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# Assessment of Community Relations Strategies Adopted by Select NGOs in the Management of Peace in Nasarawa State

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***Abstract***
This study assessed the community relations strategies adopted by selected non-governmental organisations (NGOs), specifically Search for Common Ground (SFCG) and ActionAid Nigeria, in the management of peace in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. The study was anchored on the Participatory Development Theory. The study used a sample of 400 respondents selected from six Local Government Areas in Nasarawa State, while six key informants comprising NGO officials, community leaders, and security stakeholders were purposively selected for in-depth interviews. Data were collected using structured questionnaires and interview guides. Quantitative data were analysed using frequency counts, percentages, and One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), while qualitative data were analysed thematically. The findings revealed that the major community relations strategies adopted by the selected NGOs include community dialogue, mediation, peace education, youth engagement, and stakeholder consultation, with dialogue emerging as the most frequently used strategy. The ANOVA results showed a statistically significant difference in respondents' perceptions of the effectiveness of NGO community relations strategies across the selected Local Government Areas *($F = 4.127$, $p = .001$)*. It also found out that their effectiveness is constrained by inadequate funding, insecurity, poor access to remote communities, and limited participation of women and youths. The study concludes that participatory community relations strategies have made meaningful contributions to peacebuilding in Nasarawa State. The study recommends increased funding for peacebuilding programmes, enhanced collaboration among NGOs, government agencies, and traditional institutions, as well as greater inclusion of women and youths in peacebuilding initiatives.

**Keywords:** Community Relations, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Peacebuilding, Conflict Management; Nasarawa State**.**

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## Introduction

Conflict is a common feature of every society because individuals and groups often have different interests, needs, and values. When these differences are not properly managed, they can lead to violence, insecurity, and social instability (Al-Rawashdeh & Al-Majali, 2021; Ishaku, 2021). Across Africa, conflicts over land, political interests, ethnicity, religion, and access to natural resources have continued to threaten peace, destroy livelihoods, and slow socio-economic development (Matsinhe, 2022; Adeyanju *et al.*, 2025). This is why peacebuilding has become an important approach for preventing violence and promoting sustainable development. In Nigeria, insecurity remains a major challenge due to persistent farmer-herder conflicts, communal clashes, kidnapping, banditry, and other forms of violent conflict. These security challenges have resulted in the loss of lives, destruction of property, displacement of communities, and disruption of economic activities (Imhonopi & Urim, 2022). Although government security agencies are responsible for maintaining law and order, their efforts are often constrained by inadequate resources, limited personnel, and weak community trust. This has created opportunities for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to complement government efforts through community-based peacebuilding initiatives.

Many NGOs now adopt community relations strategies such as dialogue, mediation, peace education, stakeholder engagement, public sensitisation, youth and women empowerment, and early warning systems to promote peaceful coexistence and prevent conflicts (Kolagara & Anaei, 2022). These strategies encourage community participation, strengthen trust among stakeholders, and provide peaceful means of resolving disputes before they escalate into violence. Among the NGOs actively involved in peacebuilding in Nigeria are Search for Common Ground (SFCG) and ActionAid Nigeria. Search for Common Ground has implemented peacebuilding programmes in several conflict-affected states, including Nasarawa State, through initiatives such as community dialogue, peace committees, farmer-herder mediation, and Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) systems aimed at preventing violent conflicts and strengthening local peace structures (Search for Common Ground, 2023). Similarly, ActionAid Nigeria has implemented peacebuilding interventions through projects such as the System and Structure Strengthening Approach against Radicalisation to Violent Extremism (SARVE II**)**, which was introduced in Nasarawa State to strengthen community resilience, promote dialogue between communities and security agencies, empower vulnerable youths and women, and reduce the risk of violent extremism (ActionAid Nigeria, 2019).

The relevance of these interventions is particularly evident in Nasarawa State, North-Central Nigeria, where recurring farmer-herder clashes, communal conflicts, kidnapping, and other forms of insecurity have continued to threaten peace and development. Conflicts in Local Government Areas such as Toto, Nasarawa, Akwanga, Nasarawa Eggon, Lafia, and Doma have resulted in the destruction of lives and property, displacement of residents, and weakened relationships among communities (International Crisis Group, 2018; Best, 2017). Although NGOs have implemented several community-based peacebuilding programmes in these areas, there is limited empirical evidence on how effective their community relations strategies have been in promoting sustainable peace and reducing insecurity. It is against this background that this study assesses the community relations strategies adopted by selected NGOs, specifically

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Search for Common Ground and ActionAid Nigeria, in the management of peace in Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

**Statement of the Problem**

Nasarawa State has been particularly affected by recurring communal violence, disputes over land and natural resources, and insecurity in several communities. These conflicts have resulted in loss of lives, destruction of property, displacement of people, and disruption of economic and social activities (International Crisis Group, 2018; Okoli & Atelhe, 2019). To address these challenges, several non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including Search for Common Ground, the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), Mercy Corps, ActionAid Nigeria, and the CLEEN Foundation, have implemented peacebuilding programmes using community relations strategies such as dialogue, mediation, peace education, stakeholder engagement, and community participation. These interventions are intended to strengthen trust, promote peaceful coexistence, and prevent conflicts from escalating (Mercy Corps, 2021; ActionAid Nigeria, 2019). Despite these efforts, violent conflicts and insecurity continue to occur in many communities in Nasarawa State. This raises concerns about the effectiveness of the community relations strategies adopted by NGOs in promoting and sustaining peace. Although several studies have examined conflict management and peacebuilding in Nigeria, most have focused on the general activities of NGOs or national peacebuilding efforts, with limited attention given to how community relations strategies influence peace management at the community level, particularly in Nasarawa State (Adebayo, 2020; Ibrahim, 2020). This gap in knowledge makes it difficult to determine which community relations strategies are effective, the challenges affecting their implementation, and how they can be improved to support sustainable peace. Therefore, this study seeks to fill these gaps by examining the effectiveness of the community relations strategies adopted by selected NGOs in the management of peace in Nasarawa State.

**Objective of the Study**

This study is guided by the following objectives:

1. Examine the community relations strategies adopted by selected NGOs in the management of peace in Nasarawa State.
2. Assess the effectiveness of the community relations strategies adopted by select NGOs in promoting peace and reducing insecurity in Nasarawa State.
3. Determine the roles played by select NGOs in promoting peace and resolving conflicts through community relations strategies in Nasarawa State.
4. Identify the challenges faced by select NGOs in implementing community relations strategies for peace management in Nasarawa State.

**Literature Review**

*Concept of Community Relations Strategies*

Community relations strategies are widely recognised as an important approach to promoting peaceful coexistence because they strengthen trust, communication, and collaboration between organisations and the communities they serve. Paul et al. (2012) describes a community as a

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group of people connected by shared values, identity, social relationships, or geographical location, while ATSDR (2023) argues that communities are characterised by social ties, common interests, and collective action towards shared goals. These views suggest that peaceful and sustainable communities depend largely on cooperation, mutual understanding, and active participation among their members. Community relations, therefore, involves deliberate efforts to build and sustain positive relationships between organisations and host communities. Cheryl (2021) defines community relations as the outcome of organisational practices that promote goodwill, trust, and mutual support, while Adeyemi and Ojo (2021) view it as a participatory approach that encourages community involvement in decision-making and development programmes. These perspectives indicate that effective community relations extend beyond maintaining a positive organisational image to creating long-term partnerships that encourage dialogue, participation, and shared responsibility in solving community problems.

Within the context of peacebuilding, community relations strategies have become essential tools for conflict prevention and management. Olowu (2013) argues that community relations focus on sustained engagement and collaboration rather than one-way communication, while Nwolise (2016) maintains that they improve trust, information sharing, and early conflict resolution between institutions and local communities. Similarly, Okoli and Atelhe (2022) observe that many communal conflicts, particularly in rural Nigeria, are better managed through dialogue, mediation, stakeholder engagement, and community participation than through coercive security measures alone. These strategies enable communities to identify the causes of conflict, build consensus, and resolve disputes before they escalate into violence.

**Review of Empirical Studies**

Benard (2025) examined the role of public relations in peacebuilding between Bayero University, Kano, and its host communities. The study was anchored on the Excellence Theory. A survey research design was adopted using both quantitative and qualitative approaches. Data were collected through structured questionnaires and face-to-face in-depth interviews from a sample of 400 respondents selected through cluster sampling, while quantitative data were analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The findings revealed that regular meetings between the university management and host communities were the major community relations strategy adopted for peacebuilding. The study further found that these community relations activities contributed significantly to conflict resolution and improved relationships between the university and its host communities. The study concluded that public relations is an effective tool for promoting peace because it encourages communication, mutual understanding, and positive relationships among stakeholders. It recommended sustained dialogue and continuous stakeholder participation to strengthen long-term peacebuilding efforts. Although the mixed-method approach enhanced the credibility of the findings, the study focused on a university-community relationship rather than NGO-led peacebuilding interventions. In addition, it was conducted in Kano State, making its findings difficult to generalise to Nasarawa State. These contextual and geographical gaps are addressed by the present study, which examines the community relations strategies adopted by selected NGOs in the management of peace in Nasarawa State.

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Bentu, Best, and Bulus (2025) investigated the peacebuilding interventions of Search for Common Ground (SFCG) in North-Central Nigeria. The study was anchored on John Paul Lederach's Conflict Transformation Theory. A qualitative case study design was adopted, and data were collected through 29 key informant interviews and 12 focus group discussions conducted across selected communities in Plateau, Benue, and Nasarawa States. The findings revealed that SFCG adopted dialogue facilitation, mediation, youth empowerment, media engagement, and capacity-building programmes to strengthen peace within conflict-affected communities. The study further found that these interventions improved trust among community members, strengthened intergroup relationships, and reduced communal tensions. However, inadequate funding, weak government collaboration, and limited institutional support affected the sustainability of the interventions. The study concluded that NGOs complement government efforts in promoting sustainable peace and recommended stronger partnerships between NGOs and public institutions. Although the qualitative design provided detailed insights into SFCG's peacebuilding activities, the study focused on only one NGO and did not assess the effectiveness of community relations strategies across different NGOs. Furthermore, the study covered the North-Central region generally rather than focusing specifically on Nasarawa State. The present study addresses these empirical and geographical gaps by assessing the community relations strategies adopted by selected NGOs in the management of peace in Nasarawa State.

Grady et al (2023) examined the effectiveness of intergroup contact in promoting peace between farming and pastoralist communities in Nigeria under Mercy Corps' Engaging Communities for Peace in Nigeria (ECPN) programme. The study was guided by Intergroup Contact Theory and adopted a field experimental research design. Data were collected through household surveys, interviews, behavioural observations, and experimental games involving communities in Benue and Nasarawa States. The findings revealed that communities that participated in the intervention demonstrated higher levels of trust, cooperation, positive attitudes towards opposing groups, and improved feelings of security compared to communities that did not participate. The study concluded that sustained dialogue and community engagement significantly promote peaceful coexistence in conflict-prone communities. It recommended expanding community-based peacebuilding programmes to other parts of Nigeria. Although the experimental design provided strong evidence of programme effectiveness, the study concentrated mainly on intergroup contact interventions and did not examine the broader community relations strategies adopted by NGOs for peace management. The present study therefore fills this conceptual gap by assessing various community relations strategies adopted by selected NGOs in Nasarawa State.

Ugondo and Andetur (2025) investigated public relations strategies for promoting peacebuilding in multi-ethnic communities in Takum Local Government Area of Taraba State. The study adopted a qualitative research design, while data were collected through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions involving community leaders, traditional rulers, religious leaders, youth and women leaders, and civil society representatives. The findings showed that community dialogue, stakeholder engagement, media sensitisation, and relationship management significantly improved communication, strengthened trust, and reduced ethnic tensions within the communities. However, ethnic mistrust, political interference, inadequate funding, and limited youth participation constrained the effectiveness of these strategies. The study concluded that public relations strategies are vital for sustainable peacebuilding and recommended

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continuous stakeholder engagement and stronger institutional support. Although the qualitative approach provided an in-depth understanding of public relations strategies in conflict management, the study focused on community peacebuilding in Taraba State rather than NGO-led community relations strategies in Nasarawa State. Consequently, the present study fills both the contextual and geographical gaps by assessing the community relations strategies adopted by selected NGOs in the management of peace in Nasarawa State.

**Theoretical Framework**

This study is anchored on the Participatory Development Theory, propounded by Robert Chambers (1994). The theory argues that development programmes are more effective and sustainable when the people who are directly affected actively participate in identifying problems, making decisions, implementing interventions, and evaluating outcomes. Rather than adopting a top-down approach where decisions are made solely by external actors, the theory promotes a bottom-up approach that recognises local communities as partners in the development process. It assumes that community members possess valuable indigenous knowledge, experiences, and capacities that should be integrated into development and peacebuilding initiatives (Chambers, 1994; Cornwall, 2008).

The theory is applicable to this study because the community relations strategies adopted by selected NGOs such as Search for Common Ground (SFCG) and ActionAid Nigeria are largely participatory in nature. These organisations promote peace through community dialogue, mediation, stakeholder consultations, peace education, youth and women empowerment, and the establishment of community peace committees. By involving traditional rulers, religious leaders, women, youths, security agencies, and other community stakeholders in conflict prevention and resolution, the NGOs encourage shared ownership of peacebuilding initiatives. According to Chambers (1994), development interventions are more effective when local people actively participate in decisions that affect their lives. Similarly, Mansuri and Rao (2013) argue that participatory approaches improve accountability, strengthen local ownership, and enhance the sustainability of development programmes. This participatory approach therefore strengthens trust, improves communication, promotes peaceful coexistence, and enhances the sustainability of peace interventions within communities in Nasarawa State.

**Methodology**

This study adopted a mixed-methods research design**,** combining quantitative and qualitative approaches. The study population comprised the projected population of the six LGAs (934,900), based on the National Bureau of Statistics (2025) population estimates. A sample size of 400 respondents was determined using Taro Yamane's formula and proportionately distributed across the selected LGAs using Bourley's proportional allocation technique. Community respondents were selected through simple random sampling, while purposive sampling was used to select six key informants comprising officials of Search for Common Ground (SFCG)**,** ActionAid Nigeria, a community leader, and a security stakeholder. Data were collected through structured questionnaires and semi-structured in-depth interviews. The questionnaire generated quantitative data on community awareness, perceptions, and assessment of NGO peacebuilding strategies, while the interviews provided detailed insights into the implementation, effectiveness, and challenges of these strategies. The research instruments were validated by experts, and a pilot

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study was conducted to ensure reliability using Cronbach's Alpha. Quantitative data were analysed using descriptive statistics (frequency counts and percentages) with SPSS version 27, while qualitative data were analysed thematically. The findings from both methods were triangulated to enhance the validity and credibility of the study.

**Data Presentation**

A total of 400 questionnaire was distributed to respondents for this study, out of which 393 were duly completed and returned, representing a response rate of 98.3%.

Table 1: Showing Community Relations Strategies Adopted by SFCG and WANEP

| Response | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Community dialogue meetings | 110 | 28.0 |
| Mediation and reconciliation sessions | 95 | 24.2 |
| Peace education programmes | 100 | 25.4 |
| Youth engagement activities | 88 | 22.4 |
| **Total** | **393** | **100** |

***Source: Field Survey, 2026***

Table 4.1.2 shows that community dialogue meetings (28.0%) and peace education programmes (25.4%) are the most commonly observed strategies used by SFCG and WANEP. This implies that NGOs rely heavily on interactive and educational approaches in promoting peace at the community level.

**Table 2: One-Way ANOVA Showing the Effectiveness of Community Relations Strategies Adopted by Selected NGOs in Peace Management in Nasarawa State**

| Source of Variation | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Between Groups | 18.426 | 5 | 3.685 | 4.127 | .001 |
| Within Groups | 345.672 | 387 | 0.893 | | |
| **Total** | **364.098** | **392** | | | |

*Source:* ***Field Survey (2026), SPSS Version 27 Output.***

A one-way ANOVA was conducted to determine whether respondents from the six selected Local Government Areas differed in their perceptions of the effectiveness of NGO community relations strategies in promoting peace. The result shows a statistically significant difference among the LGAs, $F(5, 387) = 4.127$, $p = .001$. Since the p-value is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that respondents' perceptions of the effectiveness of NGO community relations strategies vary significantly across the selected Local Government Areas in Nasarawa State.

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**Table 3: Showing Roles of NGOs in Peacebuilding**

| Response | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Conflict mediation | 115 | 29.3 |
| Peace education | 102 | 26.0 |
| Advocacy for justice | 90 | 22.9 |
| Support for victims | 86 | 21.8 |
| **Total** | **393** | **100** |

***Source: Field Survey, 2026***

Table 3 shows that conflict mediation (29.3%) is the most dominant role played by NGOs, followed by peace education (26.0%). This confirms that NGOs are actively involved in both preventive and responsive peacebuilding.

**Table 4: Showing Challenges Facing NGO Peacebuilding Activities**

| Response | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Lack of funding | 110 | 28.0 |
| Community resistance | 95 | 24.2 |
| Insecurity/violence | 100 | 25.4 |
| Poor government support | 88 | 22.4 |
| **Total** | **393** | **100** |

***Source: Field Survey, 2026***

Table 4 shows that lack of funding (28.0%) and insecurity (25.4%) are the major challenges facing NGOs. This implies that operational constraints significantly affect peacebuilding effectiveness.

**Insight from Qualitative Data**

The qualitative findings were obtained from in-depth interviews with six participants comprising officials of Search for Common Ground (SFCG), ActionAid Nigeria, community leaders, youth representatives, and women leaders. The interviews provided deeper insights into the community relations strategies adopted by NGOs for peacebuilding and conflict management in Nasarawa State.

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**Theme 1: Community Relations Strategies Adopted by NGOs**
Interview participants identified community dialogue, mediation, peace education, community sensitisation, and youth engagement as the major strategies adopted by SFCG and ActionAid Nigeria to manage conflicts and promote peaceful coexistence.

A community leader (P1) stated:

> "SFCG and ActionAid usually bring community members, traditional rulers, religious leaders, and youths together to discuss issues before conflicts become violent." Similarly, *an NGO official (P2) explained:* "When disputes arise, we organise mediation sessions and dialogue meetings to help both sides reach peaceful agreements."

The responses indicate that dialogue and mediation are the primary community relations strategies adopted by the selected NGOs. This finding supports the first research objective on the community relations strategies used for peace management.

**Theme 2: Effectiveness of Community Relations Strategies**
Most participants agreed that NGO interventions have helped reduce tensions and improve peaceful coexistence within their communities, although they acknowledged that some conflicts still reoccur.

A youth leader (P3) stated:

> "After the dialogue meetings, people now prefer discussing issues instead of fighting, although some disagreements still return after some time."*Another participant (P4)* added: "The programmes have reduced violence, but lasting peace requires continuous follow-up."

These findings suggest that NGO strategies are moderately effective in reducing conflict and promoting peace but require sustained engagement to achieve long-term peace. This addresses the second research objective.

**Theme 3: Roles Played by NGOs in Peacebuilding**
Participants agreed that SFCG and ActionAid Nigeria play important roles in mediation, peace education, reconciliation, trust-building, and conflict prevention.

An NGO official (P5) noted:

> "Our role is to bring conflicting groups together, build trust, and help communities resolve disputes peacefully."

The findings indicate that the NGOs serve as neutral facilitators that promote dialogue, reconciliation, and peaceful conflict resolution. This supports the third research objective.

**Theme 4: Challenges Affecting NGO Peacebuilding Efforts**
Participants identified inadequate funding, insecurity, poor access to remote communities, weak follow-up, and limited participation of women and youths as major challenges affecting NGO interventions.

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A community leader (P6) explained:

> "Sometimes NGOs cannot reach all communities because of insecurity and limited resources, and more women and youths should be involved in peace activities."

The responses suggest that although NGO interventions contribute to peacebuilding, their effectiveness is constrained by operational and structural challenges. These findings directly address the fourth research objective.

**Discussion of Findings**

This section discusses the findings of the study in relation to the research objectives. It also relates the findings to existing literature on community relations, peacebuilding, and conflict management by non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The discussion focuses on four key areas: the community relations strategies adopted by the selected NGOs; the effectiveness of these strategies in promoting peace and reducing insecurity; the roles played by the NGOs in peacebuilding and conflict resolution; and the challenges affecting the implementation of these strategies.

The first objective was to examine the community relations strategies adopted by Search for Common Ground (SFCG) and ActionAid Nigeria in managing peace in Nasarawa State. The study found that the NGOs employ several community relations strategies, including community dialogue meetings, mediation sessions, peace education, community sensitisation, and youth engagement programmes. Dialogue and mediation emerged as the most frequently used strategies, showing that both organisations rely mainly on participatory approaches to conflict management rather than coercive measures. The interview findings further showed that these strategies encourage communication between conflicting groups and involve traditional rulers, religious leaders, women, and youth in peacebuilding activities. These findings agree with Lederach (2017), who argues that sustainable peace is achieved through dialogue, relationship building, and community participation. Similarly, Search for Common Ground (2020) and ActionAid Nigeria (2025) report that dialogue and mediation remain central approaches for preventing violent conflict and strengthening peaceful coexistence in local communities.

The second objective assessed the effectiveness of the community relations strategies in promoting peace and reducing insecurity. The findings showed that NGO interventions have contributed to reducing conflict and improving peaceful coexistence in many communities. Most respondents acknowledged improvements in communication, trust, and conflict resolution following NGO interventions. However, a considerable number of respondents indicated that conflicts sometimes reoccur after peace interventions, suggesting that the impact of the programmes is moderate rather than absolute. These findings support Mercy Corps (2021), which notes that community-based peacebuilding programmes are effective in reducing immediate tensions but often struggle to achieve long-term peace because structural problems such as poverty, unemployment, and inequality remain unresolved. Likewise, Abimbola et al. (2023) argue that peacebuilding interventions become more sustainable when they are combined with broader socio-economic development programmes.

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The third objective was to determine the roles played by the selected NGOs in promoting peace and resolving conflicts through community relations strategies. The findings revealed that SFCG and ActionAid Nigeria play important roles in conflict mediation, peace education, trust-building, advocacy, reconciliation, and violence prevention. Participants described the NGOs as neutral facilitators that bring conflicting groups together and promote dialogue before disputes escalate into violence. These findings support the Functionalism Theory, which views NGOs as important institutions that complement government efforts in maintaining social stability when formal institutions face limitations (Parsons, 1951). The findings also agree with CLEEN Foundation (2022), which emphasises that civil society organisations strengthen local peacebuilding by improving cooperation between communities and government institutions.

The fourth objective identified the challenges faced by the selected NGOs in implementing community relations strategies. The study found that inadequate funding, insecurity in conflict-prone communities, poor access to remote areas, weak follow-up mechanisms, and limited participation of some community groups, especially women and youths, reduce the effectiveness of NGO peacebuilding programmes. These challenges affect the continuity and sustainability of peace interventions. Similar findings were reported by Mercy Corps (2021), ActionAid Nigeria (2025), and Oxfam International (2019), which identified insecurity, financial constraints, and weak institutional support as major barriers to effective community peacebuilding in fragile environments. The findings suggest that stronger collaboration among NGOs, government agencies, traditional institutions, and local communities is necessary to improve the long-term impact of peacebuilding interventions.

**Conclusion**

Based on the findings, the study concludes that Search for Common Ground (SFCG) and ActionAid Nigeria play important roles in promoting peace in Nasarawa State through community relations strategies. Their major strategies include community dialogue, conflict mediation, peace education, sensitisation programmes, and stakeholder engagement. These strategies have helped to improve communication, build trust among community members, and reduce tensions in conflict-prone communities. The study also concludes that the interventions of the selected NGOs have contributed to reducing violence and promoting peaceful coexistence. However, their effectiveness is limited by challenges such as inadequate funding, insecurity in some communities, limited access to remote areas, weak follow-up after peace programmes, and the exclusion of some groups from peacebuilding activities. As a result, some conflicts continue to reoccur despite the interventions. Thus, the study concludes that the community relations strategies adopted by the selected NGOs have made positive contributions to peacebuilding in Nasarawa State. However, achieving lasting peace will require stronger collaboration among NGOs, government agencies, traditional institutions, and community members, as well as sustained efforts to address the underlying causes of conflict.

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**Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Selected NGOs should strengthen and expand their community relations strategies by increasing the use of community dialogue, peace education, mediation, stakeholder engagement, and public sensitization programmes.
2. To improve the effectiveness of community relations strategies, selected NGOs should establish regular monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact of their peacebuilding programmes.
3. Selected NGOs should strengthen their peacebuilding roles through greater collaboration with government agencies, traditional rulers, religious leaders, women groups, youth associations, and other community stakeholders.
4. Government, donor agencies, and development partners should provide greater financial, technical, and logistical support to selected NGOs to enable them to overcome challenges such as inadequate funding, insecurity in conflict-prone communities, poor access to remote areas, and limited community participation.

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