

MONTHLY FOCUS

PEACE III IN KARAMOJA CLUSTER

Connecting Communities: Advancing Sustainable Peace

Issue 1, May 2018



PEACE III COP Ms Sarah Gibbons (right) engages a team led by US Ambassador to Uganda Hon Deborah Malac (left) and Minister for Karamoja Affairs Hon John Byabagambi (center) at PEACE III and SP3 stand during the launch of USAID-funded Apolou and Nuyok activities at Boma Grounds, Moroto, Uganda, on April 4, 2018.



Moroto Women Forum members fete the ambassador and the minister. The women forum members present the *Kitale* resolutions to the ambassador, and Kaabong Peace Ambassadors and their spouses who interacted with the ambassador on change in their lives and community attributed to trauma healing sessions they underwent (inset). High level women from Karamoja cluster signed the resolutions during the Karamoja High level Women Forum in November 2016. Since then, the forum has prioritized resolution of conflict over water and pasture and addressing low representation of women in peacebuilding initiatives.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



building
local
promise.



Tobong'u Lore Festival

The 2017 Tobong'u Lore (welcome back home) festival was held on 19-21 April 2017 at Ekaales Center at the outskirts of Lodwar town. The festival, aimed at using culture as a tool for promoting social cohesion and peaceful coexistence among the Turkana community and other Ateker communities, witnessed guests such as Kenya's First Lady Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta, Deputy President His Excellency William Ruto, various counties' leaders and regional representatives from Uganda, South Sudan and Ethiopia. The theme of the event was 'attaining lasting peace between Turkana and its neighbors for development and economic growth'.

Apart from having an exhibition desk, PEACE III, represented by Pact, Mercy Corps, SAPCONE, APaD and MADEFO, supported 40 program beneficiaries across Karamoja Cluster to attend the event who included women forum representatives from Kapenguria, Lokichoggio, Oropoi Loima, Moroto and Kaabong, Kaabong Peace Ambassadors, Chiefs' forum secretariat and West Pokot Cultural Ambassador.



PEACE III beneficiaries engage Turkana County Governor His Excellency Josphat Nanok (center) and other leaders in a peace dance.



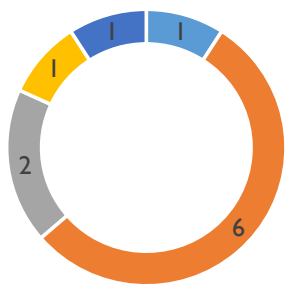
PEACE III staff and beneficiaries from Turkana, West Pokot and Moroto.



Samburu dancers. Right: Turkana girls in cultural regalia.

Events and occurrences

KC April 2018 Incidents



- Organized raids
- Livestock theft
- Assault
- Raids with abductions
- Theft of fishing gear

Other events

- Uganda government-led meeting in Kampala to formulate a national platform for peacebuilding and conflict transformation.
- Trauma healing sessions to four groups in Rupa and Tapac.
- Courtesy call to Turkana County Assembly Speaker in Lodwar.
- Cross-border football match in Kaabong between Turkana and Dodoth youth
- PEACE III quarterly reporting meeting in Nairobi

Reports from authorities

- According to Turkana and West Pokot County NDMA April 2018 drought early warning bulletins, there was enhanced rainfall during the month. In Turkana County, the rains had a temporal distribution of 15-17 days and cumulative rainfall received between November 2017 and April 2018 represented 134% of the total rainfall received normally for the six-month period. In West Pokot, spatial and temporal rainfall distribution in the first and second dekads was good and ongoing long rains season was predicted to be at normal to near normal performance. The enhanced rains in both counties led to above normal vegetation greenness and significantly reduced distance to water sources hence improved body condition of all livestock species.
- Turkana County Ministry of Public Service, Decentralized Administration and Disaster Management serious incident report for April 2018 indicated that persistent heavy downpour in areas of Loima, Turkana South, Central, East and West sub counties led to massive flash floods in rivers such as Turkwel, Kawalase, Tarach, Kospir and Kerio. Upon hitting downstream villages and settlements, the floods led to destruction of shelters and infrastructure, washing away of crops and livestock, and population displacements. The flash floods left 5895 households, homeless, affecting over 35,000 people. The heavy rains also regularly disrupted movements along Lodwar-Kitale-South Sudan, Lodwar-Moroto and Kalokol-Todonyang-Omorate routes.



CELEBRATING LUCY AKOL



Lucy Akol is a member of the Moroto women forum. She has been working with PEACE III as ToT in peace building, trauma healing as a volunteer since 2016. She has also been actively involved in the women forum's regular kraal visits to sensitize rural women to strongly support peace building initiatives and solicit ideas to be included in natural resources management agreements that are being developed along the Kenya-Uganda border.

"I am proud to speak for the voiceless and to encourage them to speak for themselves." She says

Lucy is now the Mercy Corps Gender and Youth Program Officer for Apolou activity funded by USAID.

PEACE III

Connecting Communities: Advancing Sustainable Peace

For more information on PEACE III contact:

SARAH GIBBONS
Chief of Party
sgibbons@pactworld.org

SYLVESTER ABARA
Program Director, PEACE III, Karamoja Cluster
sabara@mercycorps.org

"PEACE III is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are a responsibility of the author/s and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government."

Design: Denis Koech

