Support and Health Services.

## PRAWA

PRAWA is a non-governmental charitable organization, established in December 1994 with a vision to desire the emergence of a humane and secure society that corrects and empowers to prevent crime, violence and torture and with a mission to promote institutional reforms in formal and informal sector for Access to justice, rehabilitation, and social development of prisoners, ex-prisoners, torture victim and youth at risk. PRAWA promotes human rights for people in prison while working to help those who have survived their prison term to successfully integrate into the community

## DCAF

Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance is dedicated to making states and people safer through more effective and accountable security and justice. Since 2000, the Centre has facilitated, driven and shaped Security Sector Reform (SSR) policy and programming around the world. Good Security Sector Governance (SSG), based on the rule of law and respect for human rights, is a cornerstone of development and security. DCAF assists partner states in developing laws, institutions, policies and practices to improve the governance of their security sector through inclusive and participatory reforms based on international norms and good practices. In everything we do, DCAF adheres to the principles of impartiality, local ownership, inclusive participation and gender equality. DCAF's Foundation Council includes 57 members representing 54 countries and the Canton of Geneva. DCAF is Headquartered at the Maison de la Paix in Geneva..

### Implementing Partners:

#### LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE FOR TRANSFORMATION AND EMPOWERMENT (LITE-Africa)

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#### National Human Rights Commission

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This project is being undertaken in partnership with DCAF- Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance with support from Switzerland and the UK through DCAF's Security and Human Rights Implementation Mechanism (SHRIM)



# Reinforcing Voluntary Principles Implementation in Nigeria: Promoting Respect for Security and Human Rights



**Q: What is the name of the project?**

A: Reinforcing Voluntary Principles Implementation in Nigeria

**Q: What are the project objectives?**

A: The project will support local-level implementation of the VPs in communities affected by extractive operations and reinforce the capacities of the Nigeria Working Group on the VPs at the national level with the view to two objectives:

1. Raise awareness of the VPs within two communities affected by extractive operations and support engagement between government, companies and the communities to address security and human rights concerns through the Nigeria Working Group on the VPs
2. Support and reinforce the capacities of the Nigeria Working Group on the VPs to inform and engage with relevant national authorities in order to promote VPs good practices at the national level.

**Q: What are the project outputs?**

- a. Community workshop meetings organized by PRAWA and DCAF in December 2021 raises awareness of the VPs and other good practices on security and human rights in two Nigerian Communities affected by extractive operations (Owaza Community and Ibeno Community).
- b. In March 2022, DCAF, PRAWA and LITE-Africa will organize a Nigeria Working Group meeting to bring together and table community concerns in two Nigeria communities directly with the Nigeria Working Group on the VPs.
- c. The project will also engage the Nigeria National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

and its representatives in Akwa Ibom and Abia States and link the NHRC to the community representatives.

- d. In March 2022, the project partners will also organize a technical workshop with government ministries to identify key implementation gaps in the VPs and develop a roadmap to address regulatory gaps/challenges.

**Q: What are the Vps?**

A: Created in 2000, the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights is a multi-stakeholder initiative involving governments, companies and NGOs that promotes the implementation of a set of principles that guide companies on providing security for their operations in a manner that respects human rights.

**Q: Who are the beneficiaries?**

A: The beneficiaries include host Communities, companies in the extractive sector, Nigeria Working Group on the VPs members and the Nigerian Government.

**NWG**

The Nigeria Working Group on the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights was created in June 2017. The group promotes the implementation of Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights in Nigeria through a mix of activities including periodic review meetings, research, advocacy engagement, multi-stakeholder dialogues, community outreach, public awareness, and capacity building initiatives. The Group's objective is to share best practices, foster communication, and raise awareness related to local security and human rights context. The group comprises representatives from

signatory and non-signatory governments, NGOs, and corporate pillar members to the VPs. The NWG is co-chaired by an NGO (Leadership Initiative for Transformation and Empowerment), and Government pillar member (the Swiss Embassy in Nigeria).

**What the project will do**

- a. Bring together stakeholders in the extractive industry within the project communities to promote healthy dialogue around issues of security and human rights concerns.
- b. Encourage dialogue to help stakeholders learn from one another and develop internal policies and procedures to minimise the likelihood of human rights violations.
- c. Facilitate a collaborative approach towards joint problem-solving and develop mutually accepted solutions by relevant stakeholders to stem the tide of human rights violations.
- d. Build the capacity of communities' members on the VPs and strengthen the capacity of the Nigeria Working Group to address community level security and human rights concerns.
- e. The project will provide a space for dialogue and tabling challenges to develop a roadmap for implementation.

**What the project will not do**

- a. The Nigeria Working Group on the VPs meeting will **not** discuss specific security and human rights concerns at this time but will rather focus on how the Working Group can better address community-level concerns through multistakeholder dialogue in the future.
- b. The project meetings will not serve as an arbitration/mediation panel for specific issues of concern.