

**TRAINING WORKSHOP ON  
GROUNDED ACCOUNTABILITY  
MODEL (GAM) IN PRACTICE:  
ENGAGING INNOVATIVE  
APPROACHES FOR SUSTAINABLE  
IMPACTS ON PEACEBUILDING  
PROGRAMMING IN NIGERIA.  
12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> August, 2025**

**OLUWASEGUN OGUNSAKIN, Ph.D.**

**Project Manager, Bellwether  
International**

**segunogunsakin4r@gmail.com**






# Background

Peacebuilding in Nigeria continues to face entrenched challenges arising from insecurity, violent conflict, weak governance systems, and limited trust between communities and state institutions. While the South West region has experienced relatively lower levels of violent conflict compared to other zones, local communities still struggle with issues of cohesion, accountability, and marginalisation. Traditional peacebuilding interventions have often relied on externally defined peacebuilding interventions have often relied on externally defined frameworks thereby undermining sustainability. Against this backdrop, the Grounded Accountability Model (GAM) and Everyday Peace Indicators (EPI) present timely innovations. They centre peacebuilding around community voices, ensuring interventions are contextually relevant and co-owned by the people.



## Objectives of the Workshop



The primary aim of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of local actors, civil society organisations, and peacebuilders in South West Nigeria to apply participatory and community-driven approaches to peacebuilding. Specifically, the workshop introduced participants to the GAM framework and Everyday Peace Indicators as tools for grounding accountability in lived realities. The objectives included building competence in participatory research methods, promoting conflict sensitivity and the Do No Harm principle, equipping participants to design localised indicators of peace and justice, and fostering cross-sectoral collaboration. Ultimately, the workshop sought to bridge the gap between theory and practice by making peacebuilding more inclusive and sustainable.

A photograph of a workshop. In the foreground, a man in a white t-shirt is seen from the back, looking towards a presentation screen. Other participants are seated at a table, some looking at the screen and others at papers. The room has a brown curtain on the left and a white screen in the background.

# Methodology

**The methodology of the workshop was deliberately participatory, ensuring that participants were not passive recipients of knowledge but active contributors to a shared learning process. The programme unfolded in three phases: a preparatory phase, which involved the design of training modules, mobilisation of participants, and a baseline survey to assess prior knowledge; a training phase, which featured intensive sessions over two days using interactive and experiential methods; and a reflection and evaluation phase, which included group outputs, post-surveys, and commitments to action. Tools such as role plays, simulations, storytelling, flipchart exercises, and peer-to-peer learning were employed to ensure that theory was continuously tested against practical realities.**



# Training Sessions

The training was structured into seven interconnected modules designed to build conceptual understanding while encouraging practical application. Sessions began with an introduction to GAM and its relevance to Nigeria's peacebuilding context, followed by training on Everyday Peace Indicators as a participatory tool. Participants were guided through strategies for inclusive community engagement, the application of the Do No Harm principle, and the translation of lived experiences into measurable indicators. The final modules demonstrated how GAM could be applied to conflict transformation and programme evaluation, with EPI used as a monitoring and adaptive learning framework. This structure ensured a balance of theory, practice, and reflection.

# Participants Profile

---

The workshop was attended by twenty-seven participants, comprising fifteen men and twelve women drawn from Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, and Osun States. They represented a diverse range of organisations including grassroots NGOs, youth networks, faith-based organisations, human rights groups, and academic institutions. The selection process ensured inclusivity, with particular attention given to youth, women, and marginalised voices. Participants were chosen based on their active involvement in peacebuilding or community development work, their potential to apply lessons in local contexts, and their commitment to inclusive engagement. This diversity enriched the discussions and fostered peer learning across backgrounds and sectors.



# Outcomes and Impact

The workshop produced significant and measurable outcomes. Knowledge of GAM and EPI increased substantially, with 95% of participants reporting confidence in applying the frameworks by the end of the training, compared to only 17% at baseline. Beyond conceptual knowledge, the workshop enhanced participants' skills in participatory research, conflict sensitivity, and the design of locally rooted indicators. Importantly, all participants expressed strong commitments to applying GAM and EPI in their organisations and communities. Group exercises generated locally defined peace indicators, illustrating the value of grounding accountability in lived experiences. Additionally, the event created opportunities for networking and collaboration, laying a foundation for cross-regional partnerships in peacebuilding.




# Challenges

Despite its success, the workshop faced several challenges that provide lessons for future programming. Some participants expressed concerns over logistics, particularly the separation of the venue and accommodation, which created stress and reduced efficiency. Time constraints meant that breakout discussions and Q&A sessions were shorter than desired, limiting deeper interaction. Funding limitations restricted the scale of the training and prevented extensive follow-up support. Lastly, participants underscored the need for continued engagement beyond the workshop to ensure that skills gained are translated into practical, community-level interventions.





# Conclusion



**The GAM workshop successfully demonstrated the potential of participatory models to transform peacebuilding practice in South West Nigeria. By grounding accountability in community experiences, it bridged the gap between donor frameworks and local realities. Participants not only gained knowledge and practical skills but also developed strong commitments to applying the tools in their contexts. While challenges related to logistics, welfare, and funding were encountered, they serve as valuable lessons for future planning. Overall, the testimonies of participants affirm the training as timely, impactful, and transformative in advancing inclusive peacebuilding practice.**

## Recommendations

To sustain and expand the impact of the workshop, several recommendations were proposed. First, training and awareness on GAM and EPI should be scaled up across other regions of Nigeria, involving both civil society and government actors. Second, capacity building should be deepened through continuous mentoring, coaching, and peer-learning initiatives. Third, logistical arrangements should be improved by integrating accommodation and training venues, incorporating dietary considerations, and providing stipends to enhance participation. Fourth, post-training support, including mentorship, pilot projects, and small grants, should be provided to enable participants to implement what they learnt. Finally, future initiatives must emphasize inclusivity by ensuring the participation of youth, women, and marginalised groups while tailoring approaches to cultural and religious contexts.