

/ REPORT

THE CIVIL PEACE SERVICE PROGRAM IN ETHIOPIA

Connecting actors and joining capacities for peace



Welcome sign for the Pastoralist Peace Gathering near Yabello, in January 2009.

In any society, in any organization, between any people, there is potential for conflict. Be it in Europe, be it in Ethiopia, various forms and levels of conflict resolution processes have been developed. There are cultures that have a more consensus-oriented approach which intends to heal the collective mind of a community. There are cultures which approach conflict resolution in a more individual way, whereby formal and informal systems of handling conflict (e.g. the court system or mediation) are the focus.

Looking at Ethiopia, a country embracing an immense diversity of cultures and peoples, we find communities, individuals, governmental and non-governmental actors engaging in peace building. It is the goal of the Civil Peace Service Program (CPS) of the former DED, now GIZ, to support these efforts and to strengthen the relevant capacities needed to become more effective and develop sustainable peace for communities in conflict.

Since 2008, CPS has established partnerships with the Ethiopian government (House of

Federation, Ministry of Federal Affairs, Council of Nationalities, Regional Administration & Security Bureaus) and non-government organizations at local, regional and federal levels. The program is active in the regions of SNNPR and Oromia and focuses on pastoralist areas, conflicts along the border between the two regions and has recently engaged in cross-border conflicts with Kenya. Currently 12 international and national peace experts work within the partner institutions. A strong link with the World Peace Service (a German NGO) complements the program. From the year 2011 onwards, eight additional experts and three more partner organizations will join CPS.

CPS offers capacity development through training and advisory service. It facilitates and financially supports activities such as the FM peace radio in SNNPR, peace gatherings in pastoralist areas as well as workshops in disputed border areas for elders, youth and women.

CPS supports the realization of conflict analysis, investigates the potentials for

combining culturally developed “traditional” conflict resolution with “modern” approaches and contributes to establish resource and documentation centres. CPS engages in National Pastoralist Day, the Nations and Nationalities Day and contributed to the discourse on federalism and conflict transformation at the 5th International Conference on Federalism in December 2010.

CPS provides a platform for experts and partners to discuss their projects and to encourage cooperation. Positive examples of local peace initiatives have a chance to enter to the political arena. Crucial layers of the program are: to connect the different engagements, to sensitize politicians and decision makers, and to recognize and strengthen the important work of civil society organizations.

Claudia Roos, CPS Program Coordinator GIZ

● New GIZ publication ‘Scaling-up in Development Cooperation’

The chemical industry talks about “scaling-up” when referring to how a process goes from the laboratory to large-scale manufacture. In development cooperation, this term refers to how we can get our projects to generate large-scale results. Answers can be found in the GIZ publication “Scaling-up in development

cooperation: Practical guidelines” that was recently published by the Policy and Strategy Group in GIZ’s Corporate Communications Unit. In the preface, Managing Director Christoph Beier points out that the theme of ‘scaling-up’ is of outstanding importance in terms of corporate policy. “Much more than before, all of our projects should not only be about designing good solutions but should always be about their broad-based implementation.” The

28-page set of guidelines therefore examines the term and its meaning as well as GIZ’s role in the scaling-up process, and looks at the key factors that have to be taken into account when the objective is to achieve a broad impact. The guidelines also include numerous examples of GIZ’s work to help drive home the point.