Rights Based Communication Skills Training of 21 Pilot Imams

Introduction
Before the training commenced. The Imams did an ice breaking introduction exercise by coming up on stage and introducing their mosques, estimated capacity of worshipers and year of establishment. Dr. Abubakar Sani Imam of central mosque Dutse, in Jigawa state can be seen in the picture on the left doing so.

Understanding the key messages of the Khutbah & application of the tools
Dr. Abdullahi Usman Umar was one of three facilitators of the training. He can be seen in the picture on the left giving his lecture which highlighted the following:
• The type of language to use in the delivery of the Khutbah.
• Creative and innovative methods to keep audience interested.
• Process in delivery of Khutbah in local language of community.

Remarks on the Concept & Text of the Khutbah & the complementary Tools
Dr. Usman Shua’ib can be seen discussing with the pilot Imams on their views of the Khutbah and its complementary tools. Most of the Imams were in support of the Khutbah and its tools. While all of them agreed that it was important that all couples get tested before getting married, the Imams preaching should also know their status.
The Imams were divided into four (4) different groups and four (4) Khutbahs topics which they will deliver was shared amongst the groups to discuss, digest and give a verdict on the Khutbah themes. Critical points were raised by the three groups and proposals were generated on how to respond to such eventualities in their sermons. Apprehensions on backlash were also noted. The conclusion was to remain open and calm in delivery and resolution of any controversy including possible labeling of Imams for introducing themes on women’s rights.

3rd Stage Validation of Model Khutbah text

The co-author of the model Khutbah and a member of the Council of Ulama Sheikh Mohammed Sa’ad Ngamdu on the right listening to suggestions and contributions on the Khutbah by the facilitators of the training and IFL consultant I. This stage of validation process saw an expansion to the Khutbah and some additions.
Mallam Badamasi Shehu from Dange Mosque, Sokoto State on the right with one of his group members putting their heads together before making their final presentation of the Khutbah.

Sheikh Tukur Adam Abdullahi of Al-manar Mosque located in Kaduna state with over 4000 worshipers represented group one with the presentation being on the first Khutbah Topic, Women Under Islamic Law. One of the main points he made during this presentation was that Islamic schools should organize strategic workshops for women to inform them of their rights before they get married.

Mallam Muhammad Ahmad Usman the Imam of Bichi Central Jumma’at Mosque, Kano with over 50,000 worshipers making the presentation for group 4 on the 6th topic of the Khutbah, Husbands obligation to provide for divorced women. Group 4 made an important observation about this topic, being that the Khutbah diverted from the topic and instead spoke on forced marriages. This observation was taken on board and corrects were made to the Khutbah.