



2010 FINAL EVALUATION REPORT: YOUTH AND NON-VIOLENCE IN GUINEA

Since 2001, SFCG has employed a field-based team in Guinea, which has developed strategic partnerships with representatives from the Ministries of Information and Communication, Radio Rural Guinée (RRG) radio stations, and civil society groups. SFCG in Guinea launched a radio studio, Talking Drum Studio (TDS), in Conakry in late 2005, modeled after SFCG's Talking Drum Studios.

This particular 18-month project entitled *Youth and Non-violence in Guinea* was implemented with support from USAID, with the overarching goal of **promoting the use of non-violent methods for resolving conflicts among youth** in the cities of Kindia, Mamou, and Kankan. To that broad end, three principal types of activities were carried out:

- Training of 72 young Guineans in conflict management techniques and civic responsibilities
- Organization of sensitization events such as peace festivals
- Production and broadcast of two weekly radio programs

This evaluation was requested by SFCG with three main objectives: to evaluate the **impact** of the project, to **collect stories** of change, and to **provide recommendations** for future planning. A number of tools were employed to collect data and meet these evaluation objectives; desktop and document review, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and participant questionnaires.

YOUTH AND NONVIOLENCE IN GUINEA OPENS DIALOGUE & POSSIBILITIES

The evaluation notes that the formula for encouraging dialogue adopted by SFCG allowed for young participants to choose the topics they saw most relevant to them. This approach subsequently led to discussions on a number of different forms of violence including that in schools, during sporting events, among *clans* (gangs).

While the project's intended purpose was to address specifically political violence, one outstanding result was that this open-ended discussion formula uncovered many layers and forms of violence into which urban and rural youth are drawn. The results of this formula opens possibilities for further studies on the nature and potential of these forms of violence.

YOUTH AND NONVIOLENCE IN GUINEA CONTRIBUTES TO THE ABSENCE OF VIOLENCE & GREATER COLLABORATION

Since the project implementation, there had been no major instances of violence after the events of 2007. Interviewees (young participants, local authorities, beneficiaries, and civil society leaders) noted that violence has decreased considerably and appreciated the positive role youth had been playing in the peace process in the three project areas.

In addition to the *absence of violence*, a new trend emerged of youth forming associations and consortia as a result of the project. This collaboration made it easier for youth leadership to be recognized and consulted. For example, youth engaged in the project agreed that they should lend a hand in rehabilitating buildings destroyed in the 2007 violence, in which many youth were involved. They also decided to set quotas for youth association donations and purchased replacement chairs and tables. This symbolic act was appreciated by local authorities and an important step in the collaboration process between the youth of Mamou and the local leadership.

**"Young people are
more peaceful now,
they use mediation
more"**
-Imam from Kindia

YOUTH AND NONVIOLENCE IN GUINEA FOSTERS YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN FIGHTING POLITICAL MANIPULATION

Following the end of the project, the youth of Mamou, working amongst themselves, shot a short video highlighting the risk of political manipulation for the forthcoming elections. After developing the script and filming, the young participants shared the final product with SFCG in the hope of having it polished and utilized for further sensitization events. Thus, not only was the project found to have “a high level of effectiveness”, but its reach extended beyond the 18 month implementation period.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Improve the collection of relevant output- and outcome-level data by creating a monitoring system better tailored to the project’s specific formula.
2. Develop a more explicit gender strategy to ensure greater participation by women and young girls in all project activities.
3. Be clearer in the definition of key project terms, such as who the stakeholders are and who make up the primary and secondary target groups.
4. Organize more consistent and regular follow-up with project beneficiaries
5. Increase the amount of resources allocated to young participants for organization of resources allocated to young participants for the organization of sensitization events.

Source: This document is a summary of, and taken directly from “Final Evaluation: Youth and Non-violence in Guinea” by Dr. Dennis Bright and Bernardo Monzani. A copy of this document can be acquired at <http://www.sfcg.org/sfcg/evaluations/guinea.html>, or by contacting Nick Oatley, Director Institutional Learning at Search for Common Ground at noatley@sfcg.org

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