



Civil Peace Service Programme in Uganda

Civil Peace Service Programme in Uganda

Since August 2000, DED's Civil Peace Service Programme (CPS) has deployed Peace Advisors, promoted local peace initiatives and supported institutions in Uganda to find non-violent ways of resolving conflicts. The service concentrates on peace education and the promotion of trust between conflicting parties.

Projects and Team

The Civil Peace Service is currently active with five peace advisors and one junior expert in the regions of West Nile, Northern Uganda, Teso-Karamoja and Kampala. The national coordinator supports the projects from the DED country office in Kampala. The CPS Programme will be extended in the two current operational areas, West Nile and Teso-Karamoja regions. By the end of 2009 eight development workers will be working in the field of civil peace. The program's future focus will be on reconciliation at community level, peace training programmes and regional peaceful development.



*Working for Peace –
Civil Peace Service Programme in Uganda*

Current projects supported by DED Civil Peace Service

- Promotion of Peaceful Co-Existence in Teso/Karamoja
- Master of Arts in Peace and Conflict Studies at Makerere University in Kampala
- Community Outreach Peace Project at Gulu University's Institute of Peace and Strategic Studies
- Conflict Management in Adjumani District
- West-Nile-Initiative to Promote Sustainable Peace and Equitable Development
- Peace Building in Paidha

Working for Peace

To date, more than € 2.000.000 have been invested in projects and infrastructure. The projects are supported by experienced Civil Peace Service advisors who live and work in the respective regions. The Peace advisors are working within the partner organizations and are supporting the peace activities.

Some of the impacts created so far are:

- a peace deal with the former rebel group *Uganda National Rescue Front II* (UNRF II) was signed in West-Nile;
- over 7.100 people are living together in peaceful coexistence in the formerly deserted border region of Teso/Karamoja;
- people are getting proactive and involved in Uganda's national reconciliation process and skills in conflict resolution have been inquired.

Contact

Stefan Friedrichsen | DED CPS National Coordinator | email: stefan.friedrichsen@ded.de

CPS website

<http://uganda.ded.de> > "Other Programmes" > "DED Civil Peace Service Programme"

■ Promotion of Peaceful Co-Existence through Joint Rehabilitation of Water Dams in Teso-Karamoja

Situation in operating area

The Iteso and the Karimojong have a long history of conflict with frequent outbreaks of violence between the two ethnic groups and between different clans within Karamoja. In recent decades the old tradition of cattle raids has become increasingly brutal as a result of an enormous influx of weapons from neighbouring conflict regions (Sudan, Somalia). Thousands of people in Teso have been forced to stay in IDP (Internally Displaced People) camps. While the Iteso have to a great extent given up cattle keeping and instead turned to agriculture many Karimojong still live a very traditional semi-nomadic lifestyle which is strongly focused on cattle. Since 2001, the Ugandan government is trying to implement and robust disarmament exercise in Karamoja. Due to a multitude of reasons the success has been very limited so far.

Interventions towards positive change

The primary goal is to provide support in the efforts to harmonize the relationship between the conflicting groups in the Teso-Karamoja region.



*Message for Peace –
Released during the Peace Day Celebrations in
Soroti 2005*

What are the impacts?

Among the many activities that have been undertaken by the partners in Civil Peace Service are regular trainings in “Alternatives to Violence”, Peace Education in over 100 schools in Teso-Karamoja, Cinema Education in various villages, the organization of meetings for community leaders and the establishment of a Joint Office in the small border town of Iriiri. Since 2007, a new program focuses on the crucial role of women in conflict resolution. In 2007 the program “Promotion of Peaceful Co-Existence through Joint Rehabilitation of Water Dams” brought Iteso and Karimojong together in order to jointly work on dams in the border region. Permanent settlements on Teso and Karamoja side have been established and the situation in the area has proven to be satisfactory peaceful and secure. Another cross regional program is the Teso Karamoja Region Action Planning “for promoting peaceful coexistence”. Each district elected a peace monitor and action plans per district have been developed with the objective to include those activities in the overall district plans.

Summary of Organizations

DED's Civil Peace Service is since July 2005 working together with partners from both sides of the divide. *Teso Initiative for Peace* (TIP), a small NGO in Soroti, has become one of the best known peace organizations in the region in the last years. On Karamoja side *Omaniman Community Development Initiative* (OCODI), which is based in Moroto, has also become a very important partner in the peace efforts. With regard to activities in the Teso-Karamoja border region, *Christian International Peace Service* (CHIPS) has proven to be a vital partner in the implementation of programs.

Contact

Michael Odeke | TIP Director | email: tipteso@gmail.com | <http://tesoinitiativeforpeace.com>
Timothy Sagal | OCODI Director | email: ocodi.lotome@gmail.com | <http://ocodi-karamoja.com>
Edith Naser | DED Peace Advisor | email: edith.naser@ded.de

■ Master of Arts Course in Peace and Conflict Studies at Makerere University

Interventions towards positive change

The M.A. course in Peace and Conflict Studies at Makerere University Kampala integrates practical learning into its curriculum and is an attempt to underpin a culture of peace and non-violence in Uganda. Strong links have been forged between the project and related NGOs in Uganda, and with other universities around the world. At Makerere, the Civil Peace Service has invested heavily in the computer lab and library. DED has so far provided ten modern computers and about 900 books on conflict resolution and related topics, which cannot be found in any other library in Uganda.

A peace newsletter is produced regularly, along with a database containing relevant documents and articles on peace and conflict issues. This regularly updated CD-ROM is designed to facilitate the learning experience of students, lecturers and members of the community. Field trips to conflict areas have also been conducted for the M.A. students. Furthermore, the production of teaching material and attractive short courses on peace and conflict resolution are some of the unique features of the programme.



Creating a Centre of Excellence in the Peace Field - M.A. Peace and Conflict Studies at Makerere University

The Civil Peace Service Project supports the M.A. programme to develop its full potential. Cooperation takes place with universities from all over the world, and connections to NGOs and Universities are regularly established and consolidated. These measures all aim at making MAK a centre of excellence in the peace field, and at developing a culture of peace and non-violence in Africa through the establishment of an "Institute for Religion and Peace Studies".

What are the impacts?

Students and Lectures have realized that Peace Studies have to go hand in hand with practical skills. This development is reflected in the curricula. Strong relationships between the programme and society in general, politicians and NGOs in particular have been established. The Programme is playing an important role in e.g. National Reconciliation.

Summary of Organization

The Master of Arts Degree in Peace and Conflict Studies is an interdisciplinary programme which aims at giving graduates the pursuit of peace-building and methods of peaceful solutions to domestic, national, regional and international conflicts.



Contacts

Dr. Paddy Musana | Coordinator | email: musana@arts.mak.ac.ug
Bangirana Narcisio | Project Officer | email: peaceresearch@arts.mak.ac.ug
Barbara Kemper | DED Peace Advisor | email: peaceadvisor@arts.mak.ac.ug

Homepage

www.arts.mak.ac.ug/peace.html

■ Community Outreach Peace Project at Gulu University's Institute of Peace and Strategic Studies

Situation in operating area

Northern Uganda, consisting of several ethnic groups, has been plagued for over two decades with atrocities committed during the war between the *Lord's Resistance Army* (LRA) and Government Forces (UPDF). Over 1.8 Million people were forced to move their homes and resettle in Internally Displaced People's Camps. Since July 2006, the Government of Uganda and the LRA are negotiating for a comprehensive peace accord. Since then, the situation in the area has improved greatly. While the peace talks are going on with ups and downs the people of Northern Uganda feel much safer. Many are leaving the camps now to go back to their fields during the daytime and some of them even returned to their old home. However, even though there is peace at the moment, it is far away from positive peace. The 21-year conflict has left its traces in family structure, traditional settings, political formations and ethnic identities. There is urgent need for peace building since the population of Northern Uganda is longing for sustainable peace.



During the project launch of COPP in 2008, the Guest of Honor the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of Uganda is introduced to the Acholi traditional justice methods.

Interventions towards positive change

The Community Outreach Peace Project (COPP) with support by the Civil Peace Service wants to have an impact on societal, institutional and individual levels in building a culture of peace in Northern Uganda.

- *Outreach:* Initiating and supporting community based peace building efforts through peace education, community inter-cultural exchange, trainings and consultancies.
- *Information & Documentation:* Information documentation and dissemination through research and publication in the field of peace building and conflict transformation as well as establishment of a Community Resource Centre.
- *Advocacy & Lobbying:* Establishing partnerships with other universities, institutions and civil society organisations nationally and internationally to enhance advocacy and networking that can influence policies and decision making processes.

Summary of Organization

COPP is a new cooperation project between Gulu University's *Institute of Peace and Strategic Studies* (IPSS) and the German Development Service and its Civil Peace Service Program. COPP's overall goal is "to transform communities in Northern Uganda for positive and sustainable peace through documentation, information and outreach programs." COPP targets the generic community in Northern Uganda - Gulu University community, staff of non-governmental and community based organisations and all those who are interested to enrich their knowledge in conflict management and peace building skills either for private or professional reasons.



Contacts

Fabius Okumu-Alya | Director of IPSS | email: fabokumu@yahoo.co.uk
Simone Dornbach | DED Peace Advisor | email: simone.dornbach@ded.de

■ Conflict Management in Adjumani District

Situation in operating area

The district of Adjumani has experienced insecurity since 1986, caused by insurgencies in West-Nile and Acholi region as well as armed conflicts in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The signing of the comprehensive peace accord between Northern and Southern Sudan and negotiations between the Ugandan central government and the LRA certainly had a positive impact on this situation. Nevertheless, the district is still facing major challenges. Besides the presence of around 27,000 refugees and approximately 20,000-30,000 internally displaced peoples (IDPs), these include increasing conflict over land or diverging interests among the local elites.

Interventions towards positive change

With the integration of a peace component into the work of local administration the Civil Peace Service supports

- the development of a conflict monitoring system for Adjumani District;
- the strengthening of capacity and or ethics and integrity respectively, at District and Sub-County government level;
- the effective functioning of traditional and official conflict resolution mechanisms and institutions.



Arinyapi Camp for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Adjumani District

What are the impacts?

The aim of the Civil Peace Service engagement is to strengthen the capacity of Adjumani district local government and *District Disaster Management Committee* respectively to effectively identifying, preventing and/or settling conflicts. This again supports the district local government in realizing its mission, i.e. to plan and implement socio-economic development programs for improved and sustainable quality of life of the people of Adjumani District.

Contacts

Ben Olley Robinson | Chief District Planner | email: olley_ben@yahoo.co.uk
Habib Abubakar | Assistant CAO/Vice-Chairperson of DDMC | email: habradju@yahoo.com
Kathrin Wyss | DED Peace Advisor | email: kathrin.wyss@ded.de

■ West-Nile-Initiative to Promote Sustainable Peace and Equitable Development

Situation in operating area

For more than 20 years the population of the West Nile Region suffered from armed conflicts between different rebel movements and the government. The civil war forced two thirds of the population to flee, exposing the rest to extreme violence. The resettlement and reintegration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and ex-combatants will be the crucial factor for peace in the region. Insecurity is solidified by massive arms trafficking through neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo and Southern Sudan.

Interventions towards positive change

MAYANNK is an initiative of the seven West-Nile-Districts of Moyo, Arua, Yumbe, Adjumani, Nebbi, Nyadri and Koboko to promote sustainable peace and equitable development. Together with a DED Peace Advisor, MAYANNK supports the District governments to develop and implement a comprehensive peace and reconciliation strategy and to strengthen traditional conflict resolution mechanisms. In a joint and coordinated effort and in collaboration with relevant partners MAYANNK focuses on the reintegration and resettlement of ex-combatants and IDPs in order to enhance the peace building process.

What are the impacts?

The support of MAYANNK is the continuation of the Civil Peace Service Engagement in Yumbe. DED has a successful history of supporting peace in the West Nile Region. Until recently, a peace advisor was working with the *Participatory Rural Action for Development* (PRAFORD), a civil society organization in Yumbe district. Amongst the impacts of the program are the resettlement and reintegration of over 2500 rebels after the signing of the cease fire and peace agreement in 2002; the communities are willingly to accept the ex-combatants and now peacefully co-exist; and relative peace has led to attraction of several development partners and investors.



The Government of Uganda and UNRF II signed a cease fire and peace agreement in 2002 which has brought calm to the region

Contact

Ojok Bran | MAYANNK Assistant Chief Administrative Officer | email: ojokbran@yahoo.co.uk

■ Peace Building in Paidha

Situation in the operating area

Paidha is situated in the Southern part of Nebbi District, and is one of seven districts in Northern Uganda's West Nile region. The region is physically separated from the rest of Uganda by the river Nile and it borders the conflict-ridden Ituri Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo as well as Southern Sudan. Being a post-conflict society, Nebbi District is, as are many of the neighbouring districts, struggling with a range of issues manifesting themselves in different degrees of conflict, i.e. ethnic marginalisation, resource scarcity and unequal land distribution, political tensions and ignorance, proliferation of small arms and light weapons, poverty and unemployment.

In recent years poachers have lost their lives while attempting to hold on to their traditional hunting activities in Murchison Falls National Park, while women have been raped collecting firewood in the now government run Lendu Forest. Lately school pupils throughout the district have begun copying the country's university students and reacting to disagreements with school administration with violence and strikes. Another worrying development is the persistent talk on the street of, in the image of Kenya and Zimbabwe, preparing violently for the general elections in 2011.



Communities participate in the planning of development programmes and peace initiatives

Interventions towards positive change

DED Civil Peace Service is supporting the local non-governmental organisation Life Concern (LICO) in Paidha with an International Peace Advisor as well as a Local Peace Advisor. The overall goal of their efforts is to improve local conflict management skills among all stakeholders and increase the participation of the communities in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the peaceful development of their area.

The daily work is focusing on the establishment, training and promotion of comprehensive networks of local mediators, so-called Community Messengers for Peace, in the Park and Forest areas; the preparation and encouragement of school pupils as tolerant and creative mediators in their schools; and the creation and coaching of an inter-party forum of politicians working towards non-violent elections in 2011.

Contacts

William Anyolitho | LICO Executive Director | email: lifeconcern2004@yahoo.co.uk

Albert Ogwiri | LICO Local Peace Advisor | email: ogwiri@gmail.com

Gedske Messell | DED International Peace Advisor | email: gedske.messell@ded.de