

# Great Lakes Reconstruction Tender: Linking and Learning

## Project Summaries

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### **Enhancing Local Peace Committees - ZOA and Radboud University Nijmegen**

Local Peace Committees (LPCs) have become an important strategy of development organizations to promote transitional justice in conflict-affected contexts. In practice, working with LPCs implies several strategic choices, notably on (1) the kind of peace, justice and societal change envisioned; (2) how local peacebuilding links to developments and interventions at others levels; and (3) the type of institutions to be promoted at the local level, and the future role of LPCs. However, so far, choices made tend to reflect the (implicit) assumptions and preferences of (international) intervening organizations. It remains difficult to assure the involvement and leadership of local stakeholders like local authorities and peace committees in those choices.

Through literature research and interviews with representatives from local and international development organizations in Burundi and Uvira Territory (eastern DR Congo) the project ‘Enhancing Local Peace Committees’ explored the assumptions and preferences guiding interventions to support LPCs. On the basis of this research and in close collaboration with practitioner organizations from the region, two toolkits were developed to visualise the programmatic choices involved in designing interventions around LPCs, both for practitioners and local stakeholders.

The policy brief “Enhancing Local Peace Committees. Facilitating stakeholder debate on the strategic choices involved in transitional justice in Burundi and DR Congo” summarizes the main findings from the project, and points out implications for peacebuilding practitioners. Findings highlight the



need to be explicit about the assumptions underlying strategies to enhance LPCs, to regularly review strategy in light of changes in context, and to systematically take account of peacebuilding processes and interveners at other levels. The toolkits developed proved helpful to facilitate this.

### **Agri-Business Creation in Burundi - SPARK**

SPARK implemented the Agri-Business Creation (ABC) programme in Burundi with the aim to restore stability, enhance food security and successfully transform the subsistence agriculture into market agriculture in order to improve the living conditions of rural populations.

The ABC programme' strategy is threefold and consists of:

- Strengthening the capacity of partners and stakeholders
- Creating jobs and developing enterprises
- Increasing the legitimacy of government authorities and enhance its role in economic and food security

The ABC intervention consists mainly of trainings in good agricultural practices, providing technical inputs and innovations for the local context (e.g. seeds, fertilizer pesticide, manual water pumps etc.), cooperative management, value chain analysis and development and several guarantee funds and financial loans allocated to entrepreneurs.

Throughout ABC and still, strengths and weaknesses in the programme's interventions and strategies are constantly being raised, which brings us to the discussion today. We will not only share these, but will also bring about how learning was implemented during the programme.

### **Peace Beyond Borders - Oxfam Novib**

The *Peace Beyond Borders* program is one of 4 Oxfam programs under the Reconstruction Tender, implemented through a consortium of partners<sup>1</sup> with various expertise in the area of conflict transformation and peace building. It addresses conflict drivers in the Great Lakes Region, and establishes and implements a Regional Roadmap to Peace (RR2P or Roadmap), designed from the bottom up by the conflict-affected communities. To achieve lasting results, it capitalizes on restoring trust relations, cooperation, and commitment between multiple stakeholders in the region.

Its overall objective was to implement a regional roadmap to peace across 4 provinces in Burundi, 2 provinces in DRC and 3 provinces in Rwanda to

<sup>1</sup> ACORD, ADEPAE, La Benevolencija, DUHAMIC-ADRI, Impunity Watch, IRIBA Centre, Pole Institute, RACQJ.



address the causes and consequences of conflicts related to land and governance, based on a comprehensive participatory action research of cross-regional dynamics and on strong commitment of communities, governments and other stakeholders at local, national and regional level. The program is currently in its final phase of implementing a Regional Roadmap to Peace which aims to support young men and women to realize their socio-political and economic ambitions in a peaceful manner, in an environment of increased security and accountability of their authorities. This roadmap is a “live document”, open to further engagement geared towards promoting sustainable peace in the Great Lakes Region.

### **Building Peace and Promoting Human Security in Post-Conflict Societies - CCR**

The Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCR), Cape Town, South Africa, works on a pan-continental basis to strengthen the capacity of African institutions and actors to manage conflicts and build peace. CCR synergistically combines policy and practice: it has wide-ranging experience of conflict interventions in Africa and also seeks to make a substantial contribution through its research projects to policy debates on African security and governance issues. In 2012, the Centre began implementing a three-and-a-half-year project (November 2012-June 2016) on “Building Peace and Promoting Human Security in Post-Conflict Societies: South Sudan and the Great Lakes”.

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to structural poverty reduction in South Sudan and the Great Lakes region (Burundi, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo [DRC], and Rwanda) through promoting reconstruction, peace, and human security. Initially the project was rolled out to benefit police, military, government institutions such as Human rights commission, land commission, and state structures, as well as civil society human rights groups, local peacebuilding organisations, and religious leaders. Due to December 2013 conflict, there was a decision to refocus on the target groups, and thus the priority was given to NGOs and religious leaders.

The training project focused on promoting human security through providing government and civil society actors with conflict resolution capacity to enable them to build peace effectively. The policy meetings aimed to improve understanding of state-building and post-conflict reconstruction processes, and promote more effective policymaking on these issues.



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