

Community Solutions in Case of Conflict:



A brief Presentation on the Best Practices
in Southern Ethiopia and Northern Kenya

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Background:



- The Oromia Pastoralist Association (OPA) was established in 2006 by 72 pastoralist community members selected from 6 pastoral zones in Oromia region in Ethiopia.
- Since its establishment, the association in collaboration with various local actors has been engaged in initiatives that strengthen the conflict management and resolution capacities of community structures; enhance the participation of pastoral women and their groups in community peace initiatives and decision making processes; enhance the operational capacities of local peace Structures.

Community Peace Intervention:

- **BACKGROUND:**

- More than 1.2 million Pastoralist Communities of the Borena, The Gabra and The Geri inhabit the vast lowlands across the Southern Ethiopia and Northern Kenya.
- These community groups livelihood is to the larger extent dependent on Livestock production and use that require mobility from one place to another in search of pastor land, water, avoid livestock diseases and so on.
- These pastoral groups have strong historical and ethnic links with each other through regular, present day social interchanges.
- They have long coexisted with each other under the traditional negotiated system of shared management of natural resources, resolving conflicts between them through traditional conflict resolution mechanisms.



Community Peace Intervention:

- BACKGROUND:**



Community Peace Intervention:

- **CHALLENGES:**

- In recent years, however, frequent violent conflicts between these groups has become common deterring their livelihood who have an immediate daily dependence on climate sensitive livelihoods and natural resources, from adapting and coping to the ever-growing climate change-induced hazards.
- Cross border mobility, which is one of the most fundamental strategies of coping for these communities have been significantly affected by lack of peace and security leading to concentration of huge number of livestock in one area
- contributed for destruction of natural forests, erosion of soil leaving these groups under heavy stresses for long time by giving no time to recover from impacts of extreme weather and droughts threatening to overwhelm their economic and social coping mechanisms and resiliencies.



Community Peace Intervention:

- **INTERVENTION:**

- OPA in collaboration with local actors across the borders has initiated a local community conflict transformation initiative in 2011.
- The initiative has focused on cross border community dialogues, negotiations based on customary methods, the design and implementation of conflict resolution and reciprocal resource use agreements and establishment of joint cross-border community peace and resource management committees
- Particularly capacities of the established cross-border joint peace committees incorporated of customary leaders, youth, women, influential community members, traditional resource managers and local government authorities across the borders (Dukana-Dillo, Forole-Magado, Sarru-Teltelle) through provision of mobile phones, a series of trainings on early warnings and response were provided, Peace committees directory published and distributed to the larger communities.....



Community Peace Intervention:

- **ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- Community action plan and implementation realized resolving previous and current cases of conflicts between the groups
- Customary approaches of resolving challenges, consultation and dialogue knowledge sharing and learning become effective
- peaceful cross border resource sharing (pasture and water) culture, reduced dry season overgrazing and rainy season soil erosion.
- As free movement of livestock across the border has been secured including the access to local and cross border markets for the target groups enhancing their coping capacity and resilience.
- No single community based conflict that have displaced communities in the area have been occurred for the last three years.



Community Peace Intervention:

- **ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- Enabled efficient and effective resource management (particularly pasture and water) that are under the custody of one community to be accessed by a neighboring community supporting the target groups to continue to lead their livelihood of pastoralism.
- Enhanced trust and social inclusion between the Borena and Gabra communities and further enabled them to make use of common local and cross border markets to purchase and sell their livestock and commodities in fair price.
- Allowed community members to travel without fear within own territories and across the border to seek for medical attention.
- Helped the pastoral community members to live in one area for longer time creating a better chance for children to attend regular schools.



Community Peace Intervention:

- **Next Plan:**
- Advocate for the design and implementation of a pastoral policy that legalize pastoral communities land use rights and certification of their land based on communal and customary approaches.



GALATOMA=THANKS

- Pictures:



- Pictures:



- Pictures:



- Pictures:



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Camels:

