

MONTHLY FOCUS

PEACE III IN KARAMOJA CLUSTER

Connecting Communities: Advancing Sustainable Peace

Issue 2, June 2018



West Pokot First Lady Dr Mary Lonyangapuo (second right) and PEACE III Karamoja Cluster Director Mr Sylvester Abara (far right) engage women forum members in a peace dance during a women forum in Kapenguria, West Pokot County on May 22, 2018.



Dr Lonyangapuo addresses the women forum. She called on the women to address inter-communal animosity by advocating for education for all and instilling of good values on their children. The 26 women, from Alale, Amudat, Moroto and Kaabong, met in Kapenguria to share their achievements, opportunities available for women, learnings and challenges encountered in implementing their interventions. The women also acquainted themselves with intergovernmental resolutions such as *Kampala resolutions*, *Turkana-Moroto resolutions*, and *West Pokot-Amudat resolutions*, which recognize women as key agents in peacebuilding.



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Chiefs' Forum

PEACE III continued to support cross-border chiefs' forum, with the aim of increasing stability and peaceful coexistence among communities along the Kenya-Uganda border. Mercy Corps and Partners (APaD, MADEFO and SIKOM) supported a chiefs' forum held at Horizon Resort in Kapenguria, West Pokot County on May 24-25, 2018.

The forum brought together 22 chiefs from North Pokot, Loima and Turkana North sub counties who have formed a network to address issues affecting their communities through prompt sharing of information and joint actions. West Pokot County Commissioner Apollo Okello officially opened the chiefs' forum and applauded the chiefs for their work with other actors which he said has reduced cases of insecurity in the region.

"Take advantage of the current peaceful coexistence along the border to strengthen the relationship between communities. Stability will attract development in your locations," Okello told the chiefs.

The chiefs used the forum to share key achievements, learnings, opportunities and challenges. West Pokot County Peace and Reconciliation Director, Joel Lodiolum, Pokot North Ag DCC Nicky Bati and National Youth Bunge President Richard Todosa also graced the event.



West Pokot County Commissioner (seated center), Pokot Ag DCC Nicky Bati (seated left), PEACE III Director Sylvester Abara (seated right), chiefs and PEACE III staff during the forum. Photo: Denis Koech/Mercy Corps



Various sessions and presentations during the chiefs' forum.

PEACE III Partners' Capacity Development and Reflection Workshop



Left: PEACE III Chief of Party addresses implementing partners during a capacity development and reflection workshop in Nairobi on May 29-31, 2018. Right: A section of implementing partners discussing sustainability of PEACE III impact. PEACE III partners – Pact, Mercy Corps and a host of 17 local implementing partners from both Somali and Karamoja Cluster – convened in a forward-looking meeting to discuss organizational sustainability, impact sustainability, and approaches sustainability. The partners also had a chance to hear from USAID/Kenya and East Africa Mission' Deputy Chief, Democracy, Governance and Conflict Office, Ms Amy Hamelin, on new developments in USAID and proposal and budget development process. The partners also had a chance to seek clarification on legal issues in USAID countering violence extremism programming from USAID regional General Attorney, Mr Bert Ubamadu.

Trauma Healing Sessions



PEACE III trauma healing facilitator, John Sagal, engages Rupa United Women Group in Rupa Sub County, Uganda, on a session on breaking the cycle of violence focusing on truth, peace, justice and mercy.

Elders Meeting in Moroto



Ekeno, an elder from the Turkana community, addresses elders from Matheniko community and officials from Turkana County and Moroto local governments at Moroto LCV's office on May 5, 2018. The meeting was meant to strengthen intergovernmental and kraal leaders' coordination in efforts to avert livestock theft and recovery and handover of stolen livestock along the Moroto-Loima corridor.



PEACE III Director, Mr Sylvester Abara (center), West Pokot County Peacebuilding and Reconciliation Director Mr Joel Lodiolem, and Sikom Peace Network board member, Mr William Lopetakou when PEACE III paid a visit to the director's Office at the county headquarters in Kapenguria, West Pokot County, on May 22, 2018. During the meeting, the director said his office was planning to roll out peace initiatives along the West Pokot-Amudat corridor, and looked forward to working with PEACE III program.



On May 26, 2018, PEACE III team led by Mercy Corps, SAPCONE and APaD had a meeting at SAPCONE office with Mercy Corps Vice President for Technical Leadership, Ms Dina Esposito where they engaged on sustainability plans for community structures, natural resource management resolutions, intergovernmental resolutions and partners.

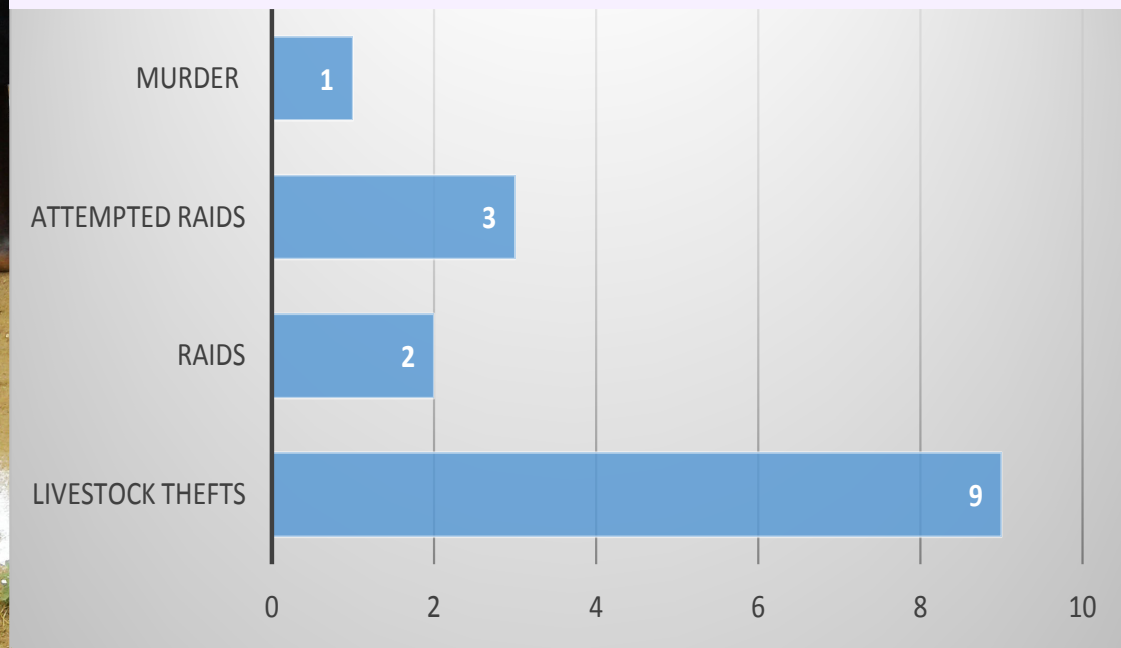
Sammy Tioko: Chiefs' forum has promoted stability

Mr Sammy Losuban Tioko, 40, is a cheerful chief of Lokiriama Location in Loima Sub County, Turkana County, along the Loima Moroto corridor. He says before the formation of the chiefs' forum, it was not easy for chiefs in the corridor to coordinate, meet or share information. After the formation of the forum, PEACE III has been facilitating its meetings in terms of accommodation, refreshments and transportation of chiefs from their stations to meeting places. "Initially we were not so much open to one another but the forum has enabled us to share early warning information. The forum has changed the ways we use to address livestock theft which is common in our corridor. We are able to work with elders to track, recover and hand over stolen livestock and whenever there is a suspect, we identify them to law enforcement agencies. PEACE III has also supported our meetings to draw resource sharing agreements and disseminate the forums' information.," Mr Tioko says. "I am proud of the prevailing peace and the coexistence being experienced in my area and the lives my people are living. There is free movement and trade is booming," he adds.



Photos: Chief Sammy Losuban Tioko with the livestock recovery team (top), and Mr Tioko with other leaders during the handover of 78 recovered cattle, belonging to the Jie community, to Ugandan authorities at Lomokori..

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