



Greater Horn of Africa Peace Building Project

APPENDIX A OVERVIEW OF THE GREATER HORN OF AFRICA PEACE BUILDING PROJECT

Appendix from the Report:

**The Effectiveness of Civil Society Initiatives
in Controlling Violent Conflicts and Building Peace**
A Study of Three Approaches in the Greater Horn of Africa

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The full report can be found at:

http://www.usaid.gov/regions/afr/conflictweb/pbp_report.pdf

or write to peacebuilding@yahoo.com for an electronic version.

Overview of the GHA Peace Building Project

Basic Approach. The following approach has been sharpened as the most feasible and efficient way to achieve the intended product. In a nutshell, the best practices part of the project will:

- develop a framework of questions whose answers will describe the features of three types of “interventions” (described below), uncover a wide range of possible impacts they may have in terms of several criteria concerning conflict and peace, and assess their implementation experience. The evaluative questions aim to determine the impacts and implementation process when donors and the other implementers carry out these interventions, as well as the contextual conditions and situational factors (e.g., level of current or past hostilities, particular personalities, etc.) that are associated with the identified results. The generic version of this framework of questions is intended to be potentially replicable in assessing other types of interventions, and the three intervention type-specific versions of the framework may be usable with other cases of a given intervention. A consultation meeting with the project investigators will be held to refine the framework;
- apply and in the process, test, the framework by doing in-depth assessments, including site visits, of a number of specific cases in the region, each of which unambiguously represent one of the distinguishable intervention types. This testing will include discussions about the framework and the cases with pertinent staff of in-country NGOs and other organizations who are involved in implementing these or similar interventions;
- write up the findings regarding the framework questions for each case visited;
- using the same framework, “interview” other available evaluations of the same cases, as well as of other cases of the same interventions found in the region or elsewhere, in order to glean their findings of interest to the project, and thus augment the relatively small number of comparable cases of an intervention that exist in the region;
- synthesize the findings from the above primary and secondary evaluations into written composite profiles for each intervention type, from which will be drawn useful policy guidelines concerning best (or good) practices. These profiles could thus be built upon by doing further studies of other cases of these interventions.
- Definitions of Intervention Types. To be able to identify several concrete cases in the GHA region that consistently represent distinguishable generic types of intervention and thus are (relatively) comparable across differing contexts, we

have refined the following specific definitions of the three interventions of interest. The definitions are:¹

- Peace Radio: radio programs having peace/conflict resolution/reconciliation content in them that is specifically targeted to the publics and elites of contending communal groups in conflict-affected areas and that is intended to increase inter-group toleration, peaceful resolution of differences, and a sense of common stakes.
- Middle-level Dialogues: informal, non-official discussions focussed on outstanding national level political and policy issues and disputes and that are conducted among politically influential but largely non-governmental professionals, such as religious leaders (“track 2 or track 1 ½”).
- Local-level Inter-group Initiatives: sustained contacts at the local community or district level that engage the members of antagonistic communities in conflict-affected areas in order to foster peaceful resolution of their conflicts or disputes, avoid violent expressions of their differences, and increase trust. In particular, peace settlements, which may be arranged among traditional leaders, and joint economic development or other functional cooperation projects.

Thus, all three types are aimed at the leaders or other members of particular mobilized communities or factions (“identity groups”) who have taken opposed positions and actions in potential, current, or past violent conflicts and have pursued their respective causes through political or military organizations.

Criteria for Selecting GHA Cases of Interventions. The choices of the GHA cases of the three types of intervention that are found in the following table appear to meet the following criteria, which are essential for producing meaningful assessments. Each case:

- clearly conforms to one of the three types of intervention
- has been in progress for at least a year before the study commences.
- adds up to a substantial amount of activity sustained over a year or longer, i.e., is not simply a one-shot event such as a single training workshop. This makes possible some realized effects of the effort and also comparison of impacts at differing moments in the dynamics of the conflict involved.
- operates in a number of GHA countries and thus differing contexts, such as stages of conflicts
- entails no serious security risk.

¹ These refinements are based mainly on the most important features of interventions for the project’s purposes: the intervention strategies (incentives, processes, etc.) that they apply to influence conflicts and peace, including the affected groups or conflict-relevant phenomena they each target and seek to influence. These features operate at the “business” (impact) end of the process. Each type may involve several kinds of third party implementers. The refinements make it possible to draw on the available evaluation-oriented case-studies on comparable interventions of the same type that have been done in other parts of Africa or other regions, thereby encompassing a larger number of cases from which best practices can be identified.

Intervention Cases to be Assessed in the GHA Region

	Peace Radio	Middle-level Policy/Political Dialogues	Local-level Inter-group Initiatives a. traditional peace settlements b. local development cooperation
Burundi	Studio Ijambo, 1995-present, Search for Common Ground.	Company of Apostles for Peace (CAP) project in political dialogue, 1995-present, International Alert.	
Kenya		Kenyan dialogues on political and policy reforms, late 1990's to present, National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK)/Nairobi Peace Initiative (NPI).	Wajir area initiatives regarding pastoralist conflicts, mid-1990's to present, Wajir Peace and Development Committee
	Somaliland-beamed radio, late 1990's to present, Inter Africa Group and others.	Action evaluation and policy dialogues in Somaliland, 1998-99, conducted by War-Torn Societies Project.	
Sudan			Wunlit Nuer-Dinka and Waat Nuer-Nuer peace conferences and earlier and subsequent inter-tribal conferences, mid-1990's to present , New Sudan Council of Churches (NSCC).
Uganda	Local radio programming in northern areas to encourage returnees, late 1990's, Uganda Government and other support. (Study is assessing the potential for radio in the area)		Informal contacts between government and LRA and among other local contending elements, and local reconciliation efforts, late 1990's, Acholi religious leaders.