



## SELAM, EKISIL (SEEK)

January 2018 - January 2019

SEEK boundary partner peace building approach has strengthened and operationalized key local peace structures allowing for effective peace processes at the local and cross-border levels

### The Challenge

Cross-border local conflict in Kenya and the South Omo Zone of Ethiopia is shaped by the environmental challenges that define subsistence rural livelihoods, coupled with intrinsic cultural traditions that shape inter-community relations, such as revenge killings and prescribed gender roles.

These factors may be changing, but the prevalence and severity of conflict ultimately are shaped by the effectiveness of informal and formal institutional structures and forces that respond to and manage differences between groups and individuals. For instance, during the year 2019, the murder

Project name	SElam, EKisil (SEEK) - SEEK's title is based on the Amharic (selam) and Turkana (ekisil) words for peace
Commissioned by	European Union Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF)
Lead executing agency	Pact Inc.
Partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peace and Development Center (PDC)</li> <li>• St. Peter's Community Network (SAPCONE)</li> <li>• Strategies for Northern Development (SND)</li> </ul>
Duration	January 2018 - January 2021
Budget	EUR 3 million



Co-funded by the European Union



of a prominent Turkana Chief in Omorate led to blockade of important roads, revenge attacks, disputes over pasture and water, cattle rustling, and allegations of poisoning of water points, hence threatening stability.

## The Response

SEEK is addressing violent conflict at the local levels and cross-border regions of Southwest Ethiopia - Northwest Kenya while linking on-the-ground realities to higher-level policies. This linkage strengthens the policies that attempt to frame national and regional responses to macro-level issues that deeply impact conflict and migration dynamics in the area.

The program is part of the EU's programme for collaboration in the cross-border areas of the Horn of Africa, providing more than 60 million euro of investment to prevent and mitigate the impact of local conflict and to promote economic development and greater resilience.

The key intervention areas of SEEK include peace-building, conflict management and resolution capacity at the community and cross-border levels. Its three main objectives are to:

1. Strengthen peace structures by working with existing traditional and formal peace structures so that they can respond effectively to conflicts.
2. Increase social capital and cohesion by linking women youth and women to early warning structures, integrating at-risk-youth through mentorships, increasing involvement in community decision-making discussions, and creating opportunities for youth from different tribes and areas to socially engage.
3. Provide support to investment and development actors through conflict sensitivity training.

To effectively achieve its results and goal, SEEK adopted a conflict systems approach coupled with an activity sequencing method of implementation that allowed layering of activities. This approach provides an effective way of sustaining peace because the cyclical nature of conflicts identified in the project areas have historical drivers that make these conflicts difficult to resolve. Layering interventions builds capacity to continually root out drivers of conflict, grievances, and issues in order to build social cohesion.

Through this approach, the project identifies each conflict's root causes and drivers, then implements, via boundary partners, a series of intentionally overlaid activities to mitigate the conflict and ultimately resolve it over time. Figure 1 and the ensuing text present the five-step process, broken down by inception and implementation phases, that SEEK adopts to guarantee sustainable results.



Five-step process, broken down by inception and implementation phases.

Credit: Pact Inc.

### Step 1

SEEK mapped the conflict zones within the Kenya-Ethiopia border areas with the goal of approaching them as clusters. From this, the project identified its four conflict systems (see the geographic scope).

### Step 2

The project carried out a series of baseline analyses and sector-specific studies, including an Applied Political Economy Analysis (APEA) and an analysis of the early warning early response (EWER) systems. These studies provided better understanding of the conflict environment and informed the intervention entry points.

### Step 3

SEEK identified its boundary partners and created a detailed set of unique descriptions of the respective conflict systems, clarifying the drivers of conflict and laying out a strategy and vision statement for how to influence the environment and the relevant individuals and groups, using the boundary partners as the drivers of change.

### Step 4

With support from the SEEK consortium partners, boundary partners developed their work plans per conflict system. Work plan discussions were guided by the project vision agreed by the boundary partners (in step 3) for each conflict system depending on their unique drivers.

### Step 5

The boundary partners implement their work plans developed in step 4, with support from SEEK consortium partners. Putting implementation in the hands of the boundary partners ensures sustainability and builds trust and ownership of project interventions. Implementation is intentionally layered to build long-term sustainability of results and impact at the community level. To ensure the intended results are achieved, every six months, SEEK tracks boundary partner progress and resulting



Credit: Martin Namasaka/Pact Inc.

contextual changes. This information feeds into project learning and adaptive management.

## Location

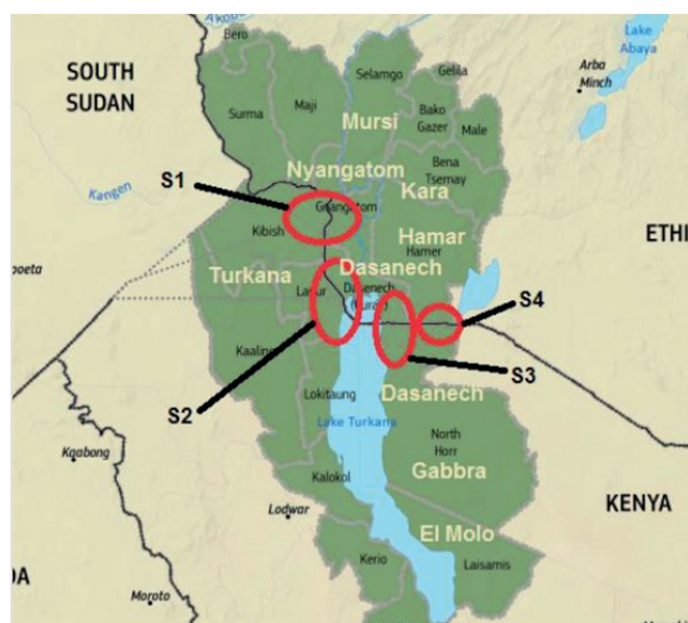
SEEK works in four strategic cross-border conflict systems, spanning Kenya and Ethiopia (see Figure 1):

S1. Conflict System 1: Nyangatom-Turkana Sub-System

S2. Conflict System 2: Dassenach-Turkana Sub-System

S3. Conflict System 3: Dassenach-Gabbra Sub-System

S4. Conflict System 4: Hamar-Gabbra Sub-System



SEEK scope/conflict systems map. Credit: Pact Inc.

## Results

- Ten cross-border peacebuilding structures were supported to manage cross-border relationships.
- One local peace committee was strengthened to monitor and respond to conflict.
- Four cross-border events/coordination meetings were held to support peace.
- Four women leaders (individuals) played a substantive role in peace processes.
- Two women's groups played a substantive leadership role in their communities.
- Three private sector partners participated in peace activities.
- The SEEK program reached 1,384 (1,060 male, 324 female) individuals.
- Six boundary partner groups were substantially involved in resolving cross-border conflict issues (government, women, youth, religious leaders, private sector).
- Twenty cross-border activities were implemented for the resolution of targeted conflict issues.

## Lessons Learnt

- For the program outcomes to be more sustainable, the boundary partners must be engaged and take lead in the planning and implementation of the activities. This is because ownership is created from the beginning.
- Activities must be sequenced to deepen impacts by following one activity with a related one instead of doing one-off, stand-alone activities.
- It is vital to engage government representatives in all the planning and execution of activities.
- Continuous monitoring, research, learning and adaptability to the fluid environments of conflicts is important to keep activities of the programme relevant.



## Next Steps

- Facilitate continuous engagement and interaction of the boundary partners from both countries to strengthen cross-border cohesion.
- Engage the boundary partners on capacity building, community mobilisation, activity strategy planning and implementation.
- Engage the government agencies from both countries to support the works of other boundary partners like the kraal elders, women leaders, youth leaders etc. by facilitating smooth passage and security for cross-border interactions.
- Engage in ongoing research and learning to inform adaptability of the activities to be implemented through such processes as outcome mapping, consortium partner trainings and other sector specific studies.
- Engage the private sector partners on the program activities.

## Partners

Peace and Development Center (PDC): Authorised to work on conflict prevention, mitigation, and peace efforts throughout Ethiopia via a government waiver, PDC is implementing activities in Ethiopia and is capitalizing on strong linkages and trust developed with both central and local authorities.

St. Peter's Community Network (SAPCONE): SAPCONE is one of the few organizations present in the northern Turkana-Ilemi Triangle areas and, thus, has unprecedented knowledge and relationships with key actors in S1 and S2, working to address the Nyangatom-Turkana and Dassenech-Turkana conflicts.

Strategies for Northern Development (SND): SND implements activities along the eastern shores of Lake Turkana to address the Dassenech-Gabbra and Hamar-Gabbra conflicts on the Ethiopian-Kenya border.