

## **STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE: PLATEAU STATE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TEAMS COLLABORATE FOR PEACE**

### **Introduction:**

The Plateau State Emergency Preparedness and Response Team (EPRT) recently marked a significant milestone in their commitment to community safety and well-being. In partnership with the MCC (Mennonite Central Committee), the EPRT orchestrated its annual interactive forum on December 16th, 2023 with the theme: promoting ecosystem-based approaches to peace and security. The event was graciously hosted by the Local Emergency Preparedness and Response Team (LEPRT) of Pankshin Local Government Area (LGA), and it brought together a diverse group of 255 dedicated volunteers representing 17 LGAs across Plateau State.

The cardinal point of this gathering was to create a platform for the exchange of invaluable experiences among the volunteers. These individuals play a crucial role in emergency preparedness and response within their respective communities. By sharing insights and lessons learned, the aim was to strengthen the collective knowledge base and improve the overall efficacy of peace-building initiatives across Plateau State.

The forum provided a unique opportunity for the 255 volunteers to share their first-hand experiences in dealing with various emergencies and crises. By fostering an open dialogue, participants gained a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by different communities and discovered innovative solutions implemented elsewhere.

Volunteers presented comprehensive reports on their activities, outlining successful interventions, challenges faced, and areas that require additional support. This transparent sharing of information contributed to a more holistic understanding of the current state of emergency preparedness and response efforts across Plateau State.

The event catalyzed the building of a collaborative environment among the volunteers. By fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose, the participants were encouraged to strategize together. This collaborative spirit is expected to enhance future peace-building efforts, as volunteers work hand in hand to address the unique challenges faced by their communities.

The annual interactive forum organized by the Plateau State Emergency Preparedness and Response Team, with support from MCC, stands as a testament to the dedication of the volunteers working towards the safety and resilience of Plateau State communities. By facilitating knowledge exchange, encouraging open dialogue, and promoting collaboration, this initiative is poised to have a lasting impact on the effectiveness of emergency preparedness and peace-building efforts across the State. The shared

commitment of these volunteers is a beacon of hope for a more secure and harmonious future for Plateau State.

**Photos**



