EAST AFRICA

PEACE III

Authoritarian regimes, civil war, wide ungoverned spaces, recurring drought and limited access to natural resources have contributed to a long history of conflict along the borders of East African countries, particularly Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda. Factors such as increasing access to automatic weapons and a rise in recruitment and activity of extremist groups have exacerbated instability in the region. Inter-clan conflicts, rooted in ethnic or sectarian marginalization, have led to unresolved cycles of revenge in remote communities.

Peace III is strengthening the management of conflict along the Kenya/Somalia, Kenya/Ethiopia, Kenya/South Sudan and Kenya/Uganda borders. The activity promotes stability in the region by strengthening the relationship between communities and local governments in cross-border areas and improving the ability of regional and national institutions to respond rapidly and effectively to conflict.

OUR WORK

PEACE III works with national and local governments and communities to addresses drivers of conflict in the Horn of Africa in two primary geographic areas: Karamoja and Somali clusters. The Karamoja cluster is along the borders of Kenya, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda. Violence in Karamoja cluster is often related to the impacts of climate change and access to natural resources such as water and/or land for grazing animals.
The Somali cluster is along the borders of Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia, where violence is often linked to the rise of extremist groups.

The activity enhances and expands community-based approaches to cross-border security and peacebuilding through sub-grants to local organizations and work with networks of “peace actors” (women, youth, chiefs, elders, security officials and local political leaders) to help communities prevent or recover from violent acts and support individuals who have been affected by violence. Conflict prevention, reconciliation and peace-building activities are delivered through these networks, as well as sports and cultural events; trauma healing sessions; and the development of formal peace treaties. It helps establish transboundary mechanisms for cross-border communities to build trust, negotiate peace and the future sharing of resources and management of risk. Peace dividend activities that connect communities – previously in conflict, through the construction of a shared resource, such as water pans and markets, help to promote health, wellbeing and strengthen communities’ ability to withstand the effects of drought.

PEACE III supports the Security Governance Initiative’s focus on border management, in particular, on promoting outreach and communication between the Government of Kenya (GOK) and communities along Kenya’s borders with Somalia, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Uganda. Peace III facilitates community engagement which has built trust between border officials, security forces, and communities. This has, in turn, enhanced the flow of security-related information and collective efforts to build peace and promote effective border management. Together these actions support more sustainable peace, stability and development along these remote borders.

ACHIEVEMENTS

To date, PEACE III has:

- Held 529 events with key actors to support peace and reconciliation
- Reached 1,223 people through events and activities designed to build trust between government and the border communities
- Engaged 19,821 at-risk youth (18-35 years) in peace processes
- Reached over 44,000 individuals to support peace and reconciliation
- Supported 2,621 local women to engage substantively in a peacebuilding within their communities
- Supported the formation of 67 new groups or initiatives to resolve local conflicts and conflict drivers
- Completed seven peace dividend projects
- Trained 701 women on Conflict Prevention Management Resolution and Countering Violent Extremism
- Supported nine frameworks of cooperation (Five intergovernmental, three resource sharing and one peace agreement)
- Supported five policy frameworks
- Networked 768 women through women leaders’ forums for peace
- Networked 93 chiefs through Chief’s forums across the region to promote peace

1 A joint initiative between the U.S Government and six African partners that offer a comprehensive approach to improving security sector governance.