

PROMOTION OF PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE OF KARIMOJONG & ITESO



A Project implemented in Partnership between TIP, OCODI and DED in collaboration with CHIPS and supported by WFP, Local Communities and The District Local Governments of Amuria and Moroto.

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Main stakeholders in this project

- Teso Initiative for Peace (TIP)
- Omaniman Community Development Initiative based in Moroto (OCODI)
- German Development Service (DED)
- in collaboration with Christian International Peace Service (CHIPS)
- and supported by World Food Program (WFP)

These organisations are working in partnership to promote peaceful co-existence between the Karimojong and Iteso and to bring peace and development to the affected people in the project area; Kapelebyong sub county in Amuria district and Lokopo sub county in Moroto district.

Specific objectives

- To reduce incidents of cattle thefts from Teso sub region by Karimojong warriors, through peaceful co-existence.
- To encourage resettlement of communities in the project area.
- To encourage working together to improve water sources for animals in dry season in the project area through rehabilitation of water dams.
- To fully document the process and activities in order to draw lessons for improvement and possible replication elsewhere.

*Iteso and
Karimojong
jointly working
on the dam
project*



The key actors in the peace building process

- The two communities of Teso (Kapelebyong) and Karamoja (Lokopo and Lopei in Moroto)
- Community leaders at various levels – Camp Leaders, Parish Chiefs, Sub County and District Councillors, LCs, Members of Parliament, Iteso Cultural Union
- Security personnel (UPDF, ASTU, Arrow Boys)
- District Local Government of Amuria and Moroto
- Partnership involving TIP/OCODI/DED, in collaboration with CHIPS and supported by WFP
- Community members (from Teso and Karamoja) who worked on the dams

Important achievements

This project helped to:

- Create a partnership between peace NGOs in the region and other development agencies
- Bring about co-existence between Iteso and Karimojong
- Improve the living conditions of resettlers through provision of basic services—water and agric inputs (there is still a lot more demand for this)
- Build the capacity of communities and animators to resolve conflicts peacefully

Some specific activities successfully carried out include:

- A school in Okoboi was opened to include Karimojong children.
- The road from Apeitolim to Nyakwae was reopened.
- Resettling population has increased in Apeitolim and Okoboi up to about 650 and 450 respectively.
- Joint activities between Karimojong and Iteso were successfully carried out.
- A market has developed spontaneously at Apeitolim and one established by Amuria district at Okoboi.
- Free movement of Iteso and Karimojong between Apeitolim and Okoboi.
- (there is demand by resettlers for social services e.g. schools, health centres and roads).

Reduced incidences of conflict situations between Karimojong and Iteso include:

- Reduced stereotyping (generalised name calling) between the two ethnic groups.
- Increased number of joint meetings to monitor security and development activities (regular security meetings, visits made by political leaders, joint meetings between political leaders).
- Peace club patrons and peace clubs active in schools in Kapelebyong and Obalanga sub counties.
- Security personnel (ASTU, UPDF) trained in conflict resolution skills.
- HIV/AIDS education programmes carried out in cooperation with TASO (The AIDS Support Organisation).
- Information shared through radio talk shows, meetings for leaders and communities.

LESSONS LEARNT FROM PEACE BUILDING PROJECT AND FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

LESSONS LEARNT	FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS
It is not enough to discuss and agree with the community leaders and politicians only	Attend as well sensitisation meetings organised by community leaders and politicians
Brief information to community members, leaders and politicians can lead to misunderstandings and misconception of the activity and intended results	Broad and detailed distribution of information to all directly involved stakeholders and politicians and other influential stakeholders, in advance
Full support and commitment from directly involved politicians is crucial in case of destructive criticism	Work with the relevant politicians at all levels at every project step
New partnerships need additional time and efforts to work effectively together	Regular management meetings and the commitment to partnerships is crucial
Where ever necessary revisit implementation guidelines	Be flexible to adjust policies or guidelines which are not suitable to achieve your goal (conflict sensitive implementation)
Activities in conflict areas are dependent on the commitment of the security Organs (ASTU, UPDF, police)	Establish proper relationships and communication lines with the relevant security organs and maintain the collaboration throughout the implementation period and beyond
Established groups and committees need sufficient support and guidance to sustain their project	Ensure sustainability into the implementation aspects of the project
Partnerships create synergy	Promote partnerships for wider support, extra skills and more recourses
Conflicting communities might be ready to work jointly on development projects they both consider can improve their living condition	Try to involve community development projects into peace building processes

Peace building is an ongoing process most times always exceeding the life of one project	Develop further continuous activities with the established partners
The process of planning together is one step towards harmonising the relationships	Promote joint planning of conflicting groups to strengthen the contacts and relationships
It is important that some of the planned activities are realised to continue the joint efforts and optimism within the communities	Support and lobby for joint development activities for the conflicting groups in order to promote coexistence

Communal cooking for the Iteso and Karamojong jointly working on the Dams



ASTU (Anti Stock Theft Unit) personnel at Okoboi during a peace education training. A TIP Trainer takes participants through a participatory session "The Human Knot Game"

Institutional support

- Government institutions e.g. the district and sub county local governments of Amuria and Moroto, their main role being to provide the required political will, support with allocation of budgets for related project activities, mobilisation of communities and monitoring the project activities and progress.
- Communities of Kapelebyong and Lokopo: these were involved in conflict resolution activities e.g joint tracking of cattle thieves; and in joint work programmes at the dams;
- Partnership of NGOs - TIP, OCODI, DED, CHIPS: these organisations were the main facilitators of the project and also provided technical support for the dam work. They also lobbied government and other stakeholders for support to this project by organising information sharing meetings;
- Support agency – World Food Programme (WFP) provided the Food for Asset inputs to the project and German Development Service (DED) who provided technical/advisory support to the partnership of NGOs.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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