



Motorcycles for peace in Karamoja. Credit: KDF Pictures 2018

Peace building through Peace Committees

Introduction

Conflict and insecurity have devastating consequences on the livelihoods and vulnerability of pastoral communities. The main sources of insecurity in Karamoja include domestic violence, theft of household and agricultural assets, disputes over land and natural resources, and periodic inter-ethnic

livestock raids. Insecurity causes loss of human life and livestock, restricts access to key resources and to livelihood opportunities, and undermines local livelihood strategies. A peaceful and secure environment is essential for resilience building and overall development of Karamoja. Improved security bolsters agro-pastoral livelihoods and creates

conductive conditions for private sector investment. There are many government actors involved in maintenance of peace and security, but they have limited engagement with the communities. The development of peace committees is seen as a multi-institutional cooperation that has built bridges between conflict management and mitigation actors who previously had little contact.





INTERVENTION AREA
Conflict prevention, resolution and peace building

LOCATION
Karamoja

STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS
Communities (including elders, men, women and youth);
District Local Governments and central government;
Non-governmental organisations and civil society;
Uganda Police

Methodological approach

- Selection of peace committee members was based on basic criteria e.g. respectful of both adults and youth, not a perpetrator of violence, not easily provoked, sober, etc.
- Definition of the tasks of the peace committees e.g. counsel and admonish offenders (particularly youth), promote peace within their area of influence, and act as an early warning system to report on potential areas of conflict before they erupt, etc.
- Establishment local peace committees in all tiers of DLG, i.e. from district to village level.
- Making the local administration aware of the peace committees (particularly at village level) so as to integrate them into mainstream conflict resolution structures within the local administration.
- Building capacity of the peace committees through training in peace building and conflict resolution.
- Sensitisation of the communities about the existence of peace committees as structures for peace building and conflict resolution.

Results

- Peace committees are integrated into the formal conflict resolution and peace building structures.
- Reduced conflict between communities as peace committees are used to hold dialogue to address causes of conflict and to build peace.
- Improved security is associated with improved mobility of local residents and access to rangelands, watering points, and other natural resources beneficial for their livelihoods without fear.
- Increased freedom of movement is contributing to improved economic security as travel to markets is secure, facilitating the sale and purchase of goods.
- Improving food security due to better market access and improved livelihood opportunities.
- Peace has created a conducive environment for development.
- Peace committees are useful in the functioning of the Conflict Early Warning System and Response Mechanism.

Success factors

- Peace committees are linked in all tiers of the local governments.
- They are integrated into the formal conflict resolution and peace building structures.
- Community engagement in the establishment of the peace committees.

Constraints

- Cost of establishing the committees (capacity building, sensitisation, etc.)

Sustainability and replicability

- Sustainability depends on encouraging communities to use the peace committees to resolve conflicts before they escalate. Peace committees are replicated throughout the sub-region.

Additional information

District Local Governments
Karamoja Affairs (OPM)

CONTACTS

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