



Regional Conflict Management & Governance (RCMG)



Khadija Girls Secondary school is a USAID-supported “Peace Dividend” project along the Kenya-Somalia border. Communities from the region jointly plan and build a Peace Dividend project and use the facility together—promoting development, relationships, and peace.

Photo by Pact Inc.

Overview

The USAID/EA Regional Conflict Management and Governance (RCMG) program works to promote stability along the borders of Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Somalia. RCMG supports cross-border peace networks, and is building the capabilities of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development’s (IGAD) Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN).

In the Great Lakes region, USAID/EA is building the capability of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to regulate trade in tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold - “conflict minerals”.

In the Central African Republic (CAR), USAID/EA conflict mitigation programs seek to mitigate ongoing widespread violence and address its aftermath. USAID/EA is also helping communities in southeastern CAR to improve their security situation through better preparedness for attacks and threats from the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA).

Promoting peace on tense borders

In the Horn of Africa, the PEACE II program put peace-building in community hands. It enabled residents to reduce inter-clan and ethnic divisions as well as contain potential conflict arising from the influx of drought refugees from Somalia to Kenya.

PEACE II supported multi-faceted conflict mitigation in eleven “peace corridors” along the Kenya-Somalia and Kenya-Uganda borders. Each peace corridor included two townships, one on either side of the border. The program used community-led action research to strengthen local conflict management leadership and expertise. Sixty local practitioners were trained to research challenges and solutions with the community.

Local peace committees and rapid-response networks now reduce tensions by quickly mobilizing mediation councils, youth groups, livestock marketing councils, networks of rural women’s groups, local radio stations and community policing units.

PEACE II also funded “peace dividend” projects, in which cross-border communities built schools, markets, health clinics, or other structures together for their joint use. Some Somali communities now send their children to a school they helped build in Kenya.

Regional Conflict Management and Governance

2013 OYB Funding: \$7.3M

(Includes \$5.8 counter terrorism for CAR)

Partners:

- Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and its Conflict Early Warning Mechanism (CEWARN)
- International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)
- Secure Empowered Connected Communities (SECC)

Geographic Locations:

Horn of Africa:

- Borders between Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and South Sudan

The Great Lakes region

- DRC, Zambia, Burundi, Rwanda, CAR, and Uganda

Community policing improves security

Forty locations along the Kenya-Somalia border established or strengthened community policing units (CPU).

One new CPU successfully negotiated the lifting of a dusk-to-dawn local curfew. The curfew had made it impossible to get emergency medical attention at night, and even exposed the town to external raids since no police patrolled after 10:00 p.m.

Cooperation between the CPUs and security officials now enables the hospital to function 24 hours a day, and reduced external raids from an average of three per week to zero in over four months.



PEACE II created a cadre of strong, pro-active women peace-building leaders. They are now passing their skills on to promote a sustainable peace network along the entire Kenya-Somalia border. Photo by Pact Inc.

USAID/EA is putting in place a successor PEACE III program that will expand assistance to new locations on borders between South Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Kenya.

Toward fast and effective conflict response

Border areas in the Horn of Africa have long been zones of inter-communal conflict and unresolved cycles of revenge. Today, easy access to automatic weapons is raising the death toll.

USAID funds and provides technical assistance to CEWARN, whose strategic focus expanded dramatically in 2012 from coordinating responses to pastoral conflict to elevating the use early warning analysis to inform national government policy responses across multiple conflict issues. New areas of work for CEWARN include election-related violence, land commercialization, inter-ethnic conflict, and climate change as some of the key issues for CEWARN and national governments to address. USAID is supporting CEWARN as it upgrades its systems to fulfill this new mandate.

Supporting a responsible mineral trade, curbing conflict and human rights abuses

In 2012 USAID/EA launched a program with ICGLR to promote a responsible Great Lakes mineral trade. Proceeds from illegal trade have long benefitted armed groups, financing atrocities in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and destabilizing the region. Starting with financial management strengthening, assistance will enable ICGLR to develop a regional system that certifies minerals as “conflict-free,” thereby redirecting mineral revenues from armed groups to supporting legitimate livelihoods for millions of small-scale miners.

Empowering communities to improve their security

Although the LRA’s ranks and organization have been diminished, the group remains capable of inflicting extreme human suffering and a sense of fear among vulnerable populations. USAID/EA assistance supports targeted communities in southeastern CAR to develop and implement community-led, owned, and managed security plans in ways that increase social cohesion. The communities will have increased capacity to engage with the local officials and share information about their security and available humanitarian services.

In response to the recent surge of violence in CAR, USAID/EA has expanded its assistance to provide immediate community conflict mitigation support across the country.