

Sharing the Green Grass:

Cultivating a Locally-led Peace Architecture in the Niger Delta

Project Overview

The overall goal of the project is *strengthening local capacities to peacefully manage conflict and prevent violence from escalating within locally-led peace architecture in the Niger Delta.*

The project seeks to create local "Peace Architecture"—Community Peace Committee (CPC)—platforms for dialogues, leading to improved interaction, dispute resolution and cooperation between farmers and herders; encouraging local-level cohesion and community-owned conflict prevention and management infrastructure. It creates linkages between communities, governments, security, justice, and other actors through the Community Security Architecture Dialogue (CSAD) at the Local Government level and the Peace Architecture Dialogue (PAD) at the State level. Unresolved issues at the CPC level are escalated to the CSAD and then to the PAD.

The project has two key objectives which are:

1. Farmer and herder communities cultivate the skills and relationships to collaborate on peace and security issues.
2. Farmer and herder communities develop effective, sustainable local mechanisms for early warning response, dispute management, and violence mitigation.
3. Sustain radio program covering the 3 senatorial districts of the state.
4. Mobile screening of the documentary titled "Cord of Unity" around all communities
5. Advocacy and engagement of stakeholders at the State level for the establishment of an Agency for Peace Building and Conflict resolution.
6. Organize cross-cultural solidarity and community engagement events in the various communities
7. Hold a multi-stakeholder dialogues in each of the communities

Implementation Plan

1. Strengthen established peace structures for sustainability through the monthly meetings
2. Train the steering committee members on dispute management, mitigation and resolution to strengthen their capacities for sustainability

Partners:



Associate partners:

Miyetti ya Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN)
and all Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN)



Context

The project is implemented in four target Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Delta state (Ethiope East, Isoko North, Ndokwa West and Ughelli North) in partnership with Initiative for Community Development (ICD), and working closely with Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) and All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN). Specific conflicts between farmers and pastoralists in the Delta feed into wider ethnic, regional and religious narratives and grievances along the major fault lines of modern Nigeria. To address the growing conflict between farmer and pastoralist groups in the Delta State, triggered by natural resource competition, but fueled by mistrust and wider narratives of fear, Search is supporting twelve communities to develop effective mechanisms to prevent, respond to, and resolve conflicts between these groups.

The Approach

The project is implemented using Search's engagement toolbox comprising:

- **Dialogue:** The project has created three levels of dialogues; Community Peace Committee (CPC) at the community level, Community Security Architecture Dialogue (CSAD) at the Local Government level and the Peace Architecture Dialogue (PAD) at the State level. These structures bring people together across dividing lines to discover and achieve shared goals.
- **Media:** The project currently has programs running in two radio stations with third station, an all Pidgin English program coming up. These stations are engaged to cover the three senatorial district of Delta State. While a dialogue affects dozens, media impacts millions. Media stirs up thoughts and discussions across a whole society about the root causes of violence and how to overcome differences.

- **Communities:** The project is working with twelve communities in four local government areas. These communities include Ndemili, Ogbole and Obo-do-Ugwa in Ndokwa West LGA, Kokori, Urhuoka and Urhuoakpo in Ethiope East, Ellu, Iyede and Ozoro in Isoko North and Agbarha-Otor and Uwheru in Ughelli North LGA. The project has provided a safe space for farmers and herders to work out their conflicts at the local level.



P2P collaborative training between farmers & herders

Project beneficiaries are the various farming and herder communities. These communities are represented in project implementation by; Community Chairmen, Presidents General, Community Development Committees, Community Vigilante Chairmen, Youth and women groups, Cattle breeder and owners. Other stakeholders include; Project Mediators, representatives All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) and Miyetti-Allah Cattle Breeders As-



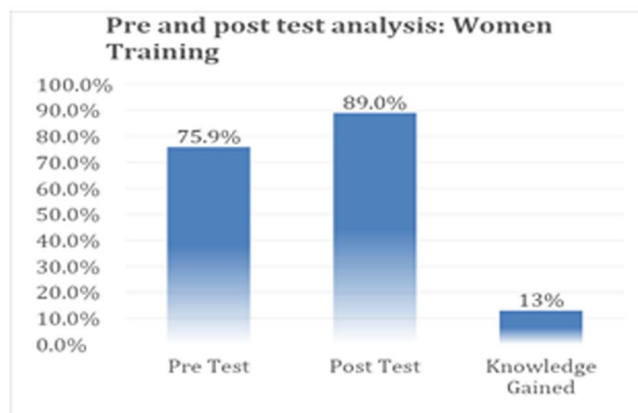
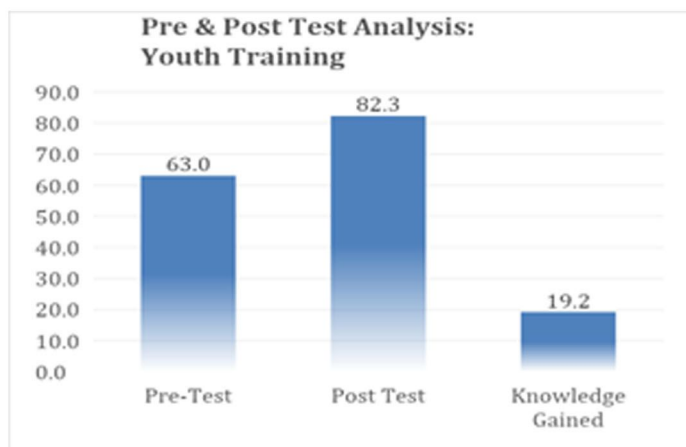
Photo from Ethiope East Women stepdown training



Project Achievements

- Farmers and herders now seat together to dialogue for peaceful coexistence.
- Local peace structures have taken lead of dialogue processes and providing local solutions.
- The project has strong buy-in from the local and state governments both of which have shown commitment to ensure the sustenance of the project.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) have been signed between farmer communities and herders outlining conditions of coexistence which are being honoured by parties.
- Capacity of communities built including community leadership structures, women and youths targeted and trained on dispute management, mitigation, and resolution. These stakeholders drive local dialogue platforms for sustainable peace in the localities.

The project has held a number of trainings to equip community members to take the lead is conflict prevention and peace building activities. Two such trainings were the youth only and women only trainings which recorded significant change in knowledge as shown in the charts below.



Quotes

- 1 "The work of Search for Common Ground made me to be friendly with the herdsman, if they destroy anything and I call them, they respond accordingly and we talk, we discuss settlement with the owner if the farm and it is settled. The herders are cooperating". (Chief Sylvester Omonigho, Vigilante Chairman, Kokori Community)
2. "I will find a way around to make the Community Peace Committee (CPC) yield fruitful results, I the acting President General of Agbarha-Otor Kingdom, Olorogun London Okuwheru hereby volunteers' to be a member and chair the CPC committee"
3. "Before this way Search for Common Ground come start, for over 10years we no fit enter community sidon talk. But now, we don start to seat down discuss with community. If our cow enter farm by mistake, them go call us and we go settle with them". (Alhaji Musa, cattle owner in Ndokwa West)



Alhaji Musa, cattle owner in Ndokwa West