FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

Sharing the Green Grass; Cultivating a Locally Led Peace Architecture in the Niger Delta

By

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Acronyms and Abbreviations
BSc Bachelor of Science
CI Confidence Interval
FGDs Focus Group Discussions
HND Higher National Diploma
Search Search for Common Ground
SFCG Search for Common Ground
KII Key Informant Interview
LGA Local Government Area
DMEL Design Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
ND National Diploma
NGO Non-Governmental Organization
NSF Nigeria Security Forces
OND Ordinary National Diploma
PMF Project Monitoring Framework
SMS Short Message Service
SPSS Statistical Package for Social Sciences
ToC Theory of Change
ToR Terms of Reference
LGA Local Government Area
NSCDC National Security & Civil Defence Corps
PLWD People Living with Disabilities
OECD Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
DAC Development Assistance Committee
AFAN All Farmers Association
MACBAN Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association
CSAD Community Security Architecture Dialogue
PAD Peace Architecture Dialogue
CSO Civil Society Organization
EWER Early Warning and Early Response
ICD Initiative for Community Development
IR Intermediate Result
NOA National Orientation Agency
SSG Secretary to the State Government
PIND Partnership Initiative for the Niger Delta
P2P People-to-People
USAID United States Agency for International development
IPTT Indicator Performance Tracking Table
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As illustrated in figure 23 above, findings revealed that 117, (53 percent) of the respondents agree that community members now create new positive relationships with members of other communities, 214 (29 percent) strongly agree, 12 percent of the respondents are neutral while 4 and 1 percent disagre and strongly disagree respectively that the community members now create new positive relationships with members of other communities.

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Executive Summary
The report presents the findings from the evaluation of the project titled; “Sharing the Green Grass: Cultivating a Locally Led Peace Architecture” funded by USAID, financed by Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) fund. The project’s overall goal was to strengthen local capacities to peacefully manage conflict and prevent violence from escalating within a locally-led peace architecture in the Niger Delta. It primarily seeks to create harmony and peaceful coexistence between local farmers and pastoralists who have been in resource-based conflict in the past.

The final evaluation collected data in four (4) Local Government Areas (LGAs) and eight (8) communities of Delta state which includes; Ethiope East (Urhuola & Kokori communities); Isoko North (Iyede & Ellu communities); Ndokwa West (Obodougwa & Ndemili communities); and Ughelli North (Ughelli & Agbarha communities), to assess implementation strategy, performance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability and to track the prevailing status of the key project implementation performance indicators, against which progress was assessed. The final evaluation study was conducted over a period of 6 weeks between April 12th and 17th May 2021. The study adopted a mixed research design and utilised both qualitative and quantitative approaches to collect primary data, whilst also drawing from systematic desk review of relevant project documents including the project proposal, project reports and logical framework to collect secondary information. Quantitative approaches utilized Community Survey techniques to administer, collate and analyse data from 403 respondents of which 216 are male and 187 females, whilst qualitative approaches including key informant interviews and focus group discussions gathered data from 45 KII respondents and 24 FGD sessions comprising 192 discussants.

Key Findings
Findings from KII with project staff and FGD with key stakeholders revealed that the project adopted a participatory, inclusive, and multi-stakeholder approach in implementing the activities outlined for the project. Key stakeholders; Men, Women, Youth, other marginalised groups, CSOs, Government parastatals and ministries, AFAN and MACBAN were integrated in the programming. Media, community dialogues and capacity building were used to achieve the project’s goal and objectives.

Analysis of findings revealed that community members now use the knowledge and skills acquired to promote positive collaboration between farmers and herders as indicated by 216 respondents, a 53 percent response rate. At project inception (baseline), no collaboration was recorded in the communities as indicated by zero (0).

Findings also revealed that community members now create new positive relationships with members of other communities as indicated by 82 percent (n=331). At project inception (baseline), no new positive relationships were recorded between the community members and members of other communities as indicated by zero (0). The project targeted a 50 percent increase at inception but achieved 82 percent. This shows a significant increase.

The study revealed that community members have been equipped with skills and capacity to easily detect, report and respond to potential violence situations in their communities as indicated by 186 respondents, a 72 percent response rate. At project inception (baseline) community members have no skills and capacity to easily detect, report and respond to potential violence situations in their communities as indicated by zero (0). This shows a significant increase.

The study also revealed that 115 (62 percent) of the participants of project activities interviewed have resolved disputes between farmer-herder communities at individual or community level using the skills and knowledge acquired from the different project activities they attended. At project inception (baseline), community members have no skills and capacity to resolve disputes between farmer-herder communities at individual or community level as indicated by zero (0). The project targeted a 30 percent increase and achieved 62 percent, which is a significant increase.

Findings from the analysis of responses revealed that 55 percent of the partners, associates, and farmer-herder community members interviewed, feel confident that project-related activities will continue long-term. 55 percent achieved is above the 50 percent targeted at inception.
Findings also revealed a significant reduction in the number of violent conflicts between and among community members. **67 percent of the respondents state that there is a reduction in the number of violent conflicts reported since the beginning of the project.** This is above the targeted figure (67 percent against 10 targeted). The summary of indicators can be found (annex 1)

**Findings on the role of women and youth in peace building** in the target communities revealed that the project adopted a participatory and multi-stakeholder’ approach which integrated youth (male and female aged 18 to 35 who were marginalized and vulnerable to violence across varying socio-economic, educational, political, and ethno-religious backgrounds) and women (who have existing or potential influence over violence in their various communities in relation to the farmer herder conflicts). Majority of the respondents representing **65 percent (women) and 82 percent** (youths) respectively agree that there has been an increase in the number of local women and youths playing key roles in peacebuilding processes in their communities in recent times.

On the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of various strategies used on the project in establishing key relationships and changing the attitude of target beneficiaries, findings revealed that the project was designed using the bottom-up People-to-People conflict resolution approach which focused on supporting local-level cohesion and community-owned conflict prevention and mitigation, and linking communities with government, security, justice, and other actors where necessary.

**The study revealed that the COVID-19** pandemic has had an observable impact (positive and negative) on the conflict dynamics, project objectives, implementation, and sustainability of the project. Respondents shared that the negative impact included psychosocial (fear), socioeconomic (hike in price of commodities), livelihood (spike in unemployment and loss of means of livelihood), social cohesion (distrust amongst community members) and security (insecurity and loss of lives and properties). Respondents who reported that it had positive impacts mentioned community (reiterated the oneness of humanity), intra-cohesion (strengthened intra communal relations and stronger family bond), lifestyle choices (scale of preference for essentials) and sanitary health (heightened awareness on hand washing and basic first aid), Technology (adaptability to emerging technologies). Findings also revealed that COVID-19 affected the implementation of designed project activities that required physical presence such as the Cross-Cultural Community Events for Solidarity and training sessions which were significantly creating awareness on the importance of peaceful co-existence. The restrictions over physical contact and movement slowed down the project's impact as fewer dialogues and meetings were conducted with fewer participants. At some points these activities had to be completely halted. However, virtual programming was considered and this gave room to a sustained continuation of project activities.

On sustainability of the project, KII and FGD respondents acknowledged that the project had laid down exit strategies in the form of capacity and knowledge diffusion that increased participants’ buy-in for continuity of the project’s activities. The capacity of community leaders, women, and youth leaders was built to effectively facilitate dialogues, mediation and address security and safety concerns.

The study learnt that peacebuilding is a gradual process that needs time. While conflicts and violence can occur within a short time, peacebuilding relies on communal trust (intra and inter). And this is a commodity that takes time to build. This trust is further strengthened when cross-cultural activities bring together actors in conflict on a neutral ground to participate in these activities. Looking at the fact that peace building initiatives, like all behavioral change projects, call for long-term commitments, the study recommends that the implementation of the project should be scaled in both geographic coverage and implementation time. The extension of the project for another two years will accommodate more direct beneficiaries with the resultant ripple effect of a community state-wide spread. The study also recommends that future projects should support the setting up of the Delta State Peacebuilding Development Agency as a way of institutionalization and expansion of project gains to all communities of the State.
SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Violence between resident farmers and nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoralists, predominantly from the Fulani ethnic group, continues to spread to new regions of Nigeria and remains a major threat to the stability and security of the country. Twenty-four out of Nigeria’s thirty-six states have experienced farmer-pastoralist violence in the past five years, and five of the nine states in the Niger Delta have seen violence in the past 16 months.¹ Media reports that as many as 60,000 people have been killed in these conflicts since 2001.²

The high and increasing number of conflicts between farmer and pastoralist populations is rooted in changing migration patterns of pastoralists across Nigeria. With more than 20-25 million members worldwide, the Fulani are the largest nomadic ethnic group in the world with long roots in Nigeria. Fulani pastoralists living in and migrating through Nigeria have relied on regular seasonal migrations for generations. Along these routes, farmers and pastoralists developed mutually beneficial trading relationships, often exchanging grain and crop residue for cattle milk and manure fertilizer. Conflicts were often resolved through traditional arbitration and agreed compensation systems. This system is breaking down and both parties are under stress. In northern Nigeria and wider the Sahel, climate variability and desertification has reduced available grassland. In the last two decades, herd sizes have increased, and cattle prices have quadrupled as the demand for meat grows among the urban middle class. The land used by settled populations has grown considerably, blocking migratory routes, grazing land, and water points. At the same time, the increase in cattle prices and the proliferation of weapons has attracted bandits and cattle rustlers across the Sahel.

The stresses of natural resource competition, economic and environmental changes, and rural insecurity have shifted pastoralists' traditional routes further south and into Nigeria’s Delta region, where they encounter rural communities that are experiencing their own acute stresses.³ Densely populated and home to more than 20 million people, the Niger Delta is the country’s primary site of crude oil production, with the associated environmental and economic shocks on rural livelihoods. Deep grievances and a legacy of violence in the Delta stem from a perception that oil revenue from the region enriches private companies, government elites, and citizens from other regions of Nigeria, while the region itself remains underdeveloped and exploited.⁴ These grievances have triggered multiple waves of militancy, the most significant of which ended in an Amnesty program in 2009. While that program ended major militant operations, criminal networks have continued to flourish (including oil “bunkering,” kidnappings, and extortion) and over the past 18 months, a series of new militant groups have emerged, bringing violence to its highest point since 2009.⁵

Increasing competition between pastoralist and farmer groups brings a range of local conflict triggers. This includes conflict over access to land and water, cattle trespassing into fields destroying farmers’ subsistence, cattle theft by resident communities, interpersonal conflict, and sexual violence. This is

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¹ Bagu and Smith, Search Project Evaluation, Past is Prologue: Criminality & Reprisal Attacks in Nigeria’s Middle Best. 2017.
exacerbated by the well-armed criminal networks already present in the Delta and the cattle rustlers who have followed pastoralists southward. These groups have reportedly killed and stolen large herds of cattle, raided towns and committed widespread abuses. Some loud voices in each community do not distinguish between organized criminals and members of the other community and many media outlets are quick to attribute all rural violence to Fulani pastoralists. Among farmers, these conflicts and migration into the delta feeds a growing narrative of a perceived “invasion” of northern Fulani Muslims into the predominantly Christian South mirroring Nigeria’s wider regional, religious, and ethnic divides, and echoing the sense of economic exploitation felt by many Deltans. Efforts to mitigate and de-escalate smaller conflicts before they escalate, confront major challenges.

With funding from USAID, financed by Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) fund, Search implemented a two-year project titled “Sharing the Green Grass: Cultivating a Locally Led Peace Architecture”. The project is aimed at creating harmony and peaceful coexistence between local farmers and pastoralists who have been in resource-based conflict in the past years. The project is being implemented in four Local Government Areas (LGAs) of 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).

As part of the project’s conclusion plan, Search commissioned an independent final assessment to provide objective measures upon which to track project implementation and benchmark implementation effectiveness and impact at end phase. This report provides the comprehensive findings of the evaluation assessment. It is organized into eight sections as follows:

► Section 1: Introduction
► Section 2: Description of the Project Implemented
► Section 3: Evaluation Purpose, Ethics, and Quality Assurance
► Section 4: Methodology
► Section 5: Demographic and Socio-Economic information of Respondent’s
► Section 6: Main Findings
► Section 7: Conclusion
► Section 8: Recommendations

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6 See Footnote 1.
SECTION TWO: DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTED

2.1 Project Overview

The project, “Sharing the Green Grass: Cultivating a Locally Led Peace Architecture in the Niger Delta” was initially planned to be implemented for 24 months but was later implemented for a period of 28 months (from January 2019 to April, 2021) due to a four months extension by USAID. It was implemented in four (4) Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Delta state which include; Ethiope East (Urhuola & Kokori communities); Isoko North (Iyede & Ellu communities); Ndokwa West (Obodougwa & Ndemili communities); and Ughelli North (Ughelli & Agbarha communities). The project was implemented in partnership with Initiative for Community Development (ICD) and worked closely with Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) and All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN).

2.2 Program Goal and Objectives

The project’s overall goal was to strengthen local capacities to peacefully manage conflict and prevent violence from escalating within a locally led peace architecture in the Niger Delta. It primarily seeks to create harmony and peaceful coexistence between local farmers and pastoralists who have been in resource-based conflict in the past years. It was supported by two objectives and five expected outcomes:

Table 1: Showing project objectives, activities and expected outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Expected Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1: Farmer and herder communities cultivate the skills and relationships to collaborate on peace and security issues.</strong></td>
<td>Activity 1.1: Capacity-Building for P2P Collaboration and Dispute Resolution Activity 1.2: Multi-Stakeholder Community Dialogue and Town Hall Meetings. Activity 1.3: Cross-Cultural Community Events for Solidarity Activity 1.4: Amplifying Peace. Radio Program on Farmer-Herder Conflict Management.</td>
<td>1.1 Local partners, civil society organizations, and community members have increased capacity to identify and respond to conflicts 1.2 Farmer and herder community members have improved relationships, deeper understanding about each other, and increased trust.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2: Farmer and herder communities develop effective, sustainable local mechanisms for early warning response, dispute management, and violence mitigation.</strong></td>
<td>Activity 2.1: Early Warning and Early Responses for Managing Farmer-Herder Conflicts in the Delta Activity 2.3: Peace Architecture Dialogues (PAD) and Community Security Architecture Dialogues (CSAD) Activity 2.4: Learning, Dissemination and Sustainability Planning</td>
<td>2.1 Local partners and farmer-herder communities develop new mechanisms to identify and respond to early warning signs for potential violence. 2.2 Farmer and herder communities improve the management and mitigation of disputes in nonviolent mechanisms within and between their communities. 2.3 Local partners and stakeholders expand ownership over a sustained and scaled peace and community security architecture that includes law enforcement, government, and civil society actors.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.3 Project’s Theory of Change (ToC)

The project is based on the theory that;

The theory of change was informed by Search’s “Peace Architecture” approach to bottom-up People-to-People conflict resolution, which focuses on supporting local-level cohesion and community-owned conflict prevention and mitigation, and linking communities with government, security, justice, and other actors where necessary. The project adapted and strengthened the capacities of local peacebuilding and civil society organizations, as well as key community stakeholders, to build relationships, skills, and sustainable structures that reduce farmer-pastoralist tensions and elevate women and youth perspectives in the Niger Delta, in conflict sensitive ways that adhere to the principles of Do No Harm.

SECTION THREE: EVALUATION PURPOSE, ETHICS, AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

3.1 Overview

The purpose of the final evaluation was to ascertain the prevailing situation of the main elements (strategy adopted, performance, efficiency, effectiveness, and impact) of the project quantitatively and qualitatively in target communities after the period of implementation. The survey was also expected to review the project’s key indicators with a view to updating the indicator framework, where appropriate, and providing an effective basis upon which to monitor project performance.

3.2 Scope of the Evaluation

In conducting the final evaluation, the four (4) targeted LGAs and eight (8) communities of implementation were selected for primary data collection. The LGAs and communities are Ethiope East (Urhuola & Kokori communities); Isoko North (Iyede & Ellu communities); Ndokwa West (Obodougwa & Ndemili communities); and Ughelli North (Ughelli & Agbarha communities).

3.3 Purpose and Objective of the Evaluation

The final evaluation provided information on the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the programme, for internal accountability and learning which will be used for designing, planning and implementation of future programmes and for accountability to donors.

Specific objectives are:

1. To determine the project’s achievements and contribution to the overall peaceful outcomes in the communities in line with the goal and objectives of the project.

2. To determine the extent to which the programme has enhanced the role of women and youth in peace building in the target communities.

3. To assess the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of various strategies used on the project in establishing key relationships and changing the attitude of target beneficiaries.

4. To determine the extent to which COVID-19 has affected project implementation, impact, and conflict in the implementing LGAs, and make recommendations on how to impactfully implement such projects in the face of a pandemic.

5. To document key lessons from the project and make recommendations to inform such projects in future.

6. To examine the mechanisms put in place for sustainability of the project.
3.4 Ethical Considerations, Conflict and Gender sensitivity and Quality Assurance

3.4.1 Survey Ethical Consideration: Due to the complex and sensitive nature of the assessment, the data collection processes respected strict rules of confidentiality and ethical guidelines. The consultant and enumerators took as many precautions as possible to be in line with the ethical considerations.

- The questions asked were adapted to the convenience of the respective participants/respondents.
- The survey ensured that the sampling was systematic, flexible, and organic due to access and security concerns in the context of data collection.
- The assessment included men and women as respondents and their meaningful participation was of great importance.
- The evaluation team acted with the understanding that any initiative conducted in a conflict-affected environment interacts with that conflict and may have either positive or negative consequences.
- The approach to this assignment provided a deliberate and systematic approach to ensuring the consultant understands and minimizes conflict risks and maximizes positive effects of evaluation activities.
- Confidentiality and Protection; No names were mentioned in the report and no audio or video recording equipment was used during data collection, as people are generally less open to discuss important and sensitive topics in the presence of such equipment. The consultant respected the confidential nature of the information collected. The consultant protected all data files with passwords, to facilitate safe transfer of data, and made regular backups.

3.4.2 Conflict and Gender sensitivity, Do No harm, Confidentiality and Social Inclusion.

- Conflict Sensitivity: All processes and tools were designed, developed and administered within a conflict sensitive sphere to not aggravate beneficiaries, respondents or end users of the report developed.

- Do No Harm: The survey maintained a ‘do no harm’ approach through its choice of language, approach, and sensitivity to intersecting demographic differences, respecting their cultural norms, and upholding their values. It also minimized any possibility of creating a negative impression of the project or the evaluation itself.

- Social Inclusion: The study ensured that it captured all stakeholders across demographic lines especially those who are marginalized such as People Living with Disability (PLWD), ethnic and religious minorities etc. such that their views were equally represented in the findings of the survey.

- Gender Sensitivity: Effective participation and gender balance was observed in the recruitment of enumerators, administering questionnaires, interviews, and the reporting of the findings from the study.
● **Covid-19 Preventive Measures:** The study adhered to all Covid-19 advisories making available for use facemasks and hand sanitizers. The study team also ensured physical distance during data collection and training of enumerators for the same.

● **Locations of the Interviews and FGDs:** Throughout the research, the consultant put the safety and security of participants first. Among others, the consultant and enumerators respected the participants’ choice of location. The survey team asked the respondent for the preferred place, respected their concerns, and moved to a different location before the interview was conducted or continued.

● **Consent:** Respondent’s consent was sought prior to conducting the interviews. Respondents of FGDs and KIIIs signed consent forms, which doubled as the interview attendance sheet while respondents of the survey on kobocollect consented verbally before the interview was conducted. This was captured by a check box to indicate willingness and consent.

### 3.4.3 Survey Quality Assurance
The following strategies for quality assurance were employed:

● Survey tools were developed in strict compliance with the requirements of the Terms of Reference (ToR) and harmonized in line with the key indicator in the result Framework/logframe and study objectives.

● The study tools were developed and shared with Search’s DMEL team for review and approved before deployment for data collection.

● Local enumerators conversant with the local language and culture were recruited and trained on the study tools, administration process, gender, conflict sensitivity and do no harm principle. Following the training, a field test was conducted to allow enumerators experience data collection in contexts like the enumeration communities. Feedback from field-testing was used to review the tools for quality and user-friendliness.

● Questionnaire was coded onto Kobo-collect software and programmed with skip patterns and validation criteria such that data errors were flagged up for enumerators to correct before the software allowed access to subsequent questionnaire sections.

● Experienced research assistants were recruited and trained to monitor data collection activities including enumerator/interviewer performance via spot observation of interviews and FGDs with participants. The research assistants implemented daily quality control checks on the data sets that are automatically uploaded from the field and provide feedback to the Lead Consultant for daily debriefing of field supervisors and field teams.

### SECTION FOUR: METHODOLOGY

#### 4.0 An Overview of the Study Methodology
The study adopted a mixed method which used a result-based approach that integrated the use of qualitative and quantitative methods to capture, analyse and present the perspectives of all stakeholders (beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries) of the project through a participatory and solution-oriented process. This method ensured that all stakeholders were engaged in the entire study process. The revised Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development-Development Assistance Committee Criteria (OECD/DAC) was used in setting the framework for the evaluation. Key criteria examined are:
Relevance, Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Sustainability. The study collected primary data through survey, Key Informant Interviews, Focus Group Discussion, and secondary data through an in-depth desk review of project documents including project proposal documents, baseline report, monthly, quarterly, midline and annual reports, project log frame and Indicator Performance Tracking Table (IPTT). Project’s result framework/indicator framework served as a survey guiding document. The documents reviewed gave more insight into the prevailing and current realities on the project and the context of implementation. This informed the modification of the data collection tool with a knowledge of key indicators which constitute the basis to measure the attitudes, perceptions, and the current context of the community of intervention. The survey established the end-line for the project’s key indicators which constitutes the basis to measure the project performance after the period of implementation.

The population of the study comprised of residential women, men, young people, other community, structures/and relevant government bodies in the LGAs and communities of intervention. The population of the project focal communities was obtained from the 2006 and 2016 census projection figures. The survey sample Size was determined using the Krejci & Morgan’s (1970) formula and adjusted for a non-response and refusal rate (5%) to yield a final sample size of 400.

\[
s = X^2 NP (1 - P) / d^2 (N - 1) + X^2 P(1 - P)
\]

Where:

- \( s \) = required sample size
- \( X^2 \) = the table value of chi-square for one degree of freedom at the desired confidence level
- \( N \) = the population size
- \( P \) = the population proportion (assumed to be .50 since this would provide the maximum sample size)
- \( d \) = the degree of accuracy expressed as a proportion (.05)

The study adopted a mixture of multistage sampling techniques consisting of random sampling for survey respondents, and purposive sampling to select interview respondents.

4.1 Evaluation Process Overview

Figure 1: illustrates the processes of data collection.

Several methods and tools were utilized for collecting data during the study. They are as thus;

- **i. Systematic documentary and secondary data reviews:** The study mapped all relevant actors to be engaged, reviewed relevant project documents during the evaluation. The documents reviewed were instrumental in the design of research agenda and tools for the evaluation.

- **ii. Design/adapt/refine the data collection tools:** Questionnaires were designed and deployed on kobo collect, while Interview and FGD guides were designed and paper printed to help guide research assistants in conducting interviews and probing for answers.

- **iii. Training of research assistants/data collectors:** The training was aimed at enlightening them on the objective of the study and the research ethical consideration. They were trained to understand and interpret questions in local languages to avoid misinterpretation, instructed on how to properly fill out the questionnaires, techniques to secure participation, interviewing techniques, how to handle difficult situations, probing of respondents to secure more information.
iv. **Pre-test:** The tools designed for the survey were pilot tested on the field and changes were incorporated into the tools based on errors detected in the pre-testing.

v. **In-depth Key Informant interviews with project staff:** A total of nine (9) project staff (Project manager, Early Warning Coordinator, 2 project coordinators, MEL officer and four community engagement officers) were interviewed for the purpose of assessing efficiency, effectiveness and strategy employed during implementation.

vi. Primary stakeholders’ consultation through interviews using surveys, telephone interviews, Key informant, Observation and Focus Group Discussion techniques.

### 4.2 Quantitative data collection through questionnaires administration

Table 2: Data collection using questionnaires.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>s/n</th>
<th>LGA</th>
<th>Communities</th>
<th>Target No of questionnaires</th>
<th>No of administered</th>
<th>Questionnaires</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ethiope East</td>
<td>Urhuola</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kokori</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Isoko North</td>
<td>Iyede</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ellu</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ndokwa West</td>
<td>Obodougwa</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ndemili</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ughelli- North.</td>
<td>Ughelli</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>90</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Agbarha</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>400</td>
<td>403</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4.3 Qualitative data collection using KII and FGD.

The table 4 below shows the respondents of KII and FGDs at the various communities of project intervention. The sample size for the qualitative data is purposely determined based on the volume of information, perceived to ensure that the study questions are answered with sufficient confidence.
Table 3: KII and FGD Sample Frame

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent Group</th>
<th>LGA’s of Intervention</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ethiopia East</td>
<td>Isoko North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Informant Interview (KII)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDC Chairmen/Secretaries</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPC Members</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Leaders (JNI and CAN)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAN’s Representatives</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MACBAN’s Representatives</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mediators</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security agencies formal and informal: NSCDC, NPF and Local Vigilante heads</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search’s project staff and staff of ICD</td>
<td>Search’s project staff (Project manager, project coordinator and DMEL officer) and staff of ICD (Project manager and Community Engagement officer)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGA officials</td>
<td>4 (One in each LGA)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus Group Discussions (FGD)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YOUTH (males between 18 and 35 years old)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth (females between 18 and 35 years old)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialised Groups (i.e., PLWDs)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members of the Community Security Architecture Dialogue, EWER and Multi-stakeholder dialogue members</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOMEN (community members over 35 years old)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEN (community members over 35 years old)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3.1 **Key Informant Interview (KII)**  
Analysis from the table above shows that the study conducted a total of 45 Key Informant Interviews with key stakeholders within the project communities and five project staff of Search and ICD.

4.3.2 **Focus Group Discussion (FGD)**  
Analysis from the table 3 above shows that the study conducted a total of 45 Key Informant Interviews with key stakeholders within the project communities and five project staff of Search and ICD. Findings also revealed that the study conducted a total of 24 FGDs with key stakeholders in each of the LGAs and target communities. Each FGD had 8 discussants reaching a total of 192 discussants.

4.4. **Data Analysis**  
The study analysed, synthesized, and triangulated the multi-level perspectives gained at the field data gathering stage to characterize the context in line with the key project indicators. The analysis determined the outcomes (expected and unexpected) and impact of the project in the project communities, and other neighbouring communities from inception to date. Quantitative data collected
via Kobo collect was downloaded in excel format, cleaned and analysed using excel pivot table. The data was analysed at univariate and bi-variate levels to reflect simple percentages to indicate the dimensions of the key indicators of interest to the study. Qualitative data collected was transferred from the notes into a designed reporting template to ensure consistency of the perceptions recorded and analysed descriptively using ethnographic summaries and manual content analysis. Facts were grouped according to themes related to the indicator of interest. Synthesized data from content analysis were triangulated with data obtained from analysis of survey and comprehensive review of secondary data, to generate useful perspectives on the indicators being measured.

Based on the analysis of findings, a draft evaluation report was written.

4.5 Limitation and Challenges

- The study team encountered difficulty in organising participants for FGDs as participants were scattered in different locations in the Local Government Areas but this challenge was overcome with the help of the community mobilizers.

- The Key Informant Interview participants were either too busy or not available as at the time of interview. This extended the number of days for data collection as the study team had to reschedule appointments.

- There was also a delay in reaching a particular LGA (Ughelli-North) as community members were agitated due to attacks on their farms.
SECTION FIVE: DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INFORMATION OF RESPONDENTS

5.1 Respondents Geographical Distribution
The study was implemented in four (4) LGAs and eight (8) communities. The LGAs and communities are Ethiope East (Urhuola & Kokori communities); Isoko North (Iyede & Ellu communities); Ndokwa West (Obodougwa & Ndemili communities); and Ughelli North (Ughelli & Agbarha communities).

Findings revealed that 403 respondents were reached across the 4 LGAs and eight (8) communities of project implementation. A total of 38 percent (n=155) of the respondents were reached in Ughelli-North LGA, 17 percent (n=69) in Ndokwa-West, 20 percent, (n=80) in Isoko North while 25 percent, (n=99) of the respondents were reached in Ethiope-East.

Communities of Respondents: Findings also revealed that 11 percent of the respondents were reached in Urhuola community, 22 percent in Ughelli community, 10 percent in Obodougwa community, 7 percent in Ndemili community, 13 percent in Kokori community, 6 percent in Iyede community, 14 percent in Ellu while 16 Percent were reached in Agberha community.

Findings from the analysis of responses revealed that Ughelli-North and Ethiope-East LGAs had 38 and 25 percent response rate respectively, which is the highest. The high response rate in these LGAs is attributed to the large population size and the proportionate sample allotted to each community and LGA.

5.2 Demographic Profile of Respondents

5.2.1 Gender and Marital distribution

Findings from the analysis of responses revealed that Ughelli-North and Ethiope-East LGAs had 38 and 25 percent response rate respectively, which is the highest. The high response rate in these LGAs is attributed to the large population size and the proportionate sample allotted to each community and LGA.
Figure 5: Marital status distribution of respondents

**Gender of Respondent:** Findings as illustrated in figure 4 above revealed that the majority of the respondents representing 54 percent (n=216), are male while 46 percent (n=187) of the respondents are females. Comparatively, there was a slight male dominance (54 percent) to female (46 percent) in the evaluation. The availability of women in sampling areas reflect the influence of project activities on the existing cultural constraints on women’s availability and participation in matters of peacebuilding, conflict resolution and transformation. The difference in gender response is not as it was in the project inception. There has been a significant improvement as revealed from desk review of project documents and findings from the baseline study/conflict assessment.

**Marital Status of Respondents:** Findings as illustrated in figure 5 above revealed that a majority of the respondents representing 56 percent (n=225), are married, 5 percent are widowed, 31 percent are single, basically youths aged 18-35 years, 5 percent are separated while 3 percent are divorced.

5.3 Age and Religion distribution of Survey Respondents

**Age of Respondents:** Figure 6 below shows a slight dominance of adults in the 36 years and above bracket representing 58 percent (n=234), compared to Youths aged 35 and below age bracket representing 42 percent (n=169) of the respondents. Findings also revealed that no respondent was below 17 years of age.

Figure 6: Shows the age distribution of respondents

Figure 7: Shows religion of respondents

Figure 8: Ethnicity of Respondents
The project targeting mostly youth and adults is appropriate and reflective of Search’s familiarity with the dynamics of the Farmer-herder conflict considering the vulnerabilities of youths to conflict and the role of youth and adults (Men and Women) in decision making relating to peace and security.

**Distribution of Respondents Based on Religion:** As illustrated in figure 7 above, findings revealed that majority of the respondents representing 80 percent (n=324) are practicing Christians, 7 percent (n=30) practice Islam while 10 percent (n=41) are traditional worshippers. As revealed by a majority of the responses, Christianity is the most prominent religion in the project target communities. The dominance of Christianity in the areas of intervention gives a clear picture of the wider context of Delta State.

**Distribution of Respondents Based on Ethnicity:** As illustrated in figure 8 above, Urhobo accounted for the vast majority with 218 respondents representing (54 percent); followed by Isoko 14 percent, then Ukwuani 11 percent; with Hausa and Igbo represented by 6 and 5 percent respectively, Fulani, Izon, Kwale, Yoruba and Okpe accounted for 8 percent of the response rate.

The ethnic and religious patterns in the context of project communities gave an insight into the vulnerabilities associated with ethnic and religious perceptions of bias amongst project beneficiaries around access to or level of participation in project interventions. Desk review of project documents revealed an inclusive selection of project beneficiaries in different target communities to reflect the various ethnic groups and religions.

**5.4 Disability Status of Respondents**
The population of the differently abled in the overall sample was noticeably low with 14 respondents representing 3 percent and the remaining 389 respondents representing 97 percent as abled.

![Figure 9: Distribution of persons living with disability](image)

**Figure 9: shows the disability Status of Respondents**

Findings as illustrated in figure 9 above revealed that data was collected in an inclusive manner by including Persons Living with Disability (PLWD).
5.5 Occupation and Employment Status of Respondents

**Occupation:** Findings indicate that most respondents representing 52 percent (n=211) are self-employed (trader/small business owners) while 17 percent are government workers, 13 percent are students/apprentice, 8 percent are private sector employees, 4 percent are development workers and 6 percent are daily labourers, hunters and fishermen.

**Employment Status:** As revealed from the study, a majority of the respondents representing 87 percent have worked part time while 13 percent have worked full time. Out of those that worked part time, a majority are adults aged 36 and above with family and responsibilities.

The occupation and employment status of the sample population confirms the suitability of the project intervention, which is because a strong link exists between vulnerability and unemployment. Of equally remarkable insight, is the very high unemployment rates (lower socioeconomic level) amongst adults (Men and Women) youths (young male and female) together with their very low level of educational attainment hints at the unique vulnerability to violence, as witnessed in recent times. This finding further presents a distinctive opportunity to intensify efforts in employment creation through the inclusion of livelihood programmes in future project design and implementation in the state.

5.6 Educational profile of respondents

Findings as illustrated in figure 12 below reveal that 30 percent (n=119), of the respondents have OND, ND and NCE, 23 percent (n=93), have secondary school certification, another 8 percent (n=31) have primary Education, 18 percent (n=73) have no qualification at all, 2 percent (n=9) are post graduate degree holders while 3 percent (n=11) have other qualifications apart from the conventional educational qualifications. As revealed, the 3 percent have other qualifications from Islamic and Quranic Schools.
This shows that a majority of the respondents representing 72 percent (n=288) (those with OND, ND, NCE, HND, secondary education, B.Sc. and Postgraduate qualifications) have the educational acumen to properly digest and respond to questions asked during the study with answers precisely tailored to questions. This strengthened the validity and reliability of the study findings.

5.7 Number of years lived in the Community of Study

Findings revealed that 7 percent of the respondents have lived for 1-2 years in their current community of residence, 19 percent have lived for 3 – 5 years, 2 percent have lived for 6-12 months, 1 percent have lived for less than 6 months, while 70 percent (n=284) have lived for more than 5 years in the communities.

This implies that a majority of the respondents have lived for more than one year in the project intervention communities as indicated by (96 percent) response rate and are very conversant with the context and conflict dynamics. Their long stay in the community equipped them with the relevant knowledge to give valid information about the changes in context of their various communities of abode.
5.7 Respondent’s Knowledge of the Project

Figure 4 and 15 shows response on awareness, participation, and usefulness of project activity

**Awareness:** Findings reveal that 57 percent (n=229) of the respondents are aware of the project titled *Sharing the Green Grass; Cultivating a Locally Led Peace Architecture in the Niger Delta*, recently implemented by Search for Common Ground in their community. 40 percent of the respondents are not aware of the project while 3 percent of the respondents do not know anything about what is being discussed. Having 40 percent of the respondents not aware of the project helped to eliminate bias that would have emanated from having the knowledge of the project related activities, goal, objectives and expected results. Their opinion also helped to eliminate bias because they didn’t see the need to paint the project in good light looking at the fact that they have never participated in or benefitted from the project and are unaware of the project goal and objectives. Their views strongly support in giving a true reflection of the current context and changes.

**Participation in the project:** Findings from the analysis of participation of respondents in the project activities reveals that; out of the percentage who responded that they are aware of Search’s project implemented in their communities, 81 percent (n=186) have directly participated/benefited in the project activities while 19 percent did not directly benefit from the project activities implemented in their various communities.

**Activities the survey respondents participated in:** findings as illustrated in figure 16 above revealed that the survey respondents participated in the Community Security Architecture Dialogue (CSAD), Early Warning, Early Response System (EWER), Multi-Stakeholders Community Dialogue, Cross-Cultural Community Events for Solidarity, Town hall meetings and Peace Architecture Dialogue (PAD). Findings from the analysis of responses above show that the activities were multi-layered,
interconnected and interdependent on each other such that a participant could have participated in more than one project activity.

Responses on the usefulness of the activities

![Figure 17: Shows the responses on the usefulness of the activities](image)

All the survey respondents who have had the opportunity to participate in the project activities found the activities to be very useful as indicated by 100 percent response rate. In addition, findings from the analysis of responses of KII with project staff revealed that the project activities are very useful and effective. This is evident in some of their responses below:

**CPC/CSAD/ meetings** – “the meetings provided a platform for interaction and allowed the people to own the process which has enhanced relationships through bridging the communication gaps”  
(CSAD Chairman in Kokori Community)

“Dialogues at all the levels (PAD, Town Hall meetings, multi-stakeholder community Dialogue) were very effective in resolving herders/farmers disputes and has contributed to the increased level of trust” (KII/ female/ Project Officer)

“Early Warning Early Responses structures were effective and important to the prevention and responses to the conflict situation” (Vigilante Commander in Ugehi Community)

“Cross-Cultural Community Events for Solidarity provided glamour and innovation to the project”  
(KII/ Project Officer)

From the responses, it is evident that Meetings and Dialogue at all levels are considered to be the most effective activities within the communities. The project team had this to say;

“All the project related activities implemented by Search for Common Ground are/were effective; as far as we are concerned or had experienced so far. No activity was mentioned as ineffective”.  
(KII/ Project Officer)

These activities are seen to be effective and useful because they have succeeded in improving the relationship between the herders and farmers. The creation of a platform for interaction especially amongst the community members/leaders and the security agents/agencies has had a tremendous impact on peaceful and harmonious coexistence. The EWER system provided a channel of reporting of early warning signals for necessary action.

Findings from KII and FGD with community respondents revealed that the project activities are relevant and useful as thus:

“CSAD activities have helped in resolving conflicts within the communities” (KII/ CSAD chairman)
**“The activities taught us the importance of living in peace and how to settle conflicts” (KII/ MACBAN chairman)**

**“CSAD meetings provide advice for members on how to settle issues. Also, the town hall meetings are important because herders are now known in the community” (KII / vigilante chairman)**

FGD participants had this to say in terms of the usefulness of the activities;

**“It brought unity between farmers and herders in our community, we now talk to each other about issues arising from the Farmer herder relations” (FGD/ CSAD members)**

**SECTION SIX: MAIN FINDINGS**

6.1 Evaluation Objective 1: To determine the project’s achievements and contribution to the overall peaceful outcomes in the communities in line with the goal and objectives of the project.

**Project Objective 1:** Farmer and herder communities cultivate the skills and relationships to collaborate on peace and security issues. In order to achieve the project goal and objective one, the following activities were implemented;

**Capacity-Building for P2P Collaboration and Dispute Resolution:** Search conducted a series of training sessions for ICD staff on advanced farmer-pastoralist expertise in leading transformational dialogues, radio programming, and project management capacity building for effectively implementing P2P activities and facilitation of dialogue conflict transformation and sustainable dispute management and violence mitigation mechanisms. Search also trained representatives of MACBAN, AFAN, women, and youth organizations in advanced institutional engagement and policy advocacy. This activity was considered very effective by the survey respondents.

FGD participants had this to say in terms of the usefulness of the activity;

**“We were educated on peace building” (FGD/ Men in Iyede Community)**

**“I got to understand that without dialogue there will be no peace” (FGD female youth Kokori Community)**

**“The activities taught us about Peace building” (FGD/ female youth)**

**Multi-stakeholders Community Dialogues and Town Hall Meetings:** These series of activities promoted safe and collaborative spaces for stakeholders to discuss key local conflict issues. It employed a multi-staged approach to ensure gradual buy-in of key stakeholders. This ensured the full participation of all stakeholders including women, young people and marginalised groups. Eventually, the activities had an active participation of critical stakeholders such as MACBAN, CAN, JNI AFAN, women and youths. This activity was held in the LGAs of intervention.

Participants of these activities shared feedback on the importance of this activities and what they achieved through it:

**“People can hold different views to resolve conflict easily and you cannot declare the other man's opinion as wrong and the manner we approach conflict is essential to resolving conflict” (Survey/ Male from Ughelli-North)**
“Dialogue for us now is about getting both sides’ point of view and everyone’s opinion matters a lot. There is no right or wrong opinion in any Dialogue process.” (Survey, Male Traditional worshiper from Ughelli-North)

“Dialogue as a means to an end” (Survey/ Male from Isoko North)

“I have seen that I should value the crops of the farmers just the way I value my cattle” (Survey/ Male Fulani from Agbarha in Ughelli-North)

Cross-Cultural Community Events for Solidarity: This activity leveraged on community festivals and events. It brought the herders’ community to join the host community in celebrating festivals. Respondents for the survey considered the activity to have had an impact, by creating in them an understanding that “all cultures are unique” and that for progressive peace, it is essential to “appreciate other people's culture and their way of life”. For some respondents, it also pointed to reflections on the need for a more culturally diverse community.

Findings from the survey responses revealed that the cross-cultural event organised by Search saw people from various communities coming together as one irrespective of religion, ethnic groups and occupation.

“Because I am a member of the farmers’ association in this community and I have witnessed first-hand, the gruesomeness of conflict and violence and the losses. So, when peace is preached, I always support it because I don’t want to experience it again.” (Survey Respondent, Ethiope-East)

Mobile Screenings: This was created to present documentaries on the successes and challenges of the project. This activity provided interaction points and yielded discussions around the documentary aired in the communities. This activity further triggered reflections with subsequent recommendations on collaborative conflict management strategies for farmers and herders. It was observed that the documentary which was aired in the communities which are farmer dominated, could have more outcomes if also aired in the camps of the herders.

Amplifying Peace Radio Program on Farmer-Herder Conflict Management: This 30-minute peace driving, solutions-oriented radio talk show was broadcasted on two radio stations in Delta State. It promoted collaborative attitudes and behaviours across divided communities. Sharing identified notable successful stories from project activities. With a ricocheting reach to non-Project implementing communities.

Figure 18: Distribution of listenership status of respondents

Figure 19: The radio program you listened to has helped in positively changing your attitude and behavior and also strengthened your relationship with other community members
Figures 18 and 19 above present that 31 percent (n=125) of respondents from the survey have listened to the radio program. Out of these, 76 percent (n=199) attested that the radio program has changed their attitude and behavior and also strengthened their relationship with other community members. 19 percent were neutral while 10 percent disagreed. Respondents presented that the programme served as a constant reminder of their role in peacebuilding with a hope that it will be sustained.

According to a Survey respondent

The constant replay of peace messages on radio helped in deepening his resolve to participate in conflict resolution in his community. Before now, I hardly pay attention to conflict situations in my community, but after listening to a radio programme about how individuals can make a difference, I started practicing.

“...there is radio programme to enlighten the members of the community on peace”

(KII CPC member)

All the project activities under objective one were aimed at increasing the capacity of community members, local partners and civil society organizations to identify and respond to conflicts and also improve the relationship between farmer and herder community members to have a deeper understanding of each other, and increase trust.

6.1.1 Outcome indicator 1: % of target community members interviewed who report reduced violent conflicts between members of other communities

Findings from the analysis of responses revealed that there is a significant reduction in the number of violent conflicts between and among community members as indicated by 67 percent (n=268) (agree and strongly disagree) response rate. Findings from KII and FGDs revealed that the project established several platforms (CSAD, CPC, EWER and PAD) for the identification of early warning signs, conflict resolution and advocacy at the local government and state level. These platforms have helped in reporting early warning systems which have contributed to a reduction and resolving of conflicts which would have turned violent in the different communities of intervention.

A representative of JNI in Ughelli community has this to say;
Findings from FGD with adult male group as well as the female group in Iso North LGA indicated that:

“the conflict situation was intense because of the grazing reserve program of the federal government which the community believed the federal government is planning to collect their lands and give to the Fulani’s herders” but with the intervention of Search for Common Ground “community members to some extents are relax and are positive about co-existing with the Fulani herders”.

6.1.2 Outcome Indicator 2: % of target groups with increased capacities to promote collaboration between farmer-herder communities

Distribution of respondents on whether or not capacity of community members has been strengthened to prevent and locally manage conflict at the community level and also to assess whether or not the capacity of community members has been built to promote positive collaboration between farmers and herders

As illustrated in figure 21 above, findings revealed that 35 percent (n=146) of the respondents agree that the capacity of community members have been significantly strengthened to prevent and locally manage conflict at the community level, 20 percent (n=70) of the respondents strongly agree, 39 percent of the respondents are neutral while 5 and 1 percent disagree and strongly disagree respectively that the capacity of community members have been significantly strengthened to prevent and locally manage conflict at the community level.

Findings as indicated above also revealed that 36 percent of the respondents agree that the capacity of community members have been built to promote positive collaboration between farmers and herders, 17 percent of the respondents strongly agree, 40 percent of the respondents are neutral while 4 and 2 percent disagree and strongly disagree respectively that the capacity of community members has been built to promote positive collaboration between farmers and herders. This implies that a majority of the respondents, representing 53 percent (n=216) (agree and strongly agree) that the capacity of community members has been built to promote positive collaboration between farmers and herders.

Findings from the analysis of responses revealed that the majority of the respondents agree that the capacity of community members have been significantly strengthened to prevent and locally manage
conflict at the community level. Due to the knowledge and skills acquired, community members now promote positive collaboration between farmers and herders as indicated by (53 percent) response rate. The 53 percent achieved is slightly above the 50 percent targeted.

Findings from KII and FGD with stakeholders revealed that there is a positive collaboration between the security agencies and community groups like the All-Farmers Association (AFAN), Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association elders, women, youth groups and religious Leaders in the different communities of intervention.

A KII respondent who is a CSAD chairman in Ethiope-East LGA had this to say:

“The synergy and collaborations between stakeholders in the CSAD, CPC, PAD and EWER platforms established by the project helped in strengthening the relationship between the farmers and herders as they now meet to discuss emerging issues identified from the different communities and take actions were necessary”

According to the chairman of the vigilante group in Ndokwa West;

“There are collaborations between the vigilante and police because for example if I or my boys identify security concerns in our community, we call the DPO” (KII/ vigilante chairman, Ndokwa West).

This correlates with findings from training sessions where participants were found to achieve a considerable change in knowledge. Such as the Training for Women on Dispute Management, Mitigation and Resolution where the 22 participants recorded a 13% increase in knowledge from a Pre-test score of 75.9% to a Post-test score of 89.0% and the Dispute Management, Mitigation and Resolution Training for Youth Leaders with 30 youths trained recording a Pre-test score of 32.70% to a Post-test score of 41.14% amounting to 8.44% increase in knowledge.

Cases of positive collaboration as identified by the Search project team include;

a. The CSAD, PAD and EWER platforms were created for interaction between community members, security outfits and representatives of farmer and herder groups, religious and traditional leaders to discuss emerging issues and take the necessary action within their communities.

b. Collaboration with CSOs and MDAs working on similar intervention in the project location;

Search in the course of project implementation collaborated with Partner for Peace in the Niger Delta, Initiative for Community Development; both non-Governmental organisations working on a similar project with the aim of complementing each other’s effort and also achieving a common goal.

With government, the project was able to partner with the Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Information, Economic and Planning, National Orientation Agency, State and local government councils, Special Adviser to the Governor on Peacebuilding and CSOs, National Youth Council and the State House of Assembly (KII with the Project Manager)

c. Collaboration with community associations such as MACBAN and AFAN: these associations are structured from the community to the state level. The project partnered and collaborated with these associations as they are critical stakeholders of the project.

**Outcome of the Collaboration**
I. The collaboration helped in creating synergy between and amongst the different security agencies (Formal and informal) in tackling cases of conflict in the communities.

II. The collaboration helped in cementing the relationships within the communities which has led to the recognition and acceptance of the project activities.

   a. The collaborative nature of the community dialogue platforms (CSAD) in the four intervention LGAs (Ethiope East, Isoko North, Ughelli North and Ndokwa West) attracted high level stakeholders such as LGA chairpersons. For instance, the Executive Chairman of Ethiope East Local Government Area, Hon. (Mrs.) Faith Majemite participated in CSAD for the first time in May 2020 and also participated in the PAD in the same month and the next month (June). She did not only commit to mobilizing other LGA Chairmen to be part of the process but also initiated an LGA security meeting to share experiences from the dialogues with her team, with Search in attendance.

   b. The dialogues conducted by the project in Ethiope East, Isoko North, Ughelli North and Ndokwa West Local Government Areas enhanced collaboration between communities, local and state government officials, herders, farmers and their respective community leaders, cattle dealers and owners, security actors, traditional leaders, civil societies and marginalized groups (women and PLWD). This collaboration strengthened the advocacy drive of the community members. One very critical engagement was that of the Secretary to the Delta State Government (SSG), who approved the use of his conference hall for the meeting and also demanded to have the resolutions and recommendations of the dialogue for further engagements.

III. The involvement of the security agents in the Community Security Architecture Dialogue (CSAD), EWER mechanism and the PAD has led to swift responses to identified early warning signs and emerging conflicts in the project target communities.

IV. Findings revealed a proactive security response in the different communities of intervention.

V. There is significant improvement in the confidence of community members on the operations of the security personnel in the different communities of intervention. The community members also attested to a better relationship between the herder and farmers community due to a cordial relationship.

6.1.3 Outcome Indicator 3: % of community members who report creating new, positive relationships with members of the other community.

![Figure 23: Community members now create new positive relationships with members of other communities.](image-url)
Figure 23: Shows the distribution of respondents on whether or not community members now create new positive relationships with members of other communities.

Figure 24: Shows the distribution of respondents how effective the relationship between farmers and herders in responding to peace and security issues in your LGA and community.

Figure 25: Shows the distribution of respondents on whether there has been a significant improvement in the security situation in my community due to a cordial relationship between farmers and herders.

Findings as indicated in figure 24 above revealed that 256 (63 percent) of the respondents agree that the relationship between farmers and herders in responding to peace and security issues in their LGAs and communities is effective (very effective and partially effective), 9 percent of the respondents see the relationship as not effective, 28 percent of the respondents don’t know whether the relationship between farmers and herders in responding to peace and security issues is effective or not.

As illustrated in figure 25 above, findings revealed that 249 (62 percent) of the respondents agree that there has been a significant improvement in the security situation in their community due to a cordial relationship between farmers and herders, 14 percent of the respondents disagree with the statement while 25 percent don’t know whether there has been a significant improvement in the security situation their community due to a cordial relationship between farmers and herders.

Findings from the analysis of responses revealed that community members now create new positive relationships with members of other communities as indicated by 82 percent response rate (n=331). The relationship created as a result of the project intervention between the farmers and herders has been very effective in responding to peace and security issues in the different communities and LGAs of intervention. This has in turn led to a significant improvement in the security situation in the different communities of intervention. Findings revealed that 82 percent was achieved as against the 50 percent targeted at the project inception (Baseline).

Findings from analysis of the changes in context and conflict dynamics revealed that the situation in the communities changed in comparison to when the project had not commenced.

Findings from KII and FGD in Isoko LGA, revealed that the community members now trust each other due to a change in perception from negative to positive. This is as a result of their participation in the projects related activities such as CPC, CSAD, PAD and the EWER mechanism. They now realized that even the herders are just hustling for their livelihood as well. The community leader had this to say; “participation in the project's numerous activities by his community members led to an increase in level of trust and tolerance for each other. A Police officer recognized that changes in the community include
“good and respectful communication among community leaders, religious leaders and formal and informal security agencies” as a result of the “Sharing the Green Grass Project” implemented by Search for common ground.

According to a Youth Female FGD respondent in Ndokwa West;

“The situation was very bad before the coming of Search, but when they came, they taught us and made us understand the different dimensions of conflict and also to see things from a different perspective. This gave us a new approach to resolving issues with the herders causing havoc and destruction on farmlands in our communities”

According to a Male FGD respondent in Ethiope East LGA;

“The herders helped in the arrest of a criminal who usually robs people in the marketplace. This arrest was possible because of the strong and truthful relationship amongst stakeholders, community and security agencies.”

The chairman of CPC in Ethiope East LGA has this to say;

“Participation of community members in the numerous project activities led to a renewed togetherness in the community especially in terms of Peace Building and Dialogues”.

Project Objective 2: Farmer and herder communities develop effective, sustainable local mechanisms for early warning response, dispute management, and violence mitigation. In order to achieve this objective, the following activities were implemented;

Early Warning and Early Responses for Managing Farmer-Herder Conflicts in the Delta (EWER): This platform connected the various community group leaders with the formal and informal security actors to share information and report warning signals and signs to prevent and resolve conflicts. The establishment of a channel of reporting to security early warning signals and the responses by the relevant persons or organizations have formed the ownership of the peace process by the communities and the sustainability of the peace process guaranteed. An active member of EWER in Kokori community had this say;

“There exists a good and cordial relationship between farmers and herders. They now see the need to provide accurate and vital information to security agencies for necessary action.”

Outcome of the EW/ER platform in place

- To publicise the work of the EW/ER platform set-up by Search in the project communities, a quarterly and monthly conflict scan bulletin was published and shared with key stakeholders across communities to keep track of situation and how they are resolved. The Bulletin tracks incidents across the 12 project communities in Delta State, where the project works to promote collaborative response to peace building interventions and incidents of violence. The publication revolves around an empirical string of actions from collation to analysis of verified incidents.

- A WhatsApp platform was created by EWER members to enable easy incident collation and reporting which is fed into the EWER platform of the project as well as serve as the primary source of information for the production of the monthly Conflict bulletin published by the project team.

- Due to the effectiveness of EW/ER platform, community members have resisted the urge to retaliate violently on cases of farm encroachment by cattle; they now easily trace perpetrators through the EW/ER mechanism in place at the community level. After tracing perpetrators, they resolve the issues through dialogue with the cattle owners (AFAN representative).
In Oboduogwa community, early warning cases are identified and reported to the EWER officer who is a member of the CPC, local vigilantes, and the Nigerian police. Several cases were reported and actions taken.

Example of Cases reported

- On the 9th April 2020, at about 12:30 pm in the Kokori community, some herders were resting at their residence in the bush when some youth who are members of the community attacked two of the Gaukas with cutlasses, leaving them with several injuries. A member of the CPC and the mediator reported this incident to the community council of elders meeting.
- An incident occurred in Kokori on the 23rd of April, 2020 where a cultivated cassava farm belonging to a farmer was encroached by some cattle leading to the destruction of the farmland. The farmer on reaching his farm observed that the herders had used the farm as a grazing route to other locations. This incident was reported to the vigilante group and the CPC mediators investigated and identified the cattle. The two conflicting parties were brought together for a peaceful resolution.
- On the 13th of April, 2020 an inflow of herders into Agbarha –Otor kingdom was reported amidst suspicions that they are the same herders grazing at Uwheru clan but because Uwheru is no longer accommodative the herders relocated to Agbarha-Otor leading to farm encroachment. The community responded by chasing them away as earlier done by youths in the Uwheru clan to forestall violent clashes. (SFCG EWER).

Peace Architecture Dialogues (PAD) and Community Security Architecture Dialogues (CSAD)

CSAD: This platform is a network of trained community leaders and stakeholders that can identify and share early warning signs and respond to conflicts in their communities. The platform brought together trained community leaders, local government officials, representatives of MACBAN and AFAN, security actors, and other relevant stakeholders at the LGA-level on a monthly basis to address and analyze conflict issues, such as land and water resource access, protecting migratory routes, cattle control, reparation for damaged farmland, and develop joint solutions to prevent violence. This platform aims to overcome the lack of synergy between local, state, and national government in addressing the farmer-herder conflict, and link decision-makers to on-the ground realities. This platform under the chairmanship of the representative of the Local Government Councils (LGCs) created a sense of ownership of the project. The selection of the dialogue executives by community members endorsed and facilitated the development and implementation of action plan/resolutions.

A KII respondent has this to say;

“Participating in the CSAD enabled me as a person to interact with the herders and other stakeholders to identify issues that are affecting the co-existence of the community and also proffered solutions to the problem.” (CDC Chairman in Isoko North).

The CSAD provided platform for interaction between people that would not normally seat and talk to each other, herders and farmers especially (FGD with CSAD members in Ethiope East)

Achievements of the CSAD platform

- The CSAD provided a safe space for the conflicting parties to interact between and amongst themselves especially stakeholders that would never seat and talk to each other (herders and farmers) (FGD with CSAD members in Isoko North)
- It also created a clear channel for reporting security issues to the appropriate agencies for quick and immediate actioning (FGD Youth male)
- The platform helped in changing the perception of the community members who are active participants. some of them had this to say;

“The situation was very bad to the extent that we thought all herders were Boko Haram or Bandits. We believe that they are in our community to destroy our farms which is our main
source of livelihood and also kill us, but now we relate with them and share ideas on how best to resolve conflict issues. I have come to realise that not all herders are bad.”

( CSAD chairman Isoko North).

**PAD:** This state level dialogue platform linked the government directly with the community members. This has strengthened the relationship between both parties and positively influenced the government's approach towards the community members. The platform has government’s buy-in, and the PAD members are advocating the establishment of The Delta State Peace Building Agency which will ensure the continuity of the Peace Architecture Dialogue platforms beyond the communities of project implementation and even institutionalize it. Currently, the PAD structure is fully captured in the bill. The PAD members have established a committee to follow-up and lobby the state house of assembly members for the approval and signing of the bill.

An NOA representative had this to say about the Peace Architecture Dialogue;

“the PAD provided a platform for state actors to discuss and dialogue for community development. And importantly garnering effort to lobby for the establishment of Delta state Peace Building Agency.

The involvement of MACBAN and AFAN in the Peace Architecture Dialogue has helped in the effective implementation of action plans and resolution from meetings in the different communities. The associations leveraged on its network across LGAs and communities to enforce its policies. For instance AFAN resolved that no child below the age of 15 be allowed to graze cattles in Ndokwa West LGA and the herders living within the communities complied with the directive. (AFAN’s Representatives)

**CPC:** This bi-monthly community level dialogue provided community members (including Fulani herders) opportunities to interact on issues affecting their communities. The willingness and commitment of community members to dialogue and develop action plans facilitated the addition of a local government desk officer in the committee, the information by the CPC members and feedback by the chairperson of the local government area has created an atmosphere for the sustainability of the project. The outgoing chairperson of Ethiope-East LGA who has participated in the implementation of the CPC action plan and has officially handed over the CPC to her successor.

Some communities that were not target communities of the project implementation but wilfully set up their own CPCs and were part of the CSADs. Below are the communities that keyed into ripple effect:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>LGA</th>
<th>Community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ughelli North</td>
<td>Omavore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ughelli North</td>
<td>Uwheru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Isoko North</td>
<td>Aradhke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Isoko North</td>
<td>Ovrade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ndokwa West</td>
<td>Umoshene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ndokwa West</td>
<td>Umosan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ndokwa West</td>
<td>Amorji</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These communities were reported to have joined the dialogue platforms because of the relative progress and stability they observed in project implementation communities. They wanted to partake in this. Uwheru community which was a community that was part of the project design but withdrew from the project⁷, later joined the CSAD and formed a CPC in their community.

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⁷ Uwheru community withdrew from the project based on a misconception that the ideology of “sharing the green grass” was a way to defraud the indigents (farmers) of their land and handover to herders, perpetuated by an influencer in the community. However, engagements through the radio programmes and invitations from Search
6.1.4 Outcome Indicator 4: % participants interviewed who demonstrate greater capacities to detect, report, and respond to potential violence.

Activities the survey respondents participated in: findings as illustrated in figure 23 above revealed that the survey respondents participated in the different project activities which include the; Community Security Architecture Dialogue (CSAD) as illustrated by majority response rate (30 percent), Cross-Cultural Community Events for Solidarity as indicated by (15 percent) response rate, Early Warning, Early Response System (EWER) as indicated by (19 percent) response rate, Multi-Stakeholders Community Dialogue as revealed by (16 percent) response rate, town hall meetings as indicated by 11 percent and Peace Architecture Dialogue as indicated by 8 percent response rate.

Respondents’ capacity to detect, report and respond to potential violence situations in their communities due to the knowledge gained from attending project activities: As illustrated in figure 24 above, findings revealed that 186 (72 percent) of the respondents who have participated in Search led activities agree that they now have the capacity to detect, report and respond to potential violence situations in their communities due to the knowledge gained from attending project activities, 20 percent of the respondents disagree while 8 percent don’t know whether they now have the capacity to detect, report and respond to potential violence situations in their communities due to the knowledge gained from attending project activities.

Findings from the analysis of responses revealed that community members have participated in different project activities which has effectively equipped them with the skills and capacity to easily detect, report and respond to potential violence situations in their communities due to the knowledge gained from attending project activities as indicated by the 72 percent response rate.

Findings revealed that the training on EW/ER received by the community members has equipped them with the relevant skills to easily identify, detect and report cases to the relevant security agencies for action.

- In Isoko North, the conflict dynamics related to farmer/herder conflict reduced considerably (as revealed by 43 percent of the respondents from Isoko North) as a result of the shared understanding and dialogue that led to effective collaboration to detect and resolve conflict to have the community leadership join CSAD meetings resulted in a better understanding of the goal and objectives of the project and the community eventually joined the CSAD and formed a CPC in their community.
issues between herders and farmers. The EW/ER members track cases of farm destruction or killing of cattles then the CPC mediator comes in to resolve such cases using the mediation skills acquired from the training attended.

- As a result of several training sessions on identifying early warning and how to effectively respond, a herdsman in Kokori community volunteered himself to work with the EW/ER members to identify cattles who destroy crops and also the cattle owners which he successfully traced several cattles and owners.

6.1.5 Outcome Indicator 5: % participants interviewed who report resolving disputes between farmer-herder communities.

Findings as illustrated in figure 28 above, revealed that 115 (62 percent) of the respondents agree that they have resolved disputes between farmer-herder communities at individual/community level, 15 percent of the respondents have not while 23 percent don’t know what is being discussed.

This implies that (62 percent) of the participants of project activities interviewed have resolved disputes between farmer-herder communities at individual or community level using the skills and knowledge acquired from the different project activities they attended. The project at inception targeted 30 percent of community members who have resolved disputes between farmer-herder communities at individual or community level using the skills and knowledge acquired from the project related activities and achieved 62 percent. This shows a significant increase.

According to a KII (JNI) respondent in Ughelli LGA;

“I have been resolving conflicts between herders and farmers in my community using the skills I acquired from the different trainings organised by Search for Common Ground, especially the training on conflict resolution. This has made me very popular in my community, I am now considered a peace ambassador. Whenever there is an issue between farmers and herders, I am the first point of contact.”

Findings from KII and FGDs conducted revealed that the project activities such as the training and the different platforms (CSAD, PAD, CPC and EWER) brought the different stakeholders together. This has created synergy and further strengthened the relationship between the farmers and herders.

During the FGD sessions the adult women group indicated that;

“prior to the intervention of Search for Common Ground, conflict amongst community members whom predominantly are farmers and Fulani herders was rampant leading to varied cases of violence and reprisal attacks which has disrupted our livelihood but as a result of the intervention, we now know how to solve the issues with immediate effect, e.g. if cattle enter our farms, we call on our leaders who will also call the Fulani leaders and resolve the problem without fighting”.

Examples

- A CSAD member from Amorji community in Ndokwa LGA resolved a case of
destruction of fence and encroachment into farmland by herders. The case was reported to the CSAD members who intervened, dialogue and negotiated to resolve it. The cattle owner who is also a member of the CSAD platform rebuilt the fence.

- The CSAD members in Ndokwa West facilitated the drafting of an MoU between Obodougwa Community and herders operating in the community defining terms and conditions applicable to herders who wish to remain in the community for their businesses using the skills acquired project related activities. The MoU was signed on August 27th, 2020 and has since been put to use.

6.1.6 Outcome Indicator 6: % target partners, associates, and farmer-herder community members interviewed who feel confident that project-related activities will continue long-term.

Findings as illustrated in figure 29, 30 and 31 above revealed that 242 (60 percent) of the respondents who are aware and have participated in the project activities agree that the programme interventions have been accepted in the different target communities. 42 percent (n=171) of the respondents agree that the local mechanisms for early warning response, dispute management, and violence mitigation established within the community are sustainable. On continuity of the project related activities, findings reveal that majority of the respondents representing 55 percent response rate (n=222), agree that the project related activities will continue in the long term after the project, 25 percent do not agree while 20 percent don’t know whether or not the project related activities will continue in the long term after the project.
Findings from the analysis of responses revealed that the survey respondents who have participated in some of the project related activities confirmed the existence of a sustainable local mechanisms for early warning response, dispute management, and violence mitigation established within the different communities of intervention (PAD, CSAD, EWER and CPC, etc) and are convinced that the activities will continue in the long term after the project as indicated by 55 percent affirmative response rate.

In conclusion, 55 percent of the partners, associates, and farmer-herder community members interviewed feel confident that project-related activities will continue long-term. 55 percent achieved is above the 50 percent targeted at inception.

6.1.7 Outcome Indicator 7: % change in number of farmer and herder conflicts reported resulting from activity interventions supported by USG funds.

Findings as illustrated in figure 32 revealed that n=268 (66.5 percent) of the respondents reported that there is a reduction in the number of violent conflict between farmer and herder communities, and alluded that this reduction is due to project activities of Search. 121 (30.0 percent) were undecided as to if there has been such a reduction while 14 (3.5 percent) of the respondents disagree and report that there hasn’t been a reduction in the number of violent conflicts in communities due to Search led activities.

As illustrated on figure 25, findings revealed that 249 (62 percent) of the respondents agree that there has been a significant improvement in the security situation in their community due to a cordial relationship between farmers and herders. They also attributed this success to the strong synergy and collaboration between and among the key stakeholders in the communities of intervention (farmers and herders communities).

A cross tabulation of respondents with an opinion that there is a significant reduction in the number of violent conflicts between and among community members due to the active responsiveness of the locally led Peace Architecture platforms in addressing safety and security concerns in the community and those who agree that there has been a significant improvement in the security situation in their community revealed a 57.1 percent affirmative response which is above the 50 percent targeted at inception. An evaluation of ACLED data8 for conflicts within these communities, reveal a reduction in the frequency of reported farmer herder conflicts and casualties from the conflict.

Findings from KII and FGDs conducted further revealed that the community members acknowledged that there is a reduction in the number of conflicts and are able to identify that some of these gains are due to the initiatives of Search, this is because the different community led peace platforms and

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8 Full Dashboard | ACLED (acleddata.com)
mechanisms established by Search (CPC, CSAD, PAD and EWER mechanism) have succeeded in resolving conflict at the community level (CPC), LGA level (CSAD), and State level (PAD) and also in the identification of emerging threats in the different communities, LGA and State level (EWER platform).

“The establishment of the platforms has significantly played a huge part in the peaceful co-existence experienced in our community”. (FGD Women group, Isoko)

6.1.8 Outcome Indicator 8: % of target community members satisfied with response to farmer-herder conflict by community conflict mitigation structures.

Findings as illustrated on figure 33 revealed that n=254 (63.0 percent) of the respondents reported that there is a locally led Peace Architecture Dialogue platform established in the community aimed at managing and preventing violent conflict in their communities. 35 (8.7 percent) of the respondents disagree/refuted the statement that there exist a locally led Peace Architecture Dialogue platform established in the community aimed at managing and preventing violent conflict while n=114 (28.3) of the surveyed respondents don't know whether a locally led Peace Architecture Dialogue platform exist in the community aimed at managing and preventing violent conflict.

Findings from the survey as illustrated in figure 34 revealed that n=253 (62.8 percent) of the respondents reported that the conflict mitigation structures set up in the communities by Search are effective (21.3 percent, partially effective and 41.4 percent very effective). 125 respondents (31.0 percent) reported that they did not know while 25 (6.2 percent) pointed that the structures were not effective.

Out of the 253 respondents who consider the platform effective, 225 (55.8 percent) attest a satisfaction with the response to farmer-herder conflict by the established community conflict mitigation structures.

The major variables used in assessing the effectiveness of the different platforms, mechanisms and forums established are recognition, trust, willingness, participation and collaboration. Findings from KIIs with community members and project staff, FGDs with community members and evaluation of the Theory of Change, revealed that the community members have recognized the existence of the Search established and supported platforms (CPC, CSAD and PAD). They have also come to build trust on the platform, shown a willingness to and have participated in the platforms, building formidable collaborations for peace initiatives within their communities. It is also considered effective as leadership at community, LGA and state levels have equally exhibited recognition, trust for, acceptance and
institutionalization of the platforms. (The Secretary to the state Government, allotted an office space for the holding of PAD meetings within the Government House.)

6.1.9 Outcome Indicator 9: % target community conflict mitigation structures stating that crisis response followed established procedures.

Findings as illustrated in figure 35 revealed that \( n = 242 \text{ (60.0 percent)} \) of the respondents attest they are aware of existing local mechanisms/groups in their communities involved in EWER, dispute management and violence mitigation. 48 (11.9 percent) reported that they do not know if such mechanisms exist, and 113 (28.0 percent) of the respondents where certain that the mechanisms do not exist. Out of the 242 who attested that the mechanism exists, 174 made mention of the CPC as the most recognized mechanism for conflict mitigation and 32 made mention of the CSAD while 8 and 7 respondents mentioned the vigilante and women’s group respectively as the mechanisms.

Findings from KII and FGDs revealed that the CPC which is at the community level is the most recognized and active platform in the perception of community members. This is understandably so as it is the closest structure to community people in the peace architecture. The CPCs have established conflict mitigation processes in communities and in one case, this was done through the setting up of a peace community that initiated the development and signing of a memorandum of Understanding between farmer and herder communities. This MOU was adopted and signed at the LGA level in Ndokwa West. Community members also recognize and acknowledge the functions of Search setup structures and mechanisms. Mentions were made of the EWER as a structure for supporting peace structures, indicative of the adherence to established procedures for conflict resolution and violence prevention.

“EWER helps us to identify early warnings and this helps to stop violence early. . . the PAD, CSAD and CPC have helped us to resolve conflicts and keep peace in the community.
(KII vigilante, Ndokwa)

“We use the CSAD to help to settle community disputes and also send members to go and help in mediation and dialogue. ”
(KII AFAN secretary, Ndokwa)

6.2 Evaluation Objective 2: To determine the extent to which the programme has enhanced the role of women and youth in peace building in the target communities.
Critical review of project documents and findings from KII with project team revealed that the project adopted a participatory and multi-stakeholder’ approach which integrated youth (male and female aged 18 to 35 who were marginalized and vulnerable to violence across varying socio-economic, educational,
political, and ethno-religious backgrounds) and women (who have existing or potential influence over violence in their various communities in relation to the farmer herder conflicts).

The Role of Women in Peacebuilding

Findings as illustrated in figure 36 above, revealed that majority of the respondents; 92 percent (n=371), believe that women have a role to play in decision-making related to security matters, 4 percent do not believe while the remaining 4 percent don’t know whether or not women have a role to play in decision-making related to security matters the respondents agree.

Findings in figure 37 above indicates that majority of the respondents representing 65 percent (n=264) agree that there has been an increase in the number of local women playing key roles in peacebuilding processes in their various communities in recent time, 6% of the respondents disagree while 28% are neutral on whether there has been an increase in the number of local women playing key roles in peacebuilding processes in their communities in recent time or not. Search’s activities have contributed strongly to this as diversity, equality and inclusivity were identified as criteria for engagement of beneficiaries and stakeholders in project activities.

Findings as illustrated in figure 38 above revealed that majority of the 187 female respondents in the survey 158 (84 percent) believe that as women they have a role to play in decision-making related to security matters, only 2 percent of the respondents do not believe while 13 percent of the respondent don’t know whether as a woman, you have a role to play in decision-making related to security matters or not.

Responses from KII and FGD revealed that the community members (both men and women) are beginning to appreciate the contribution of women to the safety and security of their communities. This is demonstrated by the implementation of recommendations from the CSAD and CPC that women should be included in all dialogue platforms and committees set up for resolving a particular issue. This
is a significant result because historically, the conservative culture of the context has limited women participation in peace and security as they are expected to remain at home and take care of the children and the household in general.

“Women are now part of all the dialogue platforms (CSAD and CPC) and participate in meetings in my community. We have built a network with the herder’s wives, where we meet once every month to discuss how to settle issues relating to the destruction of crops by underage herders in our community.”

(FGD with Women Group in Isoko North)

A female FGD discussant in Isoko North had this to say;

“Search for Common Ground’s project has opened our eyes and helped us realise our role as women in peace building. We now share our drinking water with the Fulani herders in the farms and even help them charge their mobile phones, this is because of the increased level of trust between us.”

The response of the women suggests a prior period where it was not possible for herders (Fulani) to enter Farmer’s house and drink water due to constant disputes between the two groups.

**The Role of Youths in Peacebuilding**

Findings as illustrated in figure 39 above revealed that majority of the respondents representing 95 percent response rate believe that youths have a role to play in decision-making related to security matters, 1 percent do not believe while the remaining 3 percent don’t know whether or not youths have a role to play in decision-making related to security matters the respondents agree.

Findings also revealed that following project intervention, majority of the respondents representing 76 percent (n=384) agree that there has been an increase in the number of local youths playing key roles in peacebuilding processes in their various communities in recent time.
in peacebuilding processes in their communities in recent time, 4 percent of the respondents disagree while 24 percent are neutral on whether there has been an increase in the number of local youths playing key roles in peacebuilding processes in their communities in recent times or not.

Findings as illustrated in figure 41 above revealed that majority of the 169 young respondents, 138 (82 percent) self-report the believe that as youths, they have a role to play in decision-making related to security matters, only 4 percent of the respondents do not believe while 14 percent of the respondents don’t know whether young people have a role to play in decision-making related to security matters.

6.3 Evaluation Objective 3: To assess the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of various strategies used on the project in establishing key relationships and changing the attitudes of target beneficiaries.

Findings from the desk review of the project documents revealed that the project was designed using an integrated bottom-up, People-to-People and conflict resolution approach which focuses on supporting local-level cohesion and community-owned conflict prevention and mitigation, and linking communities with government, security, justice, and other actors where necessary. This was further collaborated with findings from KIIs with project team and FGDs with community members (women, youth, herder and farmers), which revealed that the project adopted a participatory, Multi-stakeholders and inclusive approach which involved critical stakeholders (traditional leaders, community leaders, women leaders, youth groups, security agencies, Government agencies, CSOs, NGOs, Associations such as AFAN and MACBAN and PLWDs) from the various communities and LGAs of project intervention. These stakeholders were involved in the planning and implementation of project activities in the different project communities.

The project team also adopted advocacy and courtesy visits to community, traditional and religious leaders as strategy for community entry. This was very effective as it created awareness, leading to the recognition and acceptance of the project in the communities of intervention as revealed by responses to KIIs and FGDs.

The media, community dialogues and capacity building were also used as strategies to achieve the project’s goal and objective.

The peace architecture approach adopted by the project created a platform that supported community-based Early Warning and Early Response (EWER), to identify risks and emerging conflict issues for government action where needed. The project ensured that the conflicts identified through the EWER feed into multi-stakeholder forums (CPC, CSAD and PAD) for dispute resolution and higher-level policy change.

Findings revealed that all the strategies adopted were considered relevant and effective as it helped in cultivating the communities that are at peace with themselves and equipping them to build upon that foundation. Findings also revealed that there were no negative actors amongst the stakeholders involved in project implementation. Majority of the stakeholders worked positively to achieve the project goal and objective.

The project related activities helped in strengthening the relationship between the Police, Civil Defense, Immigration service, DSS and VGN. This has helped in ensuring the effectiveness of the Early response mechanism in the communities of intervention.

(KII with project staff)

Findings from KII with security personnels and FGDs with community members revealed that;
The PAD, CSAD and CPC platforms established helped in creating a positive relationship between the government, community members and security agencies both formal and informal. This collaboration has tremendously transformed the relationship between these agencies and changed the government approach towards security decision making by involving the community members (from Top-bottom to bottom-top approaches). These platforms got government buy-in, and are currently advocating for the establishment of Delta state Peace Building Agency which will ensure the continuity of the PAD. The PAD platform is fully captured in a bill sent to the State house of assembly for passage into law. The platform members have established a committee to follow-up and lobby the state house of assembly members for the approval and signing of the bill.

6.4 Evaluation Objective 4: To determine the extent to which COVID-19 has affected project implementation, impact, and conflict in the implementing LGAs, and make recommendations on how to impactfully implement such projects in the face of a pandemic

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has had its impact on communities on a global scale. It was declared a global pandemic following the rapid spread of the virus globally by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020. On the 27th of February 2020, the Federal Ministry of Health confirmed a COVID-19 case in Lagos State, being the first reported case in Nigeria. In line with prevention measures put in place by the federal government, the state government imposed an initial two weeks lockdown from the 1st of April, 2020. Delta state reported its first case of coronavirus on April 8, 2020, and the lockdown was extended by 2 weeks more with a 7pm to 7am curfew imposed. These lockdowns were extended over time with gaps in between where strict adherence to restrictions were followed. Restrictions were imposed on public gatherings, school, religious activities and even enforcing spacing in public transportation systems and mandatory use of facemask. There was also an intensified contact tracing of all infected persons to avert community transmission. In response to the pandemic, the WHO, pharmaceutical companies and governments world over made commitments to the production of a vaccine and this made progress with the WHO issuing an Emergency Use Listing (EULs) for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine (BNT162b2) as at 31st December 2020; there are several variations of the vaccines produced and approved for distribution globally. As at 6th May 2021 Nigeria had recorded 165,273 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 2,063 deaths, reported to WHO and as of 5th May 2021, a total of 1,266,742 vaccine doses have been administered in Nigeria. 85,700 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine were delivered to Delta State as of 12th of March 2021 and Governor Ifeanyi Okowa commenced the distribution, receiving the vaccination the same day.

This survey explored the perspective of respondents on the impact of the pandemic in their various communities, be it positive or negative.
Findings from the survey presented as illustrated in Figure 42 above revealed that 60 percent (n=241) of the respondents agreed that there is an observable impact of COVID-19 in their communities. 32 percent of the respondents said there was no impact while 8 percent reported that they were not sure if there was any impact.

Of the 241 respondents who reported that there was an impact, 66 percent (n=159) of them reported that these impacts were negative, 22 percent reported the impact to be both positive and negative while 12 percent observed that the impact was only positive. Respondents shared that the negative impact included a Psychosocial (fear), Socioeconomic (hike in price of commodities), Livelihood (spike in unemployment), Social cohesion (distrust amongst community members) and Security (insecurity and loss of lives and properties). Respondents who reported that it had positive impacts mentioned community (reiterated the oneness of humanity), intra-cohesion (strengthened intra communal relations and stronger family bond), lifestyle choices (scale of preference for essentials) and sanitary health (heightened awareness on hand washing and basic first aid), Technology (adaptability to emerging technologies).

**Impact of COVID-19 on project implementation**
While difficulties were experienced by communities as presented, the findings also revealed that COVID-19 affected the implementation of designed project activities that required physical presence such as the Cross-Cultural Community Events for Solidarity, CSAD, CPC meetings and other trainings which was significantly creating awareness on the importance of peaceful co-existence. The restrictions over physical contact and movement slowed down the project's impact as fewer dialogues and meetings were being conducted and with fewer participants. At some points these activities had to be completely halted. However, virtual programming was considered and this gave room to a sustained continuation of project activities. Also, through the Radio Programmes created by the project, a significant number of communities were educated on the dynamics of conflict and ways of resolving disputes amicably. Feedback from the radio programme attested to the increased level of awareness created by the radio program. An unintended outcome of wide coverage of the radio programme was that a non-project implementing community (Ovrade in Isoko north), identified the need to and created a CPC at the community level and also joined the CSAD at the local government level.

“The MACBAN representative stated that people were calling him outside the project implementation communities on herders/farmers disputes which were resolved; these actions and results contributed to the establishment of CSAD and CPC dialogue platforms in those communities”

(KII/Project Manager)

**Impact of COVID-19 on conflict dynamics**
Findings revealed a shift in conflict dynamics from inter communal to intra communal conflict and domestic violence.
Communities attest that there was an increase in the rate of robberies and thefts. This was due to the increase of prices of goods and a drop in the source of livelihood as a result of travel and contact restrictions.

In the communities, it was reported that domestic and gender-based violence increased considerably as family members were forced to stay indoors during the lockdown.

Findings also revealed an increase in cult related activities which resulted in clashes across communities and inter communal clashes reduced considerably due to travel restrictions. However, there was an observed increase in intra cult clashes and one on one violence in communities.

**Negative Impacts of the Pandemic**

1. The movement restrictions and limitations to gathering which were put in place by the government as preventive control measures for the spread of the virus clamped down on the implementation of project activities as the project implementation team had to work from home and were unable to host in person dialogue meetings and Cross-Cultural activities.

2. The pandemic also increased the rate of unemployment especially for those who earned a living from daily labour. This depleted the livelihood of people within communities of project implementation.

"As head of the family and bread winner, the pandemic was negative for us because we were all at home with our children with no work for us to make money and provide food for them and no school for our children. They stayed at home for a long time"

(FGD/Adult male in Ethiope East)

"It had a negative effect although no case was reported just economic hardship"

(KII/ CPC member in Ndokwa)

"For me, the impact was only negative. The prices of goods became high and when we brought our produce from the farms, there were no buyers"

(FGD/ Elderly women in Ndokwa)

**Positive Impacts of the pandemic**

- Innovative programming was encouraged and adopted in the face of the pandemic. This led to the implementation of project activities in virtual settings, sustaining project implementation even within the restrictions of movements and physical contacts.

- Family relationships and intra communal relations were strengthened as community people were forced to live within the same geographic space, sharing more time than most used to.

- Sanitary health was considered to have increased as continuous bouts of awareness on preventive measures were continually conducted.

- Community participation through the engagement of community facilitators to implement project activities was strengthened. This in itself holds potential for project sustainability.

"Search tried and stayed even with the covid-19 pandemic"

(KII/LGA official in Ughelli)

"The Corona had its many negative impacts but it also had some positive angles to it. In fact, it made us become more hygienic and created more sensitization"

(FGD elderly women)
6.5 Evaluation Objective 5: To document key lessons from the project and make recommendations to inform such projects in future.

Key lessons from the project

Project implementation in the target communities provided learning opportunities that will be valuable for Search and other INGOs or CBOs who will be looking to implement cross-cultural projects for resolving and prevention of farmer herder conflicts in similar context and community settings in the future. Some of the key learnings harnessed are here documented below:

Tracking of context in communities of project implementation is essential as it gives room for project teams to understand trends and changes in communities that could impact on the project activities. This entails that though project development may have been driven by a need’s assessment, this is based on a fluid context and a constant tracking of this context will allow for implementation that is community and context focused.

There is a need for flexibility and dynamism in project activity implementation based on change in contexts, reviews and reflections. Communities may have been identified through a community selection criterion, a needs assessment or baseline scoping to share similar context and project activities may have been well developed to address these identified needs specifically for each community. This was clear in the case of Isoko North where the context was different due to violent attacks and reprisal attacks by farmers and herdsmen.

The strategy adopted for the inclusion of the marginalized groups especially the People Living with Disability (PLWD) was not as effective as hoped as only a few PLWD attended project related activities due to stigmatization. Findings from the study revealed that only one PLWD attended project activities in Ethiopia-East, this shows the need to adopt context specific strategies for inclusion of vulnerable groups. Consistent pause and reflect session will go a long way to improve programming.

The project was generally designed to be gender sensitive without considering the contextual gender dynamics in the project target communities. The female herdsmen are constrained by religious and cultural norms and values which limits their participation in project related activities while women from the farmers communities actively participated in the project and know their role and what is expected of them. It is very important to properly study the context of the project target communities before commencing implementation so that evidence-based strategies can be developed to guide implementation.

It was also learnt that in the peacebuilding processes, every stakeholder must be involved in the process. This learning understands that though a stakeholder mapping is essential, this is not just at the beginning of the project but also periodically as a gap was observed in the course of project implementation. The frequent mapping of stakeholders will allow the implementation team to review stakeholder importance and consider participation and support of all stakeholders irrespective of their position on the stakeholder analysis.

Peacebuilding is a gradual process that needs time. While conflicts and violence can occur within a short time, peacebuilding relies on communal trust (Intra and inter). And this is a commodity that takes time to build. This trust is further strengthened when cross cultural activities bring together actors in conflict on a neutral ground to participate in these activities.

Project team’s presence in communities, contributes to building and maintaining relationships between implementer and community participants. This yields two strong gains. First is that it gives room to gain trust of community members on the institution as the implementer is seen to be an active participant and beneficiary of the peace process in communities. Also, it ensures that communities are well understood through observation and a participatory approach; such that learnings from project implementation are documented in non-clinical settings.
Everyone is important in the Peacebuilding processes. All community members are participants (active or passive) in the peace process and programming should be able to capture reach to all individuals in communities. This will create opportunities for project sustainability as the communities become more respondent to the activities of the peacebuilding efforts of identified stakeholders who are direct beneficiaries of the project.

Diversity, equality and inclusivity across divides, especially of marginalised groups, presents opportunities for the voices and opinions of all groups to be incorporated in peace building. The project's inclusion of women and youths contributed to the overall success of the project as these groups are often the most affected in violent conflicts and play salient roles in strengthening peace from the Homefront.

Networking and collaboration with organizations who hold some expertise proved to be important as was the case in engaging PIND for EWER signals and implementation with ICD who already have linkages in community participation. This provided an opportunity for leveraging on strengths of other organizations and presented a learning opportunity to Search.

Though herders were fewer in the communities of implementation, as such their low quantifiable participation can be understood, there would have been higher import of project implementation if herder participation was targeted intentionally to allow equal representation and participation of farmers and herders in these platforms. This can also be done through conducting media based and cross cultural activities in languages and locations that will encourage herder communities’ participation.

Conflict analysis pointed to show that conflicts exist in a system and not in isolation and this was acknowledged through the Incident Reporting Bulletin that had a scope of Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers states allowing for a holistic approach to resolving localised and or spill over conflicts.

6.6 Evaluation Objective 6: To examine the mechanisms put in place for sustainability of the project.

Project Sustainability

KII and FGD respondents acknowledged that the project had laid down exit strategies in the form of capacity and knowledge diffusion that increased participants’ buy-in for continuity of the project’s activities. The capacity of community leaders, women, and youth leaders was built to effectively facilitate dialogues, mediation and address security and safety concerns. They are expected to use the knowledge and skills acquired to sustain community peacebuilding processes currently in place.

The Common Ground Approach adopted by Search in its programming helped in building trust, synergy and relationship with the project communities. This has led to the acceptance of the project activities.

Findings as illustrated in figure 29, 30 and 31 above revealed that (60 percent) of the respondents who are aware and have participated in the project activities agree that the programme interventions have been accepted in the different target communities. 42 percent of the respondents agree that the local mechanisms for early warning response, dispute management, and violence mitigation established within the community are sustainable. On continuity of the project related activities, findings reveal that majority of the respondents 222, representing 55 percent response rate agree that the project related activities will continue in the long term after the project, 25 percent do not agree while 20 percent don’t know whether or not the project related activities will continue in the long term after the project.
Search adopted a participatory approach in its programme implementation by involving key and critical stakeholders such as the security agencies, traditional rulers, government agencies and community leaders. This has helped in the institutionalization of the project activities and methodology in the various communities of intervention. Findings revealed that community leaders are beginning to use similar approaches to resolve conflict in their various communities. Community members are beginning to recognize conflict resolution mechanisms and approaches as effective and have even attributed resolutions of conflicts in communities between farmer and herder groups to the Common Ground Approach (CGA).

**Mechanisms put in place for sustainability**

Findings from the review of project documents and KII with key project staff revealed the project has put in place the following mechanisms to guarantee the sustainability of the project;

**CSAD:** The monthly security meeting under the chairmanship of the representative of the Local Government Councils (LGCs) created a sense of ownership of the project. The selection of the dialogue executives by community members endorsed and facilitated the development and implementation of action plan/resolutions. The platform will thus form part of the sustainability of the project.

**PAD:** This dialogue platform linked the government directly with the community members. This has strengthened the relationship between both parties and positively influenced the government's approach towards the community members. The platform has government’s by-in, and the PAD members are advocating the establishment of The Delta State Peace Building Agency which will ensure the continuity of the Peace Architecture Dialogue platforms beyond the communities of project implementation and even institutionalize it. Currently, the PAD structure is fully captured in the bill, the PAD members have established a committee to follow-up and lobby the state house of assembly members for the approval and signing of the bill.

**CPC:** This bi-monthly local level community dialogue provided community members (including Fulani herders) opportunities to interact on issues affecting their communities. The willingness and commitment of community members to dialogue and develop action plans facilitated the addition of a local government desk officer in the committee, the information by the CPC members and feedback by the chairperson of the local government area has created an atmosphere for the sustainability of the project. The outgoing chairperson of Ethiope-East LGA who has participated in the implementation of the CPC action plan and has officially handed over the CPC to her successor.

**EWER:** This platform connected the various community group leaders with the formal and informal security actors to share information and report to prevent and resolve conflicts. The establishment of a channel of reporting security early warning signals and the responses by the relevant person or organizations have formed the ownership of the peace process by the communities and the sustainability of the peace process. The adoption of the project EWER system by all the security agencies guarantees sustainability of the process.

**Cross-Cultural Community Events for Solidarity:** This activity is leveraging community festivals and events. It brings the herders’ community to join the host community in celebrating festivals. This has gained acceptance and has been commended by the community and traditional leaders. There buy-in, point towards continuity of these invitations by both groups even after the lifespan of the project.

**Multi-stakeholders Community Dialogues and Town Hall Meetings:** The active participation of critical stakeholders such as MACBAN, CAN, JNI AFAN and the youths in these activities presupposes the sustainability of the activities.

**Mobile Screenings:** This was created to present documentaries on the successes and challenges of the project. While the production may not be sustainable due to the cost involved, screenings can be sustained through open source distribution of the documentaries of digital platforms.

Findings from the FGDs and KIIs present that there are observable changes in attitudes, perceptions and behaviors of community members which will continue due to the change of community perception.
on herders and farmer's conflict and the establishment of these mechanisms that allow a collaborative/“win-win” dispute resolution approach.

The project Officer added that

“The PRO of MACBAN worked vigorously to ensure all members invited to any of the dialogue platforms honoured the invitations and ensure the full implementation of the action plans and resolution”

From the inception of the project, SFCG deliberately ensures that leaders of MACBAN and AFAN are members of CSAD, PAD, EWER and other community platforms to create awareness and integrate their members in project implementation. The active participation of their leaders in CSAD, PAD, EWER and other community platforms contributed to providing inclusive action plans and resolutions. The benefits of these collaborations are the continuous increase in the level of trust between the herder communities and farmers (Project Officer), the Sharing the Green Grass project also collaborated with JNI and CAN effectively in ensuring religious leaders participated in the project implementation.

“Their (JNI and CAN) participation in the project implementation significantly promotes integrity in the process and increases the confidence of the community members.”

(KII/ Search Project Officer)

SECTION SEVEN: CONCLUSION

This study presents the findings from the final evaluation of the Sharing the Green Grass; Cultivating a Locally Led Peace Architecture in the Niger Delta implemented by Search in Delta State with funding from the USAID, financed by Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) fund. The project implementation which had a focus on farmer herder relations, adopted an inclusive, multi-stakeholder and participatory approach. Being inclusive, the project leveraged the influence of major actors (farmers and herders) stakeholders to secure buy in and participation. It also built the capacity of women and youth, and leveraged on their ability and willingness to positively influence Peacebuilding processes in communities. Findings revealed that stakeholders, especially the traditional, CAN, JNI and MACBAN leaders played and continue to play a positive and active role in peacebuilding structures in communities and in strengthening relationships between farmers’ and herders’ communities. Government inclusion in PADs and CSADs of the project shows a commitment to the action advocating for a Delta State Peace Building Development Agency suggesting an institutionalization of project mechanisms. The evaluation revealed that the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on the conflict dynamics, project objectives, implementation, and sustainability of the project.

On the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of various strategies used on the project in establishing key relationships and changing the attitude of target beneficiaries, findings revealed that the project was designed using the bottom-up People-to-People conflict resolution approach which focused on supporting local-level cohesion and community-owned conflict prevention and mitigation, and linking communities with government, security, justice, and other actors where necessary.

The study revealed that the COVID-19 pandemic has had an observable impact (positive and negative) on the conflict dynamics, project objectives, implementation, and sustainability of the project. Respondents shared that the negative impact included psychosocial (fear), socioeconomic (hike in price of commodities), livelihood (spike in unemployment and loss of means of livelihood), social cohesion (distrust amongst community members) and security (insecurity and loss of lives and properties). Respondents who reported that it had positive impacts mentioned community (reiterated the oneness of our humanity), intra-cohesion (strengthened intra communal relations and stronger family bond), lifestyle choices (scale of preference for essentials) and sanitary health (heightened awareness on hand washing and basic first aid), Technology (adaptability to emerging technologies). Findings also revealed that COVID-19 affected the implementation of designed project activities that required physical presence such as the Cross-Cultural Community Events for Solidarity and training sessions which were significantly creating awareness on the importance of peaceful co-existence. The restrictions over physical contact and movement slowed down the project's impact as fewer dialogues and meetings were
Final Evaluation Report of Sharing the Green Grass; Cultivating a Locally Led Peace Architecture in the Niger Delta project

conducted with fewer participants. At some points these activities had to be completely halted. However, virtual programming was considered and this gave room to a sustained continuation of project activities.

On sustainability of the project, KII and FGD respondents acknowledged that the project had laid down exit strategies in the form of capacity and knowledge diffusion that increased participants’ buy-in for continuity of the project’s activities. The capacity of community leaders, women, and youth leaders was built to effectively facilitate dialogues, mediation and address security and safety concerns.

The assessment recommends that the implementation of the project should be scaled in both geographic coverage and implementation time. The extension of the project for another two years, will accommodate more direct beneficiaries with resultant ripple effect of a community state wide spread. The study also recommends that future projects should support the setting up of the Delta State Peacebuilding Development Agency as a way of institutionalization and expansion of project gains to all communities of the State.

SECTION EIGHT: RECOMMENDATIONS

- Survey findings reveal that conflict dynamics changes and there is a need for a recurring scan to gain more understanding of the changes in context and conflict in communities during implementation. The findings should be incorporated to drive innovative programming.

- Peace building initiatives, like all behavioral change projects, call for long-term commitments. The assessment recommends that the implementation of the project should be scaled in both geographic coverage and implementation time. The extension of the project for another two years, will accommodate more direct beneficiaries with resultant ripple effect of a community state wide spread. The study also identifies that the project communities belong to a conflict geography and are at risk of a relapse based on push and pull factors from neighboring communities who have not participated in the project but share similar herders/farmers conflict dynamics.

- Interventions are most impactful when they are built from a bottom-up approach of identification of community needs. The key learning of this project should therefore constitute a major of the starting point in the implementation of any farmer herder project in the Niger-Delta communities.

- Media programming is considered to play a vital role in peacebuilding within the project communities and a consideration of an extension of this beyond the project implementation timeline can contribute to the sustainability of the gains of the project.

- Technical assistance and oversight support should be given to the PAD as it follows up on the lobbying process for the setting up of the Peace building agency in the State.
### Annex 1: Updated Indicator framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUTCOME INDICATORS</th>
<th>BASELINE TARGET</th>
<th>FINDINGS FROM FINAL EVALUATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of target community members interviewed who report reduced violent conflicts between members of other communities</td>
<td>The project at inception targeted a 10% reduction in violent conflicts reported.</td>
<td>Findings revealed a significant reduction in the number of violent conflicts between and among community members as indicated by 67 percent reduction in the number violent conflicts reported. This is above the targeted figure (67 percent against 10 targeted).</td>
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**Objective 1: Farmer and herder communities cultivate the skills and relationships to peacefully collaborate on peace and security issues.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of target groups with increased capacities to promote collaboration between farmer-herder communities</th>
<th>At project inception (baseline) no collaboration was recorded in the communities as indicated by zero (0).</th>
<th>Analysis of findings revealed that community members now use the knowledge and skills acquired to promote positive collaboration between farmers and herders as indicated by 216 respondents, 53 percent. The 53 percent achieved is above the 50 percent targeted.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of community members who report creating new, positive relationships with members of the other community</td>
<td>At project inception (baseline) no new positive relationships were recorded between the community members and members of other communities as indicated by zero (0). 15 percent was targeted.</td>
<td>Findings revealed that community members now create new positive relationships with members of other communities as indicated by 82 percent. 82 percent was achieved as against the 15 percent targeted.</td>
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**Objective 2: Farmer and herder communities develop effective, sustainable local mechanisms for early warning response, dispute management, and violence mitigation.**

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<tr>
<th>% Of Participants interviewed who demonstrate greater capacities to detect, report, and respond to potential violence</th>
<th>At project inception (baseline) community members have no skills and capacity to easily detect, report and respond to potential violence situations in their communities as indicated by zero (0). 30 percent was targeted.</th>
<th>The study revealed that community members have been equipped with skills and capacity to easily detect, report and respond to potential violence situations in their communities as indicated by 72 percent response rate. 72 percent was achieved as against 30 percent targeted at inception.</th>
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<tr>
<td>% Participants interviewed who report resolving disputes between farmer-herder communities</td>
<td>At project inception (baseline) community members have no skills and capacity to resolve disputes between farmer-herder communities at individual or community level as indicated by zero (0). The project targeted a 30 percent increase.</td>
<td>The study revealed that 115 (62 percent) of the participants of project activities interviewed have resolved disputes between farmer-herder communities at individual or community level using the skills and knowledge acquired from the different project activities they attended. The project targeted 30 percent and achieved 62 percent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Of target partners, associates, and farmer-herder community members interviewed who feel confident that project-related</td>
<td></td>
<td>Findings from the analysis of responses revealed that 55 percent of the partners, associates, and farmer-herder community members interviewed feel confident that</td>
</tr>
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</table>
activities will continue long-term

| % change in number of farmer and herder conflicts reported resulting from activity interventions supported by USG funds. | At inception of the project, there was no resolution of conflict based on activity interventions USG funds. Baseline was thus considered to be 89.3%. The project targeted 7.5% reduction per year. | A cross tabulation of respondents with an opinion that there is a significant reduction in the number of violent conflicts between and among community members due to the active responsiveness of the locally led Peace Architecture platforms in addressing safety and security concerns in the community and those who agree that there has been a significant improvement in the security situation in their community revealed a 57.1% affirmative response which is above the 7.5% targeted reduction at inception. |
| % of target community members satisfied with response to farmer-herder conflict by community conflict mitigation structures. | At inception of the project, there was no response to farmer-herder conflict by Search led community conflict mitigation structures. Baseline was thus considered to be 7.8%. The project targeted 15 percent. | Out of the 253 respondents who consider the platform effective, 225 (55.8%) attest a satisfaction with the response to farmer-herder conflict by the established community conflict mitigation structures. |
| % target community conflict mitigation structures stating that crisis response followed established procedures. | At project inception, crisis response in communities did not follow established procedures. Baseline was thus considered to be zero (0). The project targeted 25 percent. | Findings reveal that 100 percent of the conflict mitigation structures in the communities of project implementation follow Search established procedures as shown by the Peace architecture in communities. |