



REPORT

SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE NIGERIAN ARMED FORCES
ON ILLICIT SUBSTANCE USE AND OTHER ABUSES



MARCH 10, 2022

BABA-RABI FOUNDATION AND AFRICAN COUNCIL ON NARCOTICS

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1. BACKGROUND

Upon the approval of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Lucky Irabor, Baba-Rabi Foundation (BARAF) and the African Council on Narcotics (ACON) successfully carried out a sensitization programme for the Nigerian Armed Forces on illicit substance use and other abuses. The sensitization programme took place in the Nigerian Army School of Infantry (NASI) located in Jaji, Kaduna State.

The objectives of the programme are as follows:

- i. To promote activities that will enhance healthy, drug- free lifestyles, and promote high level professional performance among the officers and men of the Nigerian Armed Forces including the Army, Navy and Air force.
- ii. To improve upon the psychological stability and alertness of officers and personnel of the Nigeria armed forces.
- iii. To address issues associated with the abuse of illicit substances, humanitarian abuses including forced sex, torture and other extra judicial actions.
- iv. To address problems associated with substance abuse and its attendant consequences on the psych, performance and families of officers and men of the armed forces.
- v. To provide an opportunity for counselling and profferment of psychological therapy for drug dependent personnel some of who may be struggling with severe psychological and emotional problems.
- vi. To reassure the participants of their welfare, support and the due care of the military authorities having regards to their general well-being and emotional stability.

2. RESULTS

Although the programme was initially planned for 300 participants, but as it transpired, over 1,200 officers and men of the Nigerian Armed Forces participated in the programme (Kindly find attached attendance register in Annex 1).

Furthermore, the participants that attended the programme were given evaluation forms to complete. This was done in order to measure the impact of the sensitization programme as well as to ascertain their knowledge on matters related to drug abuse etc.

As aforementioned, the programme was held for three days and evaluation forms were administered to the participants on each day of the programme. The following Tables summarize the responses of the participants present at the programme (Please find attached Annex 2 for completed evaluation forms).

Table 1: Summary of responses from participants' evaluation forms for day one

S/N	QUESTIONS	YES (%)	NO (%)
1	Have you known about dangerous drug before now?	75%	25%
2	This sensitization programme has increased my awareness about drug abuse and its effects?	98%	2%
3	Do drugs make one more courageous when facing combat situations?	18%	82%
4	Can you face a combat situation without being high on substance?	91%	9%
5	Do you feel calm and function better when high on substance?	14%	86%
6	The knowledge you have gained from this programme is it useful?	100%	0
7	Will you share the knowledge this programme with others?	100%	0
8	Do you suggest that your colleagues elsewhere should also gain from this	100%	0

Table 2: Summary of responses from participants' evaluation forms for day two

S/N	QUESTIONS	YES (%)	NO (%)
1	Have you known about dangerous drug before now?	70%	30%
2	This sensitization programme has increased my awareness about drug abuse and its effects?	94%	6%
3	Do drugs make one more courageous when facing combat situations?	58%	42%
4	Can you face a combat situation without being high on substance?	89%	11%
5	Do you feel calm and function better when high on substance?	44%	56%
6	The knowledge you have gained from this programme is it useful?	98%	2%
7	Will you share the knowledge this programme with others?	96%	4%
8	Do you suggest that your colleagues elsewhere should also gain from this	98%	2%

Table 3: Summary of responses from participants' evaluation forms for day three

S/N	QUESTIONS	YES (%)	NO (%)
1	Have you known about dangerous drug before now?	90%	10%
2	This sensitization programme has increased my awareness about drug abuse and its effects?	100%	0
3	Do drugs make one more courageous when facing combat situations?	29%	71%
4	Can you face a combat situation without being high on substance?	96%	4%
5	Do you feel calm and function better when high on substance?	11%	89%
6	The knowledge you have gained from this programme is it useful?	100%	0
7	Will you share the knowledge this programme with others?	100%	0
8	Do you suggest that your colleagues elsewhere should also gain from this	100%	0

Figures 1 – 5 show some of the images that were taken during the three-day sensitization programme for Members of the Nigerian Armed forces in Jaji-Kaduna state.



Figure 1: Images of members of the Nigerian Military during the Sensitization programme

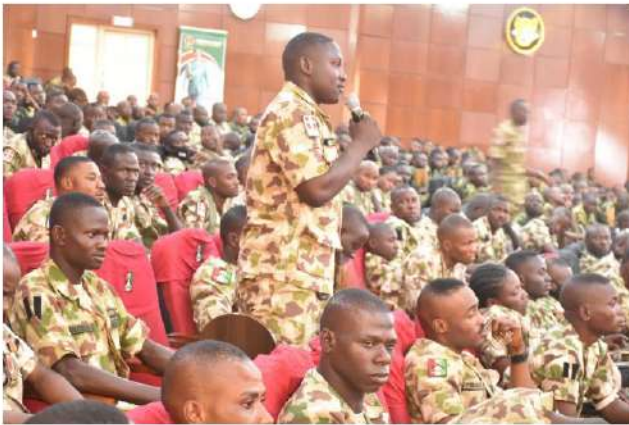


Figure 2: Images showcasing the “Question & Answer” session at the sensitization programme



Figure 3: Images of participants during the sensitization programme



Figure 4: Images of the facilitators' meeting with the Commandant of the Nigerian Army School of Infantry (NASI)



Figure 5: Images of the facilitators and members of the Nigerian Military at the end of the sensitization programme

3. CONCLUSION

Other than logistics constraints, the programme was well attended and gladly received by participants as reflected in the evaluation feedbacks of participants attached herewith.

We, however, note our profound appreciation to the Chief of Defence Staff, General Lucky Irabor, Director of Medical Services, Surg Cdre NB Onwere, the Commandant of Nigerian Army School of Infantry (NASI), Jaji – Kaduna, Major General MG Ali, the Deputy Commandant of NASI, Brigadier General EC Obi-Osang.

Also, the two representatives of the Defence Headquarters - Group Captain R. Abdullahi and Squadron Leader A.J. Audu - who helped out in the successful execution of the programme did extremely well.

4. PRAYER

We pray it meets the pleasure and consideration of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Lucky Irabor, for the programme to be replicated in other formations across the country.

Abdulkadiri Momodu
Head of Programmes
Baba Rabi Foundation (BARAF)

Rekpene Bassey
President
African Council on Narcotics (ACON)