



Security and Human Rights Grant 2018 Recipient: Initiative for Transformation and Empowerment (LITE-Africa Nigeria)

In July 2018, the SHRIM launched its first call for proposals to give the opportunity to CSOs to develop and lead projects implementing more effective security and human rights practices. Following a competitive, objective and transparent selection process with 98 applications from Africa, Asia and Latin America, one of the grants was awarded to LITE-Africa Nigeria for developing a National Baseline and Scoping Study on National VPs Implementation.

Natural Resources, Security and Human Rights:

Extraction of natural resources in Nigeria has long been associated with human rights violations notably committed by public and private security. The lack of appropriate human rights due diligence by companies can have negative consequences and can put people in communities linked to industrial operations at risk. In 2016, a Nigeria Working Group on the VPs (NWG) was established comprising government representatives, companies and CSOs to support companies integrate best practices when managing their security operations. However, the NWG lacks adequate information and data on stakeholders' behaviors and attitudes to the VPs as well as on the context and level of awareness and implementation.

The Project:

The grant was awarded to LITE-Africa, co Secretariat of the NWG, to develop a national baseline and scoping study on VPs implementation in Nigeria. Jointly with other civil society members of the NWG, LITE-Africa conducted field research and gathered data to measure knowledge of stakeholders on the VPs as well as the level of its implementation throughout six target states in Nigeria.

Key Results:

- Design of a methodology and key indicators measuring VPs implementation.
- In-depth data collection on national VPs implementation in Nigeria.
- Publication of the baseline study has increased awareness of the security and human rights situation in Nigeria, documenting the impact of the VPs and further serving as an incentive to report on the implementation of the VPs.



CSO members review the draft report at syndicate session, Photo by LITE-Africa

About LITE-Africa

As an NGO established in 1999, LITE Africa has a vision to create a safe space for peace and development and to promote human rights through partnerships, advocacy engagements, public awareness and capacity building initiatives. Since 2006, LITE-Africa has been implementing the VPs through capacity building and providing policy direction to corporations and the Nigerian government. These pioneering efforts led to the establishment of a human rights desk in military and police formations, the establishment of the Nigerian inter-ministerial committee and establishment of the NWG. <https://www.lite-africa.org/>