

PROJECT REPORT



PROJECT:	SECURITY IN NORTHERN GHANA(SING)		
Project Title :	Promoting Peaceful Co-existence in The West Mamprusi Municipal through trust building initiatives.	period:	Feb 2023 to March 2023.
Location:	West Mamprusi Municipal	Sponsors:	STAR-Ghana Foundation, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office.
Implementing partner:	Peace for Life Ghana(PLG)		

1. SUMMARY

community cohesion and dialogue are central to the development of every society. The project which was titled: Promoting peaceful co-existence in the West Mamprusi Municipal through trust building, was described by many stakeholders during the six community inception meetings as a dream come true. An inventory of the level of co-existence in the municipality showed that there is some mutual respect among indigenes and other groups except in some few communities where there is a growing sour relationships between indigenes and people of the fulbe extraction on the suspicion of their involvement in the robberies.

The project rolled out awareness-raising activities on violent extremism and conflict prevention in six communities (Banawa, Tinguri, Walewale, Wulugu, Zangum and Kukua). It also worked with local leaders, the Assembly, National Commission for Civic Education and the media to facilitate peaceful co-existence among religious, ethnic and political groups through community inception meetings, formation and training of inter-religious dialogue committee (IRDC), inter-ethnic dialogue forum, capacity building trainings for women and youth on conflict early warnings and violent extremism, radio discussions among others. 50 representatives of women and youth groups, assembly persons and community leaders from 6 communities were trained in non-violent dispute resolution and violent extremism by two resource persons from the North East Regional Peace council and the West Africa Network for peacebuilding. To better address inter-religious tensions, all 15 members of the Inter-religious dialogue committee also received training in conflict resolution, violent extremism and non-inflammatory preaching techniques as well as use of non-violence approaches to resolving divergent religious views or doctrines. The IRDC and the women and youth network both had 2 radio programs where they had very interactive discussions on issues of peace and security in the Municipal with the general public. An inter-ethnic peace forum was also held to consolidate the mutual respect between the different social groupings in the municipality and to build trust among them. The forum brought together 60 participants from the Mamprusi, Fulani, Busansi, Frafra, Moshi, Kasina, Kantonsi and Tampulinsi ethnic groups. A central issue was how society treat people of different ethnic affiliation, respecting the rights of every person, including their freedom of religion or belief. An informative advocacy song on peaceful co-existence was developed and played on Eagle FM throughout the project period.

2. Key activities undertaken

Inception meetings:

As per the performance plan, Project inception meetings were successfully held in the 6 project communities where key project information such as the goal, objectives and the approach of the project were communicated to stakeholders. Community members also had the opportunity to communicate their expectations and feelings about the project to the project team. Chiefs and community members hailed the project and pledged their commitment in making the project a success. The project team also met with the west Mamprusi municipal coordinating director during the inception period and he lauded the project. He indicated that the assembly will be glad to work with the inter-religious dialogue committee of the project on security issues when it is formed.



Inception meeting at Zangum Chief Palace



Inception meeting at Banawa community meeting center



Inception meeting at Wulugu Chief Palace



Inception meeting at Tinguri Chief Palace.

Formation of Inter-Religious Dialogue Committee (IRDC):

The formation of inter-religious dialogue committee on religious tolerance and conflict management was a key activity on the performance plan of the project. The project team met with leaders of the main religious groups within the municipal and discussed the project with them. They were then tasked by the team to nominate 2 members each to represent them on the committee. The nominees then met with the project team for further discussion on the project and the purpose of the committee. After having an overview of the project, they gladly agreed to serve on the committee and it was eventually formed. The committee has since been officially introduced to the Municipal Assembly, the Municipal Police Command, the Municipal Immigration Head office, the Chief of Walewale, the Municipal Chief Imam and the Local council of Churches.

Training of the IRDC:

The purpose of the training among others was to deepen their understanding of peace, enhance trust and relationship building and to enhance their knowledge in early warning, conflict prevention, and mediation. The 15 religious leaders were from the Tijania, Ahlu-Sunna, Ahmadiyya and the Shi'a muslim sects. The rest are, Roman catholic, traditionalist and the local

council of churches reps. The 2-day training covered topics including; Understanding Conflict, Concept of Peace and Peacebuilding, Conflict-Sensitivity, Approaches to Conflict Management and basic concepts associated with violent extremism (*Extremism, Violent extremism, Radicalism and radicalization, Islamism, Jihadism, Terrorism and terrorist acts, Women and Violent extremism*). Participants expressed a need for Christians and Muslims to adopt peaceful and constructive dialogue amongst themselves and with other faiths. In two days, they reflected on a variety of issues relevant to dialogue, such as language differences and different understandings and concepts. The executive director of Peace for Life Ghana in his closing remarks tasked the religious leaders to compile verses from both the Bible and the Qur'an on honesty, tolerance, humility, and all the virtues the religion extol and develop them into sermons to be used for preaching at the various places of worship.

A very important outcome of this training is that, one of the participants, Daabo Sigri who is also the linguist of the Kpasenkpe traditional area shared his knowledge from the training with some aggrieved youth of the Kpasenkpe community and that convinced them to withdraw their intended attack on all Fulani in the area over a robbery incidence which was alleged to have been perpetuated by three Fulani young men.



A participant making a contribution



A demonstration of how divergent interest could spark conflict (two individuals writing different things with the same pen at the same time).

Members of the IRDC had two radio discussions at Eagle FM in Walewale during the project period to engage with the general public on religious tolerance, violent extremism and conflict early warnings among others.



radio discussion session at Eagle FM.



Participants in a group photo after the program.

Training of Women and Youth on Conflict:

Increased integration of women and youth at local, regional and national levels is necessary for delivering on sustainable peace and development. A training workshop was organized to strengthen the capacity of 50 representatives of women and youth groups as well as some opinion leaders for inclusive peacebuilding and conflict prevention.



Captivated participants not wanting to miss out a word.



Facilitator explaining how perceptions can lead to misunderstanding and conflict.

The project also provided opportunity for the women and youth beneficiaries to hold 2 radio discussions at different dates. Each session lasted for one and half hour and facilitated by a resource person. Key issues that dominated the discussions included, conflict resolution mechanisms, the frequent armed robbery attacks in the municipality, limited participation of women and youth in peacebuilding actions and police-community collaboration for fighting crime and violent extremism. The panelist together with some callers made a clarion call on all Chiefs in mamprugu to collaborate with the assemblies to take steps to register and document all Fulani in their jurisdiction and liaise with them to flash out the bad ones among them.



Madam Dahmata takes her turn to make contribution

“The training is very rich in learning and also very important. It has reinforced my participation in local governance and peacebuilding”. Rose Kadiga, 32-year-old member of the Tibomsugru Women group in Kukua.

The Inter-ethnic peace forum:

To reduce social violence, social exclusion and prosocial behavior among others, the project also organized an inter-ethnic peace forum in Walewale which brought together 60 participants from different ethnic groups and traditional authorities, Civil societies as well as the National Commission for Civic Education, Peace Council and some assembly persons. Some media houses present were Joy News, Eagle FM and Asasi radio. Stakeholders in their solidarity messages emphasized the need to avoid ethnic segregation and rally around things that unit us. There was a general concern raised about the high rate of armed robbery in the municipality which according to some participants, affect human security, livelihood activities, and general activities of small and medium scale enterprises. There was some display of cultural dance by the different ethnic groups present at the gathering.

“The youth in Kpasenkpe have lost trust in the police and have relented in their effort in collaborating with the police to fight crime in the area”. Daabo Sigri, Linguist of Kpasenkpe traditional area.

“This is the first time we have been invited to NGO program. As you can see some of our women feel shy to talk. We are also happy to hear our tribe name in your song on radio. We will educate our people at home who could not take part in the program.” Adam Braimah, leader of the Fulani group from Kpasenkpe.



displaying of cultural dance by the Fulani.



a cross section of the high table.

3. Success

The commitment shown by stakeholders and their desire to work with Peace for Life Ghana and its partners to find more effective and durable solutions to the security problems facing their communities is a major success. Dissemination of the project outputs and experience by participants in their various communities has been very impressive. Some members of the inter-religious dialogue committee and the women and youth network have carried out debriefing with their chiefs and elders as well as community sensitization to maximize the impact of the project. The usual verbal attacks among Muslim clerics from the different sects over 'religious correctness' in their 'tafseer' during the Ramadan month has not been experienced so far.



A member of the inter-religious dialogue committee



Linguist of Kpasenkpe community



Project beneficiary educating chief and community members



The 'Dema Naa' of Zangum community

https://youtu.be/UR_XZpBDhxY



a project beneficiary sensitizing community member on violent extremism at Kukua.



The inter-religious dialogue committee paid a courtesy call on the West Mamprusi Municipal coordinating director.

4. Challenges

Inadequate funding is a challenge. Limited project period was also a challenge

Experience sharing/review meeting:

Building trust and seeing changes within a community takes time, continuity and consistency. During the review session, stakeholders called for continuous support from the donors to achieve the desired impact of the project. It was also suggested that the project period should be longer. An action plan for the inter -



religious dialogue committee was also recommended. Participants also suggested that the subsequent activities should include a community and security dialogue forum for the citizens to engage with them.

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