

COMMUNITY DRIVEN CHANGE **OUR ROAD TOWARDS PEACE**

**EXPERIENCES FROM THE PROGRAM 'INTERLINKING
PEACEBUILDING, DECENTRALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT'**

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CDoW	Catholic Diocese of Wau
CMDRR	Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction
Cordaid	Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EES	Eastern Equatoria State
GA	Global Aim
HARD	Hope Agency for Relief and Development
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IIRR	International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
PDRA	Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment
POC	Protection of Civilians
SARRA	Solidarity Association for Rehabilitation and Recovery Affairs
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SHG	Self-Help Group
SPLM/A	Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army
SPLM/IO	Sudan People's Liberation Movement/In Opposition
TGoNU	Transitional Government of National Unity
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
WBeG	Western Bahr el Gazal
WDC	Women Development Group

FOREWORD

Over the past four years the context in South Sudan has been troublesome and is characterized by recurrent outbreaks of nation-wide and local conflicts. About 4 million citizens have been forced to flee their hometowns, leaving their livelihoods, family and friends behind.¹ Even though South Sudan has recently been labelled by the United States Agencies for International Development (USAID) ‘the most dangerous country in the world [to work in] for aid workers’², many organizations and individuals stay committed to deliver humanitarian aid and contribute to a more peaceful society. Cordaid has been able to continue its work in these extremely harsh times thanks to these local organizations.

Between 2013 and 2017, the ‘Interlinking Peace building, Decentralization and Development’ program has been implemented in South Sudan by a consortium of three Dutch organizations (VNG International³, PAX⁴ and Cordaid). The 4-year program received funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The aim of the program is ‘to increase human security in former Western Bahr el Gazal and Eastern Equatoria States through interlinking and strengthening community-based peacebuilding initiatives, decentralized government services and socio-economic peace dividend’. Within this program Cordaid focussed on:

- Improving the capacity of community-based peacebuilding actors.
- Establishing peace dividend⁵ and improving socio-economic conditions of conflict affected communities.
- Increasing the potential of women in peacebuilding initiatives, governance and economic development.

Cordaid feels greatly indebted to Hope Agency for Relief and Development (HARD), Women Development Group (WDG), Catholic Diocese of Wau (CDoW), Global Aim (GA) and Solidarity Association for Rehabilitation and Recovery Affairs (SARRA). These organizations have, in partnership with Cordaid, actively contributed to an improved socio-economic situation of many communities, bringing people together to overcome differences and contributing to a safer and more peaceful living environment. Their stories need to be told.

In order to highlight the experiences of Cordaid and its partners from the ‘Interlinking Peacebuilding, Decentralization and Development’ program, 12 case stories are documented in this publication. The International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR), and especially Isaac Bwire, has done a wonderful job in guiding the case-story writers in their writing process. We also feel greatly indebted to Mahteme Mikre, William Arange and Frédérique van Drumpt who provided technical guidance throughout the implementation of the program and during the compilation of this publication.

Finally, but most importantly, we are sincerely thankful to those mentioned in this publication for sharing their life changing stories.

CORDAID

INTRODUCTION

Context

South Sudan is Africa's youngest state. It obtained its independence on 9 July 2011, following a referendum in January 2011, in which an overwhelming majority of southerners opted for separation from Sudan. The independence marked the end of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) that was signed in 2005. The CPA had ended a protracted civil war that claimed the lives of about 2 million people and displaced approximately 4 million people between 1983 and 2005.

Following the declaration of independence, hopes for peace and prosperity were high. However, by the end of 2013, not long after its independence, South Sudan fell back into conflict. The conflict opposed the ruling party, SPLM, and the opposition force SPLM/IO (SPLM In Opposition) and is strongly tied to ethnic identities and control over resources. Local and national outbreaks of violence have been recurrent ever since, again leading to the loss of a large numbers of lives and livelihoods. The capacity of citizens and institutions to overcome conflict further reduces each time new conflict breaks out.

A peace agreement was signed between the SPLM and SPLM/IO on 17 August 2015. This marked the start of the formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU), responsible for implementing the peace process. However, the TGoNU

formation process further accentuated tension throughout the country resulting in increased incidences of insecurity, administrative reforms and economic crisis.

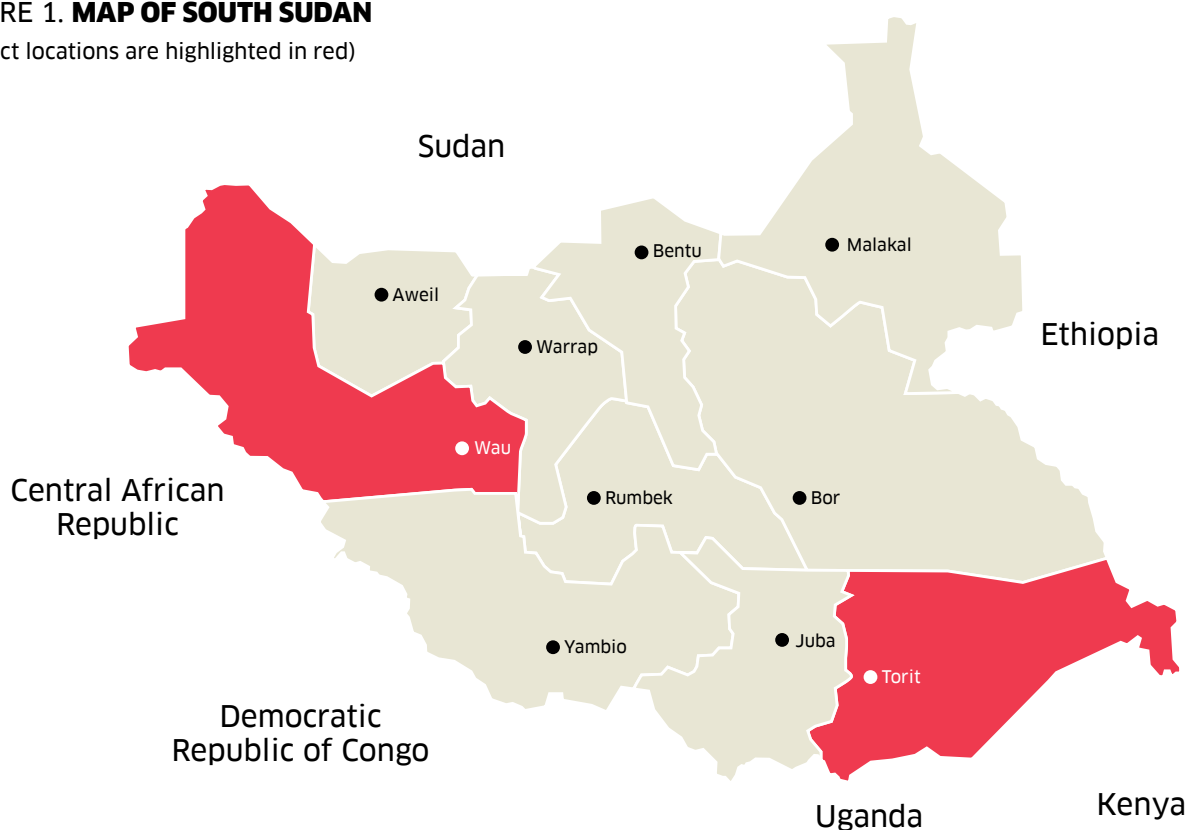
The 'Interlinking Peace building, Decentralization & Development' program was designed with local partners in South Sudan right after independence. Spirits were high although everyone knew the **road towards peace** and prosperity ahead would be long. However, almost from the start program implementation was affected by the conflict.

When nation-wide conflict broke out in December 2013, the program had only been running for half a year. The offices of implementing partners, as well as Cordaid's office in Juba, were closed due to insecurity and displacement, and the program got suspended for around 3 months. The program envisioned focusing on 3 states (Western Bahr el Gazal, Eastern Equatoria and Upper Nile) but widespread and persisting insecurity in Upper Nile meant activities had to be cancelled completely. In July 2016 conflict escalated again throughout the country, which led to staff evacuation and renewed temporary program suspension.

At the start of the program in 2013, Western Bahr el Gazal (WBeG) was relatively calm. But over the past two years the security situation deteriorated rapidly. The majority of the program's target communities became internally displaced

FIGURE 1. **MAP OF SOUTH SUDAN**

(project locations are highlighted in red)



AREAS OF OPERATION

ORGANIZATION	STATE	COUNTY	PAYAM	BOMA
Women Development Group	WBeG	Wau County	Besilia	Mboro,
			Bagari	Bagari, Ngisa, Farjala, Natabu, Biringi
Catholic Diocese of Wau	WBeG	Wau County	Busere	Busere, Momoi
Hope Agency for Relief and Development	WBeG	Jur River	Kangi	Kangi, Dhikou
			Udici	Udici, Gette
			Tharkueng	Tharkueng
Global Aim	EES	Torit	Hiyala	Nyibira, Murahatiha, Imatari, Tirangore, Tuhubak
			Nyong	Illanyi, Nyong, Fodofodo,
		Ikwoto	Ikwoto	Ifune, Ifuda
Solidarity Association for Rehabilitation and Recovery Affairs	EES	Torit	Bur	Loudo, Osita
			Himodongi	Oruhoi, Offong, Otese
			Hiyala	Murahatiha, Tirangere
			Ngong	Iliangi

and, to date, most of them have not been able to return home. General insecurity also led to changing seasonal migration patterns of pastoralist communities from neighboring states. While they previously migrated to multiple states, they now primarily resort to WBeG State. This increases the pressure on the available resources such as water and land, which are the primary source of livelihood for the farming populations of WBeG. With insecurity also on rise in WBeG the options for pastoralists to migrate have further decreased and conflicts in the areas they can still resort to increase. The interplay between an insecure context, the availability of weapons and the lack of socio-economic prospects often leads to violent confrontations between pastoralist and farming communities.

As in WBeG, and despite the national outbreak of violence in December 2013, the security situation in Eastern Equatoria State (EES) was relatively stable at the start of the program. The intense fighting mainly affected the Northern states in South Sudan. In 2015, approximately 58,800 people sought refuge in EES, especially in Nimule and parts of Kapoeta, due to inter-tribal tension and violence. Despite the heavy deployment of police and army posts on the Juba-Torit and Kapoeta-Torit road, there were a significant amount of ambushes.

Due to these recurrent outbreaks of conflict, South Sudan suffered from severe periods of famine. Insecurity affected the accessibility of farmers to their land, limiting their productive capacity. Insecurity also resulted in pastoralists having less access to grazing land and hence the pressure on other parts of the country increased. Due to the scarcity of resources such as land and water, conflicts intensified. South Sudan also faced high inflation rates, affecting livelihoods, creating shortage of goods in the markets and also increasing operational costs of the program.

Administrative divisions in South Sudan

South Sudan was divided in 10 states when the country gained its independence. In October 2015 the ruling party increased the number of states from 10 to 28 by Presidential decree.

The number of counties, the second administrative level in South Sudan, increased from 79 to over 200. Payams are the third administrative level, below the counties, and are further subdivided into a variable number of bomas. The administrative reform meant the program had to make significant efforts to establish sustainable working relationships with governmental officials at all of these levels because people and positions were constantly reshuffled.

In this publication we refer to the names of the states as they were prior to the 2015 administrative reform.

Approaches & Strategies

Cordaid applied several (inter-connected) approaches and strategies in order to achieve the envisaged program outcomes.

1. Community Driven Change

The concept of community driven change is the foundation for all approaches and strategies. Cordaid believes that changes should be based on the needs and priorities expressed by citizens. Their active involvement in designing and implementing interventions for change is crucial to strengthen ownership and make a real impact.

2. CMDRR approach

The ultimate goal of Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) is to build resilient and safe communities. CMDRR is a process of bringing people from the same or neighboring communities together and to enable them to collectively identify and address common disaster and conflict risks and develop joint response strategies. Interventions are built on the outcomes of these analyses and community action plans. The CMDRR process includes a Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment (PDRA), the development of Disaster Risk Reduction strategies and plans, Community Contingency plans strengthening organizational response mechanisms at community level (among others community contingency plans) and designing community-led monitoring and evaluation. Cordaid utilized the CMDRR approach in this program as a basis for all interventions.

3. Peace Dividend approach

Extreme poverty, limited future (employment) perspectives and competition over scarce resources such as water and land are both cause and consequence of conflicts and insecurity. We believe that by contributing to a better socio-economic position, communities become more resilient and insecurity will decrease. Socio-economic benefits can bring people together, building trust, community support systems and social cohesion. Dialogue and strategies that tackle insecurity have more potential when people know each other better and benefit from socio-economic programming. Peace dividend initiatives are defined on the basis of community assessments and action plans established through the earlier described PDRA. Quick-win funds are made available to implement peace dividend initiatives focusing on resilient livelihoods (e.g. improved agricultural production, access to water and income generation). Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA), often organized as Self-Help Groups (SHG), is an instrument used to mobilise mainly women into viable production units. Through these groups, capacity building can be provided on for example group leadership and dynamics, savings and loan schemes, business skills, marketing and life skills.

4. Barometer of Local Women's Security approach

The barometer is an approach that enables local women to jointly identify security issues of greatest concern to them. Local women define what security means to them and how to measure it. Cordaid and its local partners accompany these women in collecting and analysing security-related data. This can be done in different ways, for example through story telling. Findings are translated into strategies and actions needed to address root causes of insecurity at the local level and eventually also the national and international level. Lobby and advocacy of policy makers, governments and donors is an important part of the process to enhance political will and support to respond to the identified needs. The barometer is based on the idea that if one woman speaks out, she may not be heard; but when women work together to express their concerns clearly and coherently, their voices are stronger, more credible and difficult to ignore. The barometer hence increases their collective influence.

5. Civil Society Strengthening

Strengthening formal civil society organizations but also more informal networks of citizens, committees or community structures is crucial in bringing about societal change. Citizens who organize themselves are able to increase their voice and implementing power. Cordaid invests in civil society actors by increasing their technical know-how, organizational and financial capacities as well as skills to engage and build relationships with local authorities and relevant stakeholders. In this program, as part of the CMDRR approach, village committees were formed and strengthened. DRR, water and/or peace committees were enabled to plan, implement and monitor peace dividend activities. For sustainability purposes, these committees have been registered as Civil Society Organization (CSO).

6. Focusing on Women & Youth

Women in South Sudan suffer daily from gender-based violence, lack socio-economic options to sustain their livelihoods and have limited influence in decision-making processes. This is why the program adopts a focus on women in all activities. We specifically aim to increase the socio-economic status of women through their inclusion in VSLA's and SHG's. Increasing their socio-economic status will also lead to greater participation and equality in their households and communities, in particular when coupled with setting-up and supporting women's networks. This can be done, for example, through the barometer approach.

The role of youth in many conflict affected areas is undeniable. Insecurity leads to limited opportunities for youth to be educated, start businesses, sustain their livelihoods and build and contribute to a fulfilling future. This lack of future perspective makes youth easy bait to be manipulated into violence. Investing in a new generation of South Sudanese whom, with their peers, want to contribute to a brighter future and more peaceful society is a must. Skill straining for youth focused on increasing their socio-economic options contributes to this.

7. Engagement with local authorities

In order to realize the needs-tailored community action plans, an 'implicit agreement among the members of a society, between, citizens and decision-makers, to cooperate for social benefits should be aimed for. This is called a social contract. All program activities therefore aim to include local authorities, if possible, for example by involving them in the PDRAs and in the community action planning. This is a first start to jointly determine where the support of these authorities is needed. Lobby and advocacy training for civil society organizations, local committees and (women) networks are provided to strengthen their leverage.

HOW THIS PUBLICATION WAS MADE

This publication was prepared through a guided participatory learning process premised on a write-shop approach involving Cordaid and its partner organizations of the ‘Interlinking Peacebuilding, Decentralization and Development’ program.

Case story writing

The South Sudan team of the International Institution for Rural Reconstruction (IIRR), in consultation with Cordaid, developed writing guidelines in order to support the partner organizations in capturing case stories. Partners were asked to select stories that they felt are most significant or that they are proudest off in light of the program’s achievements and observed changes in the target communities. Each partner organization appointed two authors to collect and document at least two cases stories with a human-interest angle. The authors are staff members that have been most involved in the implementation of the program. The authors submitted a first script to IIRR for review. This first round of feedback highlighted areas for improvement in terms of content, relevance and language.

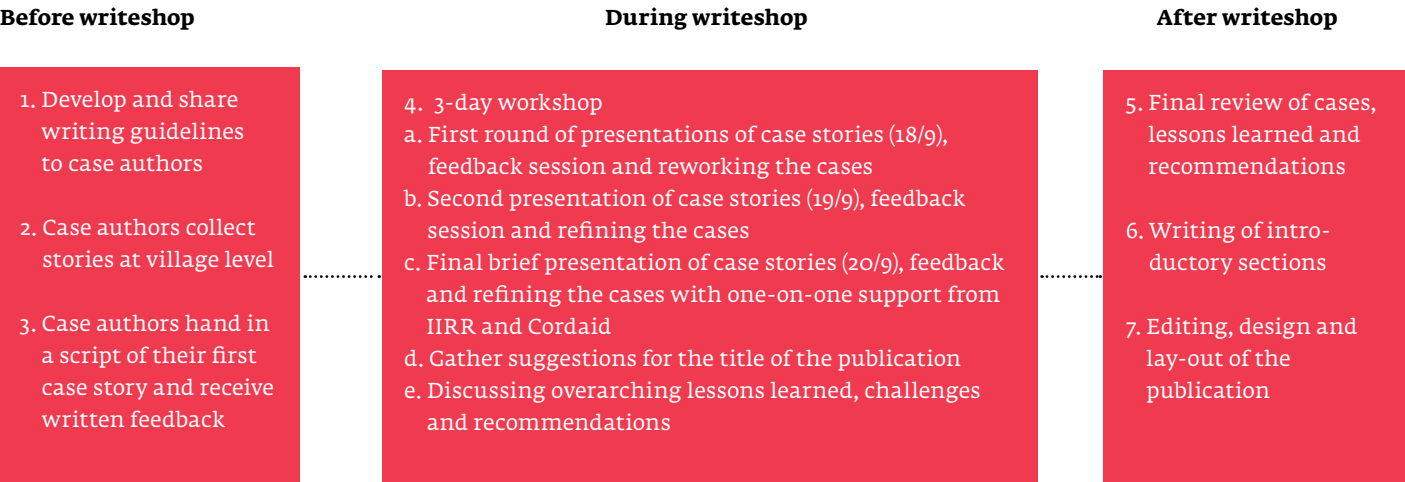
A three-day writeshop

The rewritten scripts were used as basis during a three-day write-shop held from 18 to 21 September 2017 in Juba, South Sudan. Here, the authors presented their case stories and received structured feedback from all participants. On the basis of the received inputs the authors once more re-worked their stories and presented them to the whole group again. The authors also received one-on-one support from IIRR and Cordaid to sharpen the story line. The final day of the workshop focused on discussing overarching lessons learned, challenges and recommendations. After the writeshop IIRR, Cordaid and an editor further refined the case stories to improve the flow of the publication.

Why using a write-shop approach?

The write-shop approach takes advantage of the expertise and experiences of diverse participants. It gives participants an opportunity to capture, validate, refine, analyze and develop a publication within a short time. The write-shop process is premised on the principle of writing a story and analyzing what change was realized. As the participating authors (re) write their own case story and learn from stories presented by others, it allows them to assess the impact of the program approaches and activities.

FIGURE 2. **THREE-STEP PROCESS OF THE WRITESHOP**



The following authors have contributed to this publication:

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PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE AMONG FARMERS AND PASTORALISTS

LOCATION	Jur River County (Marial Bai, Udici and Kangi Payams)
IMPLEMENTER	Hope Agency for Relief and Development (HARD)
CASE WRITER	Janet Onguka

“At last we made and owned resolutions for peace between farmers and pastoralists in Marial Bai”. These are the words of the paramount chief Longar Makuac of Marial Bai during a meeting between farmers and pastoralists in November 2016. The existence of dialogue for peaceful settlements of conflicts between farmers and pastoralists is a great milestone after decades of civil strife. The participation of both groups in several peace conferences and local Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) committees that have been set up and supported by the program has helped a great deal to realize peaceful co-existence.

Competition over scarce resources in Marial Bai

Marial Bai is one of the seven payams of Jur River County in Western Bar el Gazal (WBeG). It is situated along the geographical corridors used by cattle keepers who migrate to Marial Bai from Warrap State in search for water and pasture. Conflicts between the migratory pastoralists and local Marial Bai communities have always existed. As grazing land is limited,

cattle often trespass farmland and cause damage to crops, leading to conflicts with local farmers. Additionally, competition over scarce water sources creates conflicts between the cattle herders and women and girls that fetch water for domestic use.

Climate change exacerbates conflict

Before 2014, the cattle migration patterns were more or less predictable. Pastoralists that moved to Marial Bai set up their cattle camps during the dry season (November-April) and returned back to Warrap State when rains started in May. But as climate change has increased seasonal rainfall variability, cattle migration now starts much earlier. Longer periods of overcrowding have increased the competition over grazing land and water resources. It also contributes to the outbreak of livestock diseases and creates local market distortions. Conflicts now occur more frequently escalate quicker. Community institutions and local administration lack the skills to engage in effective conflict resolution, dialogue and reconciliation.

A series of peace conferences

In 2014, WBeG State and Warrap State with support of VNG organized the Roc Roc Dong peace conference to promote and consolidate peace during annual cattle migration. With the



Photo Frédérique van Drumpt

Roc Roc Dong peace conference 2014. Chiefs, community groups such as the DRR committees and local authorities from Western Bahr el Gazal and Warrap states meet.



Photo: Frédérique van Drumpt

Celebrating the successful peace conference at Roc Roc Dong 2014.

aim to review and build on the 2014 Roc Roc Dong peace agreements with support from the program, facilitated the Marial Bai Peace Conference (2016). Cordaid's partner Hope Agency for Relief and Development (HARD) supported farmers from Udici, Gette and Tharkueng Bomas to participate in the 2016 peace conference. During the conference the farmers presented recommendations on how to resolve existing conflicts, resulting in the validation of 14 concrete peace resolutions.

'Institutionalizing' peace dialogue on community level

HARD also built the capacity of already existing community peace institutions, such as the DRR committees, to ensure that social justice initiatives align with South Sudan legislation. It is the DRR committee's role to identify problems between farmers and pastoralists and refer cases of conflict to stakeholders who have the mandate to intervene and resolve conflict, such as the dispute resolution committees or relevant administrative authorities.

In Udici, Marial Bai and Kangi Payams, the program supported the DRR committees, local administration and community members to carry out conflict analyses, and to develop, present and discuss local action plans. Also, the DRR committees held six community meetings with farming and pastoralist communities. The aim of these meetings was to discuss the progress made in implementing the Roc Roc Dong peace conference resolutions on farmer-pastoralist conflict mitigation.

Peaceful solutions to cattle-related conflicts

Following the support offered, the DRR and dispute resolution committees play a significant role in monitoring cattle migration procedures, timing for migration and compensation of damage using the peace conference resolution guidelines. The effects are positive, as the Marial Bai paramount chief Longar Makuac testifies: "This year the cattle arrived under the control of mature men who restrained the cows better than boys. Now only 20 farms were destroyed by cattle, as compared to 60 farms in 2016."

The peace conferences also contributed to improved communication, collaboration and coordination among peace stakeholders, such as local governments, civil society and community-based peacebuilding institutions. This in particular helped the implementation of the conferences' peace resolutions, favoring improved peaceful co-existence between farmers and pastoralists. Peter Mel, the DRR committee secretary in Tharkueng says: "The peace conference resolutions are practical and a majority of the farmers and pastoralists adhere to them." He also gives an example. "We no longer kill cattle as revenge for crops being destroyed. Instead, we follow resolution number 6 that guides compensation for damage of farms".

Local participation is crucial

Conflicts between farmers and pastoralists are better mitigated when individuals, families, communities and other stakeholders are involved and take ownership over the planning and implementation of localized conflict resolution strategies. Empowerment of community-based peace institutions and local government, for example on advocacy and lobby strategies, enhances the sustainability of local peacebuilding and human security initiatives.

Way forward

To further strengthen a sustainable environment where peace and security thrive, it is critical to integrate support to livelihoods development, especially for women, who are highly vulnerable to the consequences of the farmer-pastoralist conflicts.

TRANSFORMING A CULTURE OF VIOLENCE TO A CULTURE OF DIALOGUE

LOCATION	Jur River County (Udici, Kangi, Dhikou and Tharkueng Bomas)
IMPLEMENTER	Hope Agency for Relief and Development (HARD)
CASE WRITER	William Deng

“We will take the lead in discouraging the culture of violence and revenge killing that exist in our community. Instead, our people should use dialogue to review traditional beliefs”, said Mrs. Kasmalla Majaga Awet, the chairlady of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Committee, during a community dialogue about revenge killings in Udici Boma in Jur River County. She called upon the warring communities to reach an agreement to stop revenge killings. “The agreement should be signed by elders, youth and women and the entire community needs to be informed about it”, she also said.

A culture of violence and impunity

Many types of conflict affect Udici Boma. These include inter-communal conflicts between farmers and pastoralists, which are usually triggered by uncontrolled cattle movement resulting in crop destruction. But also intra-communal conflict occurs because of violations of social norms, excessive alcohol use, early marriage, and sectarian animosities that find their origin in the civil war. Conflicts lead to a loss of lives, displacement, destruction of property and increased vulnerability of especially women, widows, children, disabled and the elderly. Violence between ethnic communities is exacerbated by a culture of revenge killings. Impunity of the various crimes is widespread, as government institutions that ought to protect communities, such as local administration, police and justice structures, respond slow and lack capacities.

Setting up a Disaster Risk Reduction Committee

In February 2014, Hope Agency for Relief and Development (HARD) conducted a Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment (PDRA) in Udici to understand the hazards that affect the people, as well as to map out local capacities, gaps and possible response strategies. Conflict and drought were identified as the main hazards, but also livestock diseases, environmental degradation and inadequate water supply were mentioned.

The PDRA recommended the establishment of a community based institution to coordinate and lead in the implementation of the disaster risk reduction measures, and to identify and respond to conflict issues in the community. Therefore HARD established a DRR committee, comprising of 15 members (8 women, 7 men), including clan leaders, customary institutions and community representatives. The DRR committee works in collaboration with the existing local government structures and peacebuilding actors such as the payam/boma administrators, area chiefs, the police and church structures.



Photo HARD

DRR committee members in Dhikou are trained by HARD on the facilitation of community dialogues.

Capacity building of the DRR committee was done jointly with these other actors. The trainings focused on roles and group dynamics, conflict resolution skills, basic knowledge on human rights, resource mobilization, good governance and leadership. Also, the DRR committee was supported with seed grants that its members can take out as loan that is reimbursable against a 30 percent interest rate. The interest generated helps to facilitate the committee to carry out its duties.

The committee in action

The DRR committee conducted two community action-plan meetings in Udici Boma to identify priority issues to be addressed in the community, and facilitated exchange visits between Udici, Kangi and Dhikou Bomas to discuss local conflicts and share experiences. The committee also facilitated three intra-community peace dialogues between pastoralist and farmers. The dialogues aimed to resolve disputes arising from crop destruction and killing of cattle, whilst finding an agreement on compensation for damage in accordance with the 2016 Marial Bai conference resolutions on damages, compensation and procedures (see previous case story).

During one of the DRR dialogue meetings (18 May 2017) both communities signed an agreement prohibiting revenge killings. The DRR committee disseminated the agreement to the community, which also helped the cooperation with the police in handling cases of dispute. It also led to the introduction of a similar agreement in Gette and Tharkueng Bomas. Overall there now is a significant reduction in the number of revenge killings reported and warring communities have embraced dialogue on local issues for peace.



Photo HARD

HARD and the DRR committee hold a peace dialogue in Udici.

Preconditions for successful dialogue

The dialogues are guided by community action plans on peace, security and justice, making solutions proposed relevant to the context. In all these initiatives, women and youths representation was guaranteed and their views have been included and acknowledged in decision-making. There is furthermore strong collaboration between the DRR committee and local administration at boma and payam level. Finally, as this case shows, it is important that all parties to the conflict sign the agreements concluded on and that these are widely disseminated in the community.

Way forward

In some cases, local governance structures lack the capacities and means to support the implementation of the community action plans. That is why it is important to share these plans widely to attract broader stakeholder support for the implementation, and to mobilize resources for the continued operation of the DRR committee. Also, DRR committee members often lack capacities to engage with higher administrative levels. Building their lobby and advocacy skills, next to addressing general management capacities, can help overcome this.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION COMMITTEES AS PEACE AGENTS

LOCATION	Wau County (Bussere Payam)
IMPLEMENTER	Catholic Diocese of Wau (CDoW)
CASE WRITER	Fr. Moses Peter Joseph

The community of Bussere Payam realized that they have the capacity to settle conflicts and can co-exist with the pastoralists that, each year at the end of the rainy season, come to their community in search for water and pastures. *"We used to fight the cattle keepers to defend ourselves and to protect our women and property but after the Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment (PDRA) process we realized that peace can only be achieved through dialogue"*, said Jacob Marcelo, a Disaster Risk Reduction Committee (DRR) member.

Former conflict resolution is no longer effective

Before civil war broke out in the mid-1980's, cattle keepers who brought their cattle to Bussere and the neighboring areas for grazing used to co-exist with farmers without any major conflicts. Although the cows occasionally damaged crops, there were traditional ways of dealing with compensation and resolving conflict. However, these traditional conflict resolution mechanisms largely broke down because of the long war.

The bitter taste of revenge

Since 2015, tensions rose between the pastoralists and farmers. Because grazing lands have become scarce, herds of cattle increasingly trespass farming lands and destroy crops. As most crops have a long growth cycle it directly affects the farmers' livelihood. Conflict between both groups has sparked a variety of violent behavior. Farmers take revenge by killing the livestock, either through poisoning crops or spearing the cows. Pastoralists respond by looting property or burning houses of farming communities. Women are most affected by this conflict because they have to go to the farms to work, look for firewood or cut grass. This exposes them to the risk of being raped by armed cattle keepers. The conflict escalated to the point where the farming community of Bussere was prepared to entirely block the pastoralists from coming to their community. All this happened because there was no dialogue about how to share the available resources in such a way that it contributes to the livelihoods of all.

Setting up a Disaster Risk Reduction Committee

The Catholic Diocese of Wau (CDoW) conducted a PDRA with 100 Bussere community members. They identified that peacebuilding interventions were needed to solve the conflicts between the pastoralist and farming communities.



Roc Roc Dong peace conference 2014. Fr. Moses Peter Joseph facilitates a focus group discussion between farmers, pastoralists, community groups such as the DRR committees and local authorities from Western Bahr el Gazal and Warrap states.

CDoW then facilitated the formation of a DRR committee with 18 male and 12 female members. The DRR committee was trained on leadership, group dynamics, lobby and advocacy skills, resource mobilization, conflict transformation, networking and livelihood diversification.

To enhance yields and reduce the risks of crop damage, CDoW also trained Bussere's farmers in improved farming methods and distributed fast maturing crops and vegetables such as eggplant, cabbage, tomato, carrot and hot pepper.

Peace at last

The DRR committee has become a strong community institution that takes the lead in facilitating peaceful coexistence. Their members meet twice a month to discuss and plan their activities. The diverse set of trainings offered by CDoW empowered the committee to raise awareness among community members for peaceful coexistence and facilitate dialogue between the warring parties.

Through such dialogue, the Bussere community increasingly appreciates the benefits of peaceful coexistence. They decided to no longer kill cows that destroy their crops but tie them up and report incidents to the DRR committee or local authorities so that the damage can be compensated by the pastoralists. The number of conflicts has also reduced because of the use of fast maturing crops that can be harvested before the arrival of the cattle. Another benefit is that these crops have enhanced family nutrition.

Willingness as driving force

Mediation, conflict transformation and peacebuilding can only succeed if the two warring parties engage in peace dialogue. To achieve such commitment community mobilization is important. Both parties should take ownership of the resolutions agreed upon. Peace initiatives have also become a concern for various other stakeholders. This allowed CDoW to attend a peacebuilding conference organized by the government, where experiences on peacebuilding challenges and approaches were shared. But in spite of willingness, bringing parties to a common understanding is a process that requires patience; especially when peace initiatives are challenged by limited livelihood options.

Way forward

To make sure that Bussere does not relapse into conflict, continuous involvement of relevant key stakeholders in peace mediation and reviewing implementation of the resolutions agreed upon is needed. Also, the cattle keepers should establish their cattle camps along the river, far from farms and settlement. This will further mitigate tensions and allow farmers to focus on food production to improve household nutrition, food security and incomes.

WOMEN NETWORKS FOSTERING HUMAN SECURITY

LOCATION	Wau County, Beselia Payam, Mboro Boma
IMPLEMENTER	Women Development Group (WDG)
CASE WRITER	Rabha Elis

Natalina is 54 years old and a mother of 9 children. She is the leader of a women network in Mboro Boma. Thirty women from Mboro are member of this women network, of which 7 have an executive role. The Women Development Group (WDG) established the network in 2015 and trained Natalina and the other members on the 'Barometer of local women's security'. This approach aims to empower rural women to raise their voice and demand for peace and security, build their resilience to conflict, whilst also taking the lead in promoting peace and security initiatives in their communities.

Women in particular affected by conflict

Mboro Boma is located in Beselia Payam in Wau County. It has been prone to frequent conflicts between the pastoralist and farmers, intra-community conflicts and attacks from armed groups. The most recent conflict broke out in Wau County in June 2016. Mboro was among the most affected localities. To escape the violence, over 90,000 people fled to the Protection of

Civilians camp (POC) and the compound of the St Joseph Cathedral in Wau town. Natalina was very concerned about the situation and mobilized other members of the women network with the idea to rescue the women, children and elderly who were particularly vulnerable to conflict, extreme poverty and hunger. The women of Mboro are vulnerable to conflict because many lost their husbands; either because they died or because the family became separated. At the same time, their houses were burned, their properties looted and their farmlands destroyed. There was also an increase in incidents of conflict related rape and sexual abuse. Furthermore, most basic services like education, health and humanitarian aid became inaccessible.

Barometer of local women's security

In 2015, WDG established women networks in Mboro, Ngisa and Farajala Bomas in Beselia Payam in Wau County. WDG and the women networks work towards localizing the United Nation Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325). They started with a Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment to identify the natural and human induced hazards, prioritizing the need for women. This was the basis for designing interventions to empower the rural women affected by conflict. One of the key interventions is an approach called the



Photo WDG

The women's network from Mboro and Ngisa meet to share experience and discuss the priorities that they identified in the previous meetings.



The chair of the women network now residing in Lokloko PoC camp addresses the women's network to identify the needs of women in the camp. Health services and economic empowerment were mentioned as core needs.

'Barometer of local women's security'. The Barometer builds on earlier training conducted on Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR). As part of the Barometer approach, WDG trained the women networks on topics such as lobby and advocacy, gender and leadership, sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), access to justice and human rights. They also supported each network with 15 telephones, solar power devises and bicycles to improve their means of communication and timely response. Local DRR/peace committees, including chiefs and other community leaders, also participated in the trainings. WDG was also able to establish five other women networks in displacement centers in Wau County.

The Barometer empowers vulnerable women to advocate for peace and security. The network members lobby key stakeholders to intervene in resolving the security issues that affect women and their communities. As a result, male leaders have positively changed their perception of the participation of women in decision making. This is quite an achievement in a patriarchal system where female subordination is considered the norm. WDG also built the women's resilience during periods of conflict and inaccessibility of their villages. Aided by the distributed telephones, the network members maintain communication even when most of them are displaced. This helps the timely reporting of security concerns and assures adequate response to existing needs.

A flight to safety

Faced with the consequences of conflict in Mboro, Natalina realized that the best chance for survival of the most vulnerable members of her community was to evacuate them to Wau. She discussed this with the other members of her women network and they all agreed. Together with seven other women, Natalina shared her evacuation plan with the chief and other community leaders.

Most people generally prefer to move at night out of fear of being killed by the armed groups or government troops during daytime. Natalia felt however that nightly travel would expose especially women to sexual violence risks. That is why she convinced the chief to allow them to go to Wau during daytime. She requested that measures be taken to protect them from ambushes and to avoid that they would get arrested upon arrival in Wau because they would come from rebel-held territory. The chief agreed to help them. He communicated the evacuation plan to the County Commissioner of Besilia, requesting protection and support from the government.

Natalina led 35 households to Wau. The group counted 117 people with severe injuries, one disabled man and malnourished women and children. The County Commissioner arranged for a national security vehicle to escort the arriving group of displaced all the way from Mboro to the POC camp. In the camp the group received food, health/hygiene kits, utensils, blankets and tents, and they were referred to other agencies for further support. Natalina's evacuation mission attracted the attention of the UN refugee organization UNHCR who provided humanitarian assistance in Mboro, Ngisa and Farajallah. Thousands of women, children and elderly received clothes, health and nutritional services, sanitary materials and protective items such as lamps.

The benefits of the Barometer: Building resilience during conflict

The Mboro women network shows that women can take the lead in initiatives that enhance the resilience to conflict. Involving the members from the start through Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment (PDRA) gives them ownership over the program. Combining CMDRR and Barometer trainings is appropriate to build women's skills in identifying local peace and security priorities, whilst also empowering them with advocacy and lobbying skills for them to be effective agents of change. Engagement with key (government) stakeholders strengthens effective response to the needs of the most vulnerable. The program finally contributed to a change in mindset of community leaders in favor of women participation and leadership.

Way forward

More women networks should be established and capacitated to advocate and lobby stakeholders on security and peace related issues. There is a particular interest to replicate the CMDRR and Barometer approaches in the displacement centers and Wau town. By this means also displaced women can be prepared how to cope with challenges when returning home. Finally, there is also a need to offer the women groups income generating activities because women play such a significant role in the general welfare of their households and wider communities.

WOMEN SUSTAINING LIVELIHOODS

LOCATION	Wau County POC, Bazia, Baggari and Besselia Payams
IMPLEMENTER	Women Development Group (WDG)
CASE WRITER	Luka Mauro

“I do not know how my life would be without support from Women Development Group,” said Ferdous Abaker. Ferdous is a 32-year-old mother of six, who lost her husband. She currently lives in the UN-managed Protection of Civilian site (POC) in Wau. “I used to live from farming, but when the conflict broke out mid 2016 I lost all of my property. The only way to save my children was to take refuge in the POC, where I depended on humanitarian aid”, she adds. Ferdous had the desire to start a business, mainly because she dreams to school her children but she did not have no capital to start the business, nor the knowledge on how to manage a business.

The burdens of women heading a household

Former Western Bahr el Ghazal state has experienced armed conflicts since 2013, which destroyed critical infrastructure and social services. Especially the most recent conflict (2016)

led to mass displacement of the farming communities in Bazia, Baggari and Besselia payams of Wau County. They fled to church compounds or the POC in Wau, where the number of displaced overwhelmed humanitarian agencies. Food rations were insufficient to sustain all of the households until the next distribution. Options for alternative income generation were limited, especially because insecurity restricts people to move freely, as robberies, killings and rape and gender based violence against women frequently occur.

Like Fedous, many women in the POC have lost their husbands. Women heading a household have to work hard to fend for the family amidst limited livelihood options. Their children often go to bed without food, and they lack money to send their children to school. Schooling is also affected by the insecure situation outside the POC. As the school is at 5-km walking distance many parents prefer to keep their children at home.

Village Savings and Loan Associations

When the conflict broke out, Women Development Group (WDG) had just started the set-up of Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA), and decided continue activities from the camps and shelters where the beneficiaries had taken refuge.



Women from the VSLA group in the PoC camps come together to save money. They keep this in an iron box and keep record of what they save.



Photo WDC

Ferdous baking bread in the PoC camp.

WDC formed a total of 10 VSLAs: Two in the POC, five among IDPs in church compounds and three in the host community of Wau town.

The VSLA approach aims to contribute to the socio-economic empowerment of vulnerable women through promoting a culture of saving. Each VSLA consists of a group of 20 members that agree to jointly save money for a certain period of time. The capital is invested into the set-up of businesses of the group members. The loans are returned to the group with a small interest. WDC built the management capacity of the VSLA members, including record keeping, loan and saving calculations, business skills and fundraising. Upon completion of the trainings, each individual VSLA member received a start-up grant worth 8,025 SSP (75 \$US).⁶ The aim of the grant is to enable the beneficiaries to boost their income generating activities, which would then strengthen their saving and reimbursement ability. The groups were also provided with materials such as books for record keeping and a padlocked iron box to keep the savings.

Saving up to build a business

Ferdous was one of VSLA members in the POC. The business skills training taught her how to set up a business and calculate her profit after selling the product. With the grant and a loan she took from the group she began baking bread and cakes that she sold in the POC market. Ferdous says she makes a daily profit of 150 SSP (approximately 0.8 \$US), of which she uses 100 SSP a day to hire a motorcycle so that her children can safely go to school outside the POC. She also saves each month at least 250 SSP in the group. Over the past five months, her group has saved a total of 22,000 SSP. Because of her success, Ferdous was elected as a group leader and has become a role model for women in the entire POC. Other VSLA members followed her example and set up a small-scale business with a loan from the group. Other women got inspired and started their own VSLA.

The VSLA approach builds relations

The VSLA approach has created a platform for women to interact regularly. During their meetings, all members have a role to play and this has empowered the members by building their self-esteem. The meetings provide a forum for the members to share information and exchange about their businesses and social life. This strengthens relations which makes it easier to reach and to mobilize other women. The VSLA approach proves that women can take the lead in improving their livelihood with little external support, also in situations of conflict and displacement.

Factors for success of VSLA

In both peaceful and conflict contexts the VSLA approach facilitates economic empowerment and self-reliance of the rural poor. The capacity of members to save money is however weak in an emergency context. That is why complementary seed money for start-up is needed in such contexts. The case shows that displacement also offers opportunities. As the population density in the POC is high, marketing was relatively easy and contributed to the success of the businesses. Finally, collective monitoring of the group funds, in particular ensuring that loans were indeed invested in business development, assured the appropriate use of the funds.

A SAFE PLATFORM FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

LOCATION	Wau County, Bussere Payam
IMPLEMENTER	Catholic Diocese of Wau (CDOW)
CASE WRITER	Fr. Moses Peter Joseph

The self-help group (SHG) in Bussere Payam has 16 women-members and was formed in 2014. The group meets on a weekly basis to discuss issues related to women and community development. They also carry out savings and loan (VSLA) activities. The chairlady of the Bussere SHG says: "As members we have realized positive social and economic changes in our lives. We encourage women in other villages to start similar groups so that they can lobby and advocate for development in their communities".

Farmers and pastoralists in conflict

Bussere Payam depends on farming as their source of livelihood. They grow indigenous crops for domestic consumption or sell some produce to earn a small income. Every October, pastoralist communities from neighboring Warrap State bring their cattle to Bussere in search of water and grazing land. They also come to Bussere to escape the risks of conflict

elsewhere. The pastoralists remain in the area for a period of seven months, which coincides with the harvesting season (October to January). The cattle move around randomly and destroy crops on the farms. In revenge for the damage caused, farmers poison crops to kill the cows that eat it. They also kill cows using spears. In turn, the cattle keepers - who are always armed while the farmers are not - kill people, burn villages and loot property.

Women are most vulnerable to conflicts

Women are mostly affected by this conflict because of the activities they carry out in support of their families. In the absence of livelihood options, they regularly go to the bush to fetch firewood, cut grass, or bring produce from their farm to the market. When they encounter the armed cattle keepers there is the risk of being raped. Because of the conflict, many women have lost their husbands. With no one to support them and their children they become extra vulnerable. Most recent conflicts in Bussere (June 2016) displaced a lot of people, and especially women, to the bush, church compounds or the POC in Wau.

Self-Help Groups for small business development

Towards the end of 2013, the Catholic Diocese of Wau (CDOW) conducted a PDRA in Bussere Payam. Conflict between farmers and pastoralists was identified as the main hazard. A DRR committee was formed and trained. In 2014, also a women SHG was formed and trained. The members received a start-up capital to start a viable small-scale business. With the profits earned, they began saving money in the group based on the VSLA approach (see previous case story). This serves as investment capital for group members who wish to take out revolving loans to further develop their businesses. In 2015, the SHG also established a joint crop farm and vegetable garden in Bussere in order to further boost their livelihoods. Through regular meetings, the SHGs also create a platform for women to discuss issues concerning peace and economic development in Bussere Payam that affect them and their children. It has increased social cohesion between the members. The SHG meetings also serve to collectively assess the progress of income generating investments on the loans provided to members.

Improved income for SHG members

The members of the SHG managed to raise their incomes. One of the members, Jacklin George, says: "I buy charcoal and sell it together with groundnut paste and dry okra. I have a daily income average of between 1,300 and 1,600 SSP (between 7 and 9 \$USD), of which 300-400 SPP is profit. With this, I am now able to feed my children." As SHG members improved their economic status they no longer need to take the risk of going to the bush to look for grass and firewood to earn their living.

Women participating in Peace Conferences

In Western Bahr el Gazal several peace conferences have been held between pastoralists and farmers. During the 2014 conference, the two parties signed a peace agreement. This conference was supported by VNG-International with support



Jacklin George, one of the SHG members, has set up a small business in the PoC camp in Wau and is selling charcoal, groundnuts and okra.



Shama Sijin sells food items just outside the Cathedral's IDPs camp.

of CDOW, WDG and HARD. As the 16 SHG members were trained on conflict transformation, they could now participate in peace dialogues and peace conferences. In the past women could only listen without expressing themselves in such events. Their voices are now heard in their communities. One of the Bussere SHG members, Igsam Saleh, has been elected as chairlady for the local women network (see the 'Women Networks Fostering Human Security' case story).

Why women are instrumental for peace

The establishment of women SHG is essential for peacebuilding because women, just like youth, have potential to influence transformation in the community. Women are particularly gifted to mediate conflicts and come to a compromise. Women are much more than care takers of their household. Hence, they need to be encouraged and supported so that they can play a vital role in the community development. That is why there is a need to increase support to the formation of associations in the form of savings and loan initiatives.

"THIS IS BIG-BUSINESS"

LOCATION	Jur River County, Marial Bai, Udici and Kangi Payams
IMPLEMENTER	Hope Agency for Relief and Development (HARD)
CASE WRITER	Santo Garang Yama

"I have three beautiful children but since I am a single parent I am struggling to take care of them," says 27-year-old Angelina Akur Urayo. Angelina lives in Udici Boma and is a farmer. Her farming activities are however mainly subsistence based, offering little income to respond to her family's needs.

Agro-pastoralism affected by drought and conflict

Communities in Udici Boma in Jur River County are mainly composed of Luos and Dinkas and most of them are agro-pastoralists. There are also pastoralists from neighboring Warrap State and Northern Bar el Gazal State who brought their cattle in search of water and pasture. These pastoralists migrate with their cattle during the dry season. They occasionally lose control of their cattle and the cows end up destroying the land and crops of the farming communities. Conflicts between farmers and pastoralists hence frequently occur. As drought also negatively affects the growth of crops, the consequences for the farming communities are often severe. Their harvest fails and, as a result, families have little to eat and no income from the surplus they would normally sell.

Supporting alternative livelihoods through Self-Help Groups

In 2014, Hope Agency for Relief and Development (HARD) conducted a PDRA. This confirmed that drought and conflict are among the most pressing hazards in Udici. It also showed that especially women that engage in farming activities are highly vulnerable to the effects of drought and conflict because a poor harvest leads to a loss of their livelihoods. Other socio-economic and livelihood options of farmers in Jur River County (Udici, Gette and Tharkueng,) are limited.

HARD supported local women to establish self-help groups (SHG), each with 20 members, and built their skills in small business development and management. Each group selects among its members a number of leaders, who have the roles of chair, secretary, treasurer and their deputies. Chairing of the group meeting is done on rotational basis to give every SHG member a chance to chair a meeting. The SHG follows a savings and loan approach in line with the VSLA principle (see previous two case stories).

Brewing up a tea restaurant

Angelina also joined a SHG. "The members of our group decided to each save small amounts of money on a weekly basis (10 SSP, 0.05 USD). I managed to make my contributions from the modest revenues of some of the harvest I sold", she says. In 2015, Angelina borrowed 5,000 SSP from her group and used it to set up a small tea restaurant. When she cleared the loan, she



SHG weekly group meeting.

borrowed another 20,000 SSP to expand her business. "I used the second loan to transform my business from a tea restaurant into a better restaurant where I now sell tea, food and other drinks". While smiling she said: "This is big business".

Because of the earnings from her restaurant Angelina now sends her children to school and she can afford medical care. She also plans to use part of her savings to buy groundnut seeds for the next cropping season. Angelina has become a role model in Udici Boma.



Photo: HARD

Monitoring visit of Cordaid to a self-help group.

Social cohesion in the self-help groups

The SHGs prove to be quite stable in composition. Angelina's group has been together for three consecutive years now. This makes that members know each other very well and the women mutually support one another where needed. "When one of us is bereaved, everyone contributes 500 SSP and we participate in cooking, collecting firewood and water, and we clean and serve guests", Angelina says. She appreciates the support from HARD, in particular for the training on business management, adding "I thank God for giving me the opportunity to join this SHG".

The benefits of a bottom-up approach

The SHG approach adopted a bottom-up approach that enhances empowerment and capacity building through popular participation. The Udici community members have realized the important roles they can play themselves in determining local strategies that can help solve their problems.

Way forward

Inflation in South Sudan has been high the past years. This also affected the SHG members. Some were discouraged to borrow money from the group and make investments. They fear that community members cannot afford to buy their products or services because commodity prices keep rising on a daily basis. In spite of this challenge, the SHG approach has empowered vulnerable women to develop alternative livelihoods, strengthening their economic position and social integration. Whilst the focus of the project was on women, there is also a need to promote SHGs for men.

WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE

LOCATION	Loudo villages, Bur Payam, Torit County
IMPLEMENTER	Solidarity Association and Rehabilitation and Recovery Affairs (SARRA)
CASE WRITER	Lodovico Oryem Albert

Many communities depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. A shortage of water for production can lead to conflicts, as is the case for four villages in Loudo Boma where especially the communities from Bari and Omorwo have had conflicts over sharing water resources. Solidarity Association and Rehabilitation and Recovery Affairs (SARRA) brought these communities together and drilled boreholes to increase the access to water.

Water as source of conflict

The villages Bari and Omorwo in Loudo Boma, Torit County, have been in conflict for many years. Their people rely on agriculture for their survival. The root causes of conflict are limited access to water and rivalry over farmland. The villages also have limited access to health facilities and proper schools for their children.

In spite of a 2015 reconciliation agreement that was signed during a peace dialogue initiated by the former State Governor

of Imotong State, Mr Nartisio Loluke, the most recent conflict between Bari and Omorwo broke out in April 2016. Over 50 people were killed, the majority of them women and children. Relationships between the two communities broke down and movement was restricted because of frequent ambushes on the road between both villages. Out of fear of being killed, some of the community members migrated to neighboring villages, Torit town or to refugee camps in neighboring countries like Uganda and Kenya. Another consequence of the conflict was that farmers no longer cultivated their lands, leading to food insecurity. Humanitarian aid hardly arrived because of poor communication with and access for humanitarian agencies. The communities experienced hunger and starvation.

Drilling boreholes to improve access to water

With the aim to advocate for peace, SARRA organized a community meeting in Loudo Boma. The Torit County Commissioner chaired the meeting and village chiefs highlighted the impact of conflict on the communities. Following the meeting, a community needs assessment was conducted in Torit County. This led to an agreement on several actions that could help bring peace: relocation of the Loudo Boma villages to their ancestral areas, construction of schools and health units so that the children have access to proper education and health care, and drill boreholes to enhance the availability of water.



On site training of the water management committee in Luodo.



Local leaders of Loudo take over the constructed borehole from SARRA (Mr. Lodovico Oryem Albert; in the front).

SARRA drilled three boreholes in Loudo Boma to the benefit of all four villages. Initially Bari and Omorwo villages disagreed over the location to drill the boreholes, but through facilitated dialogue it was jointly decided to drill the borehole in Omorwo. Also four Water Users Committees were set up, each comprising of 5 people from each village (20 people in total, both male and female). A group with pump mechanics was also created, with 2 participants from each village. During the meetings held to set up the committees, messages of peace and harmony were shared.

Water is life but also peace

The boreholes are a good example of how communities can take responsibility for the joint management of shared resources that previously generated conflict. By participating in the Water Management Committees, conflicting communities now dialogue on issues affecting them and seek solutions to end the conflict. In particular the members from Bari and Omorwo villages now advocate for peace and call upon the entire community to embrace reconciliation, forget the past and focus on improving their relationship and developing their communities. The Commissioner of Torit County expressed appreciation for the borehole intervention as a strategy that has helped to bring peace in the two conflicting communities.

Way forward

To strengthen local water management and its potential for peacebuilding, there is a need for continuous peace monitoring and support the Water Management Committees with good governance skills. Also, the Water and Sanitation department at the County level ought to include the boreholes into existing government maintenance programs. Furthermore, the local government should motivate communities to relocate to their ancestral places and lobby development actors to apply a similar peacebuilding lens to the implementation of construction projects (schools, health centers).

BOOSTING FOOD SECURITY

LOCATION	Hiyala Payam, Murahatiha Boma
IMPLEMENTER	Global Aim
CASE WRITER	Amamaru Samuel Gale

“There is no more hunger in our home”, says 49-year-old Galileo Ohide. “Since I attended the training on how to use oxen for farming, I now earn an income that meets my household needs. I love peace, because then people are free to do their farming and earn money instead of raiding cattle. With my wife Imoya, I now live a happy life.”

Insecurity undermines food production

Traditional livelihood systems of the people from Murahatiha Boma in Hiyalla Payam rely on large-scale agro-pastoral activities. Because of this, Hiyala Payam is considered as the food basket of Eastern Equatoria State. But due to insecurity and inter-community conflict that affects neighboring communities since 2016, many people could no longer access their land. Murahatiha’s people fell back to subsistence farming for their survival. Their production sharply dropped and the area became socially and economically impoverished, with many people depending on handouts from relatives and

humanitarian organizations. Now that relative peace returned in Hiyala Payam, the communities still struggle to engage in intensive farming due to limited access to labor saving technologies. Big areas of land remain uncultivated, and food insecurity persists.

Easing labor as oxen help to plough the land

A community needs assessment conducted by Global Aim in Hiyala Payam confirmed that the soil is fertile and good for agricultural production. Community members expressed their desire to be supported to engage in intensive farming. Especially the promotion of labor saving technologies was mentioned as a viable strategy to increase the acreage of land cultivated, boosting food sufficiency and alleviating hunger.

That is why Global Aim promoted the use of ox-traction as labor saving strategy. A total of 120 lead farmers, including men and women, were trained in how to use the oxen. These trainees then trained other group members. They received ox-ploughs and oxen, hoes, pangas, seeds and watering cans. Furthermore, the trainees were equipped with business skills focused on hiring out the ox-ploughs to other community members as an income generating strategy.



Training on ox-traction.

Increased income has stabilized families

Training in ox-traction has raised household incomes. Other farmers request Galileo to train their oxen too, or pay him to plough their gardens. Galileo also hires out his oxen and earns between 500 and 1,000 SPP (5-7 USD), depending on the acreage ploughed. He uses the income to pay for schools fees, medical bills and provide for basic family needs. Because of the increased income and joint decision making of Galileo and his wife about the oxen, his household stabilized.

He says: “This project has created more harmony in my household. I work together with my wife Imoya and we are saving up money to purchase more pairs of oxen”.



Ox-ploughs distributed by SARRA.

Maximizing participation as strategy for success

The success and sustainability of the oxen-traction project strongly relies on the involvement of County authorities, local leaders, partners and beneficiaries. Involving these groups in planning and implementation of the activities enhances ownership and replication of good practices. Participatory planning also facilitates the participation of marginalized groups such as women, girls, minorities and ethnic groups. Close contact between the direct beneficiary and other stakeholders furthermore offers them access to (more) technical support, which helps them to better implement the skill trainings.

Way forward

The lead farmers now trained in ox-traction should be supported to roll out similar training to benefit other farmers. This will motivate more households to engage in farming activities and help them generate income through hiring out their oxen. This can also help to mitigate challenges such as the prolonged dry spell that affected the harvest in 2016. As persistent inflation of the prices of goods and services has limited the access to agricultural inputs, such as good seed varieties, it is important to take such additional support to farmers into account. Although the general security situation in the surroundings of Hiyala Payam improved, community members still fear to cultivate on ancestral land that is more than five kilometer away from their current settlement. To boost the sustainability of large scale farming, there is hence also a need for peace-building actors to increasingly support dialogue among the warring communities.

FARMING FOR PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE

LOCATION	Ikwoto County, Ikwoto Payam, Ifune & Ifuda Boma's
IMPLEMENTER	Global Aim
CASE WRITER	Alfred Oburak Livio

"We now carry out farming activities together, which we never did before. The warehouse helps to create peace. It enables us to store our food produce and market it together. It has enhanced our livelihoods", says Joseph Ohide, the chairperson of K-longole farmers committee.

Disputes over resources disrupts collaboration

The communities of Ifuda and Ifune Bomas in Ikwoto Payam are agro-pastoralists. They were in regular conflict over land for farming and grazing, water resources and robberies and cattle raiding occurred frequently. The conflicts caused the loss of lives and food insecurity. The area had become largely inaccessible to the government and humanitarian and developmental agencies.

The relationship between the two communities was very poor. They hardly interacted and it was difficult for youth to come together in any function in the payam. The communities did not work together, even though they have fertile land and could produce enough food to support their communities and supply the market with their joint farm produce.

Joint farming and warehouse management

Global Aim initiated and facilitated community meetings, bringing together elders and local leaders from the two villages to develop a joint action plan for restoring peaceful coexistence amongst the communities. They realized that their problems are interconnected and it motivated them to lobby for the support from developmental partners to address the needs for water and food production. The 'peace dividend' plan recommended, amongst others, to establish a farmers group comprising of members from the two villages and building a joint warehouse. The K-longole farmers group was formed with 30 members, half coming from Ifuda village and half from Ifuna village. A total of 30 acres of fertile land was allocated for joint farming activities to be carried out by the farmers group. The group was trained on good agricultural practices, group dynamics and leadership. They were later provided with agricultural inputs such as seeds and farm tools, and supported in hiring a tractor to plough the 30 acres of land. Global Aim also built a warehouse, aiming to facilitate farmers from both conflicting communities to store and handle their food produce, and also to carry out joint marketing. A warehouse committee was formed and trained on warehouse management and maintenance. Attention was also paid to conflict resolution skills, to enhance peaceful collaboration of the farmers involved.



Farmers in Nyibira Boma on an exchange field visit.

Reduced conflict and increased income

Over the last six months, the warehouse has had several positive effects on community life. First of all, the farmers - through the warehouse committee - now jointly market their produce among traders from Ikwoto and Uganda. The farmer group also encouraged other farmers to increase their production. To reduce post-harvest loss, the surplus of produce is stored in the warehouse. It will be sold during the lean season when the community members demand for agricultural produce and prices given are higher. The joint activities have led to higher production and hence higher income of the farmers, enabling them to school their children and access medical and other services. It also contributed to a significant reduction in cases of inter-village conflicts, stimulating interaction and free movement between the communities.

Inclusive participation helps peaceful co-existence

The warehouse project shows it is important to adopt community participatory approaches to facilitate participation of farmers and pastoralists in decision-making. Especially the representation of members from the different communities in joint activities has facilitated peaceful coexistence among the farmers. It is also important to involve county authorities, local leaders, partners and communities in planning and implementation to ensure sustainability of interventions.

Way forward

There is a need to construct more storage facilities for farming produce as peace dividend for conflicting communities that share limited resources. Expanding joint farming and storage can also strengthen the resilience of farming communities to the continuous increase in market prices for goods and services, for example through joint purchase of agricultural inputs such as seeds. In addition, complementary interventions that bring members from warring communities together will help to change the attitude of violence a culture embracing peace. There is finally a need to construct schools and health facilities in the area to reduce cases of illiteracy and encourage community settlement, which in turn boosts production.

SKILLS TRAINING FOR A PEACEFUL FUTURE

LOCATION	Nyong Payam, Torit, Hiyala, Bur and Himodonge Payams
IMPLEMENTER	(SARRA)
CASE WRITER	Lokido Jimmy Killang

The majority of young people in former Eastern Equatoria State (EES) live in remote areas where social services are limited. They are illiterate, have little skills, are unemployed, and can hence not sustain themselves. This increases their vulnerability to being exploited or recruited into criminal activities.

Youth: perpetrators and victims?

Hiyala, Bur and Himodonge Payams have experienced several communal conflicts that claimed the lives of many people. Between 2013 and 2015, there were serious clashes between the villages of Bari and Omorwo, and between Murahatiha and Tirangore villages. More than 100 people were killed in road ambushes, home attacks and revenge killings. 80% of those killed were innocent women, children and elderly. Many households were displaced to the neighboring payams, although some of the conflict also extended to these payams. The inter- and intra-communal conflicts have affected education, health services, agriculture, businesses and free movement. In Bur and Hiyala Payams the main perpetrators of violence are identified to be youth. They have been recruited to join armed gangs to attack communities and carry out revenge killings. Youth are also the major actors in cattle raiding,

leading to prolonged insecurity in the area. Youth are manipulated into violent behavior because they have limited future prospects. They are unemployed, mostly illiterate and face discrimination. The latter is especially the case for returnees who lived for decades in Sudan and can only speak Arabic. In general, it is hard for youth to earn an income that meets their needs. Traumatized by this situation, some ended up committing suicide.

Youth skills training to improve human security

SARRA conducted a needs assessment in four payams to identify the root causes of conflict, which was followed by four awareness-raising campaigns on peacebuilding and conflict resolution. In Hiyala, Bur, Nyong and Himodonge Payams a vocational youth training program was started. A total of 26 trainees (9 girls, 17 boys) were enrolled in carpentry and joinery training in 2016, and 32 more enrolled in 2017 (10 girls and 22 boys). The training provided them with skills to set up workshops for income generation. This is with the aim to offer them an alternative to violence, improving security in the communities.

In November 2016, SARRA conducted an exposure visit for the trainees to the State Ministry of Education, the State Ministry of Infrastructure, the State Ministry of Social Development and the office of the State Peace Commissioner. The visit was meant to familiarize the youth with the relevant line ministries of Eastern Equatoria State. Following these visits, the Director of Quality Education in the State Ministry of Education, Gender



Vocational training in Torit.

and Social Development promised to re-open the Torit Technical School to enroll some of the trainees.

Better relationships helps to reduce conflicts

The 58 trainees have formed 8 groups that each established a workshop as small-scale business venture. Each group has its own binding rules and regulations as to ensure accountability and transparency of their activities. The groups also intend to register their group as legal entity. The trainees are role models in their communities and have become ambassadors of peace. They visit youth from the warring communities, calling on them to forget the differences they had before. In some cases they now work together and conflict has reduced.

For example, one trainee from Tirrangore had joined an armed group to raid cattle. He served in the frontline of the recent inter-communal conflicts between Tirrangore and Murahatiha Bomas. When the peacebuilding and community livelihood rehabilitation program started in Hiyala Payam, he enrolled in the skills training. “After graduating from the training, I now established two carpentry workshops. As youth team leader I advocate for peace. I reach out to other youth to join vocational training and encourage them to denounce criminal activities”, he says.



Boys and girls learning practical skills.

Way forward

To avoid that the youth slide back into criminal activities, there is a need to continue the engagement with the trainees and follow-up on their business endeavors. Extending the program to reach more youth as a viable strategy to withdraw them from violence is also important. SARRA furthermore noted that especially girls and women have great potential that should be stimulated. Finally, there is a need to couple vocational training with functional literacy and numeracy courses. This will further improve their business skills but will also create opportunities to be involved in other (community) activities and decision making.

YOUTH BECOME PEACE AMBASSADORS

LOCATION	Torit County, Bur Payam, Loudo villages
IMPLEMENTER	Global Aim
CASE WRITER	Amamaru Samuel Gale

“My live has changed after attending the training course in carpentry. I am now able to earn an income that meets my household needs. I advocate for more people to develop business activities, which is a better way to earn money than cattle raiding”, says Taban Paridi.

Unemployment draws youth into violence

Close to three decades of war and conflict had devastating effects on the livelihoods of people in Hiyala Payam, Torit County. Social support systems broke down, access to basic services and education is limited and poverty is widespread. This also affects youth. School dropout levels are high because school fees cannot be paid. For girls this often leads to early marriage and motherhood. As the payams are still recovering from conflict, there are only few paid jobs and apprenticeships, and these are difficult to access for youth without education. Also skills training for youth is mostly absent, so setting up a small business is challenging.

Youth that drop out of school and lack alternatives find it hard to meet their basic needs. Idleness makes them vulnerable to a range of anti-social behaviors, ranging from petty crime to being drawn into inter-clan conflict and cattle raiding.

Especially the latter accounts for the displacement and death of many people.

Strengthening coping mechanisms & self-reliance

There is hence a dire need to strengthen the coping mechanisms and self-reliance of youth through apprenticeship and skills training, while fostering peaceful co-existence among communities. In all five bomas of Hiyala Payam, Global Aim initiated a skills training program, which equips youth who dropped out of school with practical livelihood skills. A total of 41 youth (18 boys and 23 girls) enrolled in carpentry, joinery and tailoring courses, and 34 youth (18 boys and 16 girls) studied auto-mechanics and hairdressing. Global Aim adopted a community based training methodology, making use of the available resources in the target community, for example through using local artisans as trainers and hiring locally available training center space.

Ambassadors for peace

The life skills training helped youth to set up their own workshops. Those trained now earn a profit of between 250 and 750 South Sudanese Pounds (3 to 4 USD) per product that they make in their workshops. As the income of youth has increased, they can now afford to pay school fees, medical bill and purchase household basic needs. This motivates the trained youth to denounce involvement in criminal and anti-social behavior. They have in fact become peace ambassadors and



Photo Global Aim

Taban and George in their carpentry workshop.



Student from tailoring class

advise other youth to be like them and desist from criminal activity. As a result, in Hiyala Payam the number of youth involved in petty crime and cattle raiding has sensibly reduced. Apprenticeship and skills training is thus a viable strategy to curb youth involvement in conflict, transforming them into peace builders.

Engaging other local actors is a factor for success

The beneficiaries need close follow up and mentoring support so that they make most sustainably use of their new skills and resources. This is why it is important to involve the youth, local leaders and partners, such as the department of vocational training of the State Ministry of education, in the planning and implementation of the project. Also the availability of local instructors to provide the courses was a factor for success. Finally, regular monitoring and technical support visits motivated the youth and increased their commitment to the program objectives.

Way forward

More development actors should offer skill training programs in order to address youth unemployment because. Skill training proves to contribute to a reduction in crime perpetrated by youth. These kind of programming is in need for a strong link to dialogue and peace initiatives. Youth should be encouraged to form groups so that they can be more easily accessible and supported after programs end.



Graduation of tailoring class.

FINDINGS & LESSONS LEARNED

This section looks at the lessons that can be learned from the components of the 'Interlinking Peacebuilding, Decentralization and Development' program implemented by Cordaid, HARD, WDC, CDoW, Global Aim and SARRA. The lessons learned are based on the analysis and writing process of the case stories presented in this publication.

The lessons learned are structured along themes that directly link to the main approaches of the program. In addition, lessons were drawn from the program's results and their sustainability in the face of the volatile and unpredictable operational context in which the program took place.

1. Community Driven Change

A main lesson learned from the program is that in conflict-settings, community members – although severely affected by violence – can still be an important driver of change. As consequences of conflict on community level further exacerbates violence, peacebuilding cannot be a top down process alone. Working with communities to (re-)build their conflict management capacities in fact creates potential to link localised peacebuilding with wider (sub) national processes of negotiation and conflict settlement.

2. CMDRR approach

The program strongly relied on Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction as a basic approach for analysis, planning and action. A major advantage was that the project could in part build on CMDRR structures that already existed, given the fact that previous Cordaid programming in former Western Bahr el Gazal had supported the established of local Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Committees.

In the early stages of the program planning, the local DRR committees participated in localized risk and conflict analyses using Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment (PDRA) tools. Specific conflict diagnosis tools were integrated in order to make the PDRA relevant for human induced disasters such as conflicts. The findings of the assessments helped to define which type of peacebuilding interventions were needed in their specific community context. The main priorities were included in a community action plan. This was with strong eye for the inclusion of locally relevant activities that had the opportunity to offer peace dividend (see next section).

The program showed that CMDRR and peacebuilding become mutually reinforcing. Also, as inclusive participation of different stakeholders was assured in the process, it generated a sense of ownership of the program interventions. It further strengthened voice of marginalized groups and offered an opportunity to strengthen relationships and hence social cohesion that may have been weakened or tense because of the conflicts.

3. Peace dividend approach

Conflict resolution priorities identified by the communities mainly highlighted the need to resolve conflicts that oppose pastoralist and farming communities over the competition of scarce resources such as land for grazing or agriculture and water.

Program activities contributed to activities with a direct objective of building peace, for example through offering support to dialogue and conference-type conflict settlements. These initiatives brought the warring pastoralist and farming communities together, whereby solutions were identified to which both parties could subscribe, such as compensation measures for damage done to crops. The solutions particularly intended to among others reduce the persisting culture of mutual revenge killings.

The program also supported livelihood related activities with a more subtle peacebuilding objective, such as drilling boreholes, supporting agricultural inputs, offering skills training for youth, and supporting socio-economic investment schemes targeting women in particular (through the VSLAs and self-help groups). These activities had a flying-wheel effect on local peacebuilding. First, improved access to livelihood opportunities and (shared) access and control over resources reduced the incentive for conflict. Second, because socio-economic activities brought people together, they offered at the same time a platform to discuss and act upon tensions and conflict that existed in the community. This also strengthened the voice and participation of certain groups that would normally not be involved in peacebuilding dialogue. Also, peace dividend activities that involved groups that were opposed in conflict had an even greater impact on peacebuilding, such as for example the joint warehouse effort.

The program has shown that the integrated approach where CMDRR and peacebuilding are combined have been successful. The program had the ability to strategically foster lasting peace and co-existence among conflicting communities. There is hence a need to structurally apply a peacebuilding lens to development support in a conflict context like South Sudan, prioritising activities with a strong peace dividend.

4. Barometer of Local Women's Security approach

The barometer has proven that through the formation of women's networks, local women are enabled to identify local peace and security priorities through structured data collection and analysis. By also strengthening their advocacy and lobbying skills, women became effective change agents. The barometer also showed that it increased the willingness of decision makers on local, national and international level to consider and act upon the points raised by the women. This shows that strengthening women's participation in peacebuilding and decision-making helps challenging beliefs and perceptions that normally would exclude women from such processes.

Another important lesson learned is that even in times of displacement, the network of women continued to function. The network even started operations in the Protection of Civilians (POC) camps. The program adapted to the reality of displacement by offering part of the VSLA support within the POCs, although the formation of women's networks for peace and security still needs to be stronger linked with socio-economic programming. If individual members are able to develop their livelihoods, it will also strengthen the group as a whole. Because of its positive effects, the barometer approach should be rolled out and made accessible for other local organizations to use.

5. Civil society strengthening

An important objective of the program was to invest in organizational capacity building of the implementing partners. Capacities of the local peacebuilding actors and structures at payam and boma level were strengthened, such as the DRR committees and the VSLA/self-help groups. Capacity building was demand-driven and focused on knowledge and skills relating to, amongst others, inclusive and democratic decision-making, dialogue and mediation, leadership and more general management procedures. Capacity support proved to be relevant for the sustainability of the local peacebuilding structures. It also reduced the likelihood of these structures becoming a source of conflict in itself.

The implementing partner organizations WDG, HARD, SARRA, Global Aim and Catholic Diocese of Wau were also strengthened. This helped to solidify program management and effective engagement with local stakeholders.

6. Focusing on Women and Youth

The PDRAs that were done consistently pointed to women and youth being particularly vulnerable to the consequences of conflict. For example, sexual violence is a specific risk for women, and women that had lost their husband are in a particularly precarious situation when it comes to meeting their family's subsistence needs. In the absence of employment perspectives, youth face the risk of being (forcefully) recruited to join armed groups or otherwise carry out criminal activities and revenge killings.

This is why the program focused on these two vulnerable groups, in particular through the self-help group/VSLA activities and skills training courses. The program succeeded in raising the income-base and therefore social status of targeted women and youth beneficiaries. This also helped them to become role models, generating an ability to positively influence others to take ownership over their own lives and disengaging from violence. This effect was further strengthened by the fact that economic support was once again linked to awareness raising and training on peacebuilding. Also, group-based support rather than individual support strengthened collaboration, dialogue and mutual understanding. To consolidate this, where possible, the formation of groups of mixed gender and ethnicity appears to be important for future action.

Another lesson learned is that supporting youth with a viable option to generate an income and develop themselves largely removes the incentive to enrol in (armed) criminal activities.

Economic development hence directly contributes to reducing incidents of violence and conflict. A stronger economic position of women helped strengthening their voice in the community. Multiple examples were documented that this in fact also challenged and in part altered traditional communal beliefs on the subordination of women. Economic development hence also contributes to greater gender equality, amongst others in local and household decision-making.

A challenge with regards to women and youth groups was the general low level of literacy, hampering the capacity building efforts. This was also the case for some of the DRR committee members. Linking complementary adult learning and literacy methods with the approaches used in this program could have created further added value and is a lesson to take forward.

7. Engagement with local authorities

An important success factor of the program has been the consistent collaboration with local authorities; both traditional authorities such as the paramount chiefs and authorities representing decentralized administrative structures. From the start these authorities were engaged in the PDRAs and throughout the project the local partner organizations invested in further strengthening their relationship with them. This generated strong local ownership of, and hence also local support to, the different activities that were implemented in the communities. However, the project showed the capacity and means of especially local authorities to respond to the identified needs is often limited. That is why it is important to simultaneously invest in building relationships with and seek support from national and international stakeholders.

8. Adapting to the context

During the four-year implementation phase of the program the South Sudan context proved to be extremely challenging to operate in, in particular due to the outbreak of recurring conflict and violence. As mentioned before, the conflicts have had significant consequences for communities, such as displacement, extreme poverty, inflation and a further breakdown of social norms and ties. At times it affected the actual implementation of activities, for example during temporary program suspension. This demanded flexibility on behalf of the implementing partners and the donor.

Another main lesson learned is that, in spite of the conflict context, especially the networks that the project built and supported proved to be resilient. For example, the women networks and groups continued to exist, even under the harshest circumstances. This is because the program has built on already existing informal networks. Networks were also sustained because the program adapted to the conflict reality by relocating program activities to areas where the beneficiaries had sought shelter, such as the POCs.

Another lesson learned is that economic support that is provided as peace dividend has the potential to effectively strengthen local capacities for peacebuilding. This also sheds another light on the tradition continuum of intervening in conflict settings where peacebuilding precedes economic development. This project has shown that both processes can co-exist simultaneously.

9. Sustainability

Any conflict context challenges the potential of programs to generate sustainable results, as displacement and destruction often reverses progress made. This program has however proven that by carefully selecting intervention approaches sustainability can be guaranteed.

Key in sustaining programs and its activities is the integrated character of the approaches, whereby community participation in risks analyses and action planning (ex. PDRA, Barometer) is the basis, and socio-economic support is strongly tied with community management of conflict and peacebuilding.

Creating and supporting local structures, such as DRR committees, VSLA/self-help groups, and water management committees around economic and peacebuilding activities also proves to be crucial, as group efforts prove to be more sustainable than individual efforts.

Finally, the adaptability of programming to the conflict reality and continuing support to beneficiaries when they had become displaced was an important strategy to strengthen sustainability, whilst also playing into people's agency rather than having them rely on humanitarian assistance.

By building economic livelihoods, strengthening peacebuilding capacities and solidifying community structures and institutions during times of conflict the foundation is made for quicker recovery and stabilization.

NOTES

1. This figure consists of approximately 2 million internally displaced and 2 million refugees, both registered since December 2013. Source: International Displacement Monitoring Centre and the UN Refugee organization UNHCR.
2. USAID, 2 September 2017, <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/sep-2-2017-usaid-administrator-mark-greens-visit-south-sudan>
3. VNG-International is the International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities.
4. PAX is a Dutch non-governmental peace organization working on peace, reconciliation and justice worldwide.
5. In the context of humanitarian and development aid in conflict situations, peace dividend refers to contributing to peacebuilding by programs that address socio-economic services.
6. 75 SSP to 1 USD corresponds with the exchange rate at the start of the project. Other figures presented in this publication, just for the purpose of giving an idea on the counter value of the South Sudanese Pound, are based on the exchange rate of early October 2017: 180 SSP to 1 USD.

ABOUT CORDAID

Cordaid works to end poverty and exclusion. We do this in the world's most fragile and conflict-affected areas as well as in the Netherlands. We engage local communities to rebuild trust and resilience and increase people's self-reliance. Our professionals provide humanitarian assistance and create opportunities to improve security, healthcare and education and stimulate inclusive economic growth. We are supported by 288,000 private donors in the Netherlands and by a worldwide partner network.

ABOUT RESILIENCE

Building communities' resilience and restoring the social contract between the state and its citizens is a Cordaid cornerstone. Our Resilience program enables livelihood security, peaceful

co-existence, and sustainable inclusive growth and thus reduces the vulnerability of hazardprone communities to disasters, climate change, environmental degradation and conflict. This work directly contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 13.

ABOUT SECURITY & JUSTICE

Without peace, stability and effective governance, sustainable development cannot be achieved. Our Security & Justice program guides local communities and governments in designing lasting solutions to conflict, injustice and insecurity. Key to this are strengthening access to justice and security, and ensuring inclusiveness and meaningful participation of women and youth in governance processes. Our work thereby directly contributes to Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 16.

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