

# TESO INITIATIVE FOR PEACE



## ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT 2023

THEME:

Social Accountability for Empowerment and Reconciliation  
(SAFER)

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## 1.0. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The commitments of Teso Initiative for Peace (TIP) in 2023 were still at low key due to gross financial limitations. There were several fundraising efforts one of which brought in a new financing partner: Foundation Suyana Mundial (Switzerland). The funding by Agiamondo Civil Peace Service wound up in May 2023 following the recalling of Ms. Karin Felzmann, the assigned Civil Peace Worker. The Board of Directors sought support from Annual General Assembly members and other persons of good will to keep TIP open and running. The activities of the organization were for a greater part of the year overseen by a team of five volunteers.

The year 2023 also saw new registration demands by the National Information Technology Authority-Uganda (NITA-U) on Personal Data Protection and the digitalization of registration by the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB). TIP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Soroti District Local Government, filed the 2022 annual returns with the Uganda National NGO Bureau. TIP secured a Unique Entity ID number under the System for Award Management of the United States of America. TIP's registration details are as follows:

|                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Certificate of incorporation (2005) | 77529 (80010002858217) |
| NGO registration number             | INDR 36822660NB        |
| Permit number                       | INDP33882660NB         |
| NGO File number                     | MIA/NB/2002/01/2660    |
| Financial Intelligence Authority    | FIA-14-000373          |
| TIN                                 | 1000623884             |
| NSSF employer number                | NS023126SOR            |
| PADOR                               | UG-2011-GFC-2604157645 |
| E-Immigration code                  | 011123540              |
| PDPO                                | PDPO-202301-1250       |
| Unique Entity ID (US)               | GS5ERJ9KPEL6           |

**TIP's vision:** Peaceful and prosperous communities in North-Eastern Uganda.

**TIP's mission:** Promote a culture of peace, productivity and participatory governance among individuals and communities in north-eastern Uganda through transformative interventions.

**Programme name:** Social Accountability for Empowerment and Reconciliation (SAFER)

**Programme Goal:** Self-reliant communities in north-eastern Uganda.

### **Medium Term Objectives:**

- a) To enhance non-violent conflict resolution among individuals, communities and institutions in north-eastern Uganda.
- b) To enhance inclusive participation in decision making and good governance processes at family and community levels in north-eastern Uganda.
- c) To promote the adoption of appropriate livelihood and climate smart practices and technologies at household and community levels in north-eastern Uganda.
- d) To strengthen community early warning, disaster risk reduction and response mechanisms.
- e) To strengthen the human and financial resource base and functions of TIP

### 1.9.1 TIP's constituents

In 2023, TIP worked with smallholder farmers, local council leaders, teachers as School Peace Club patrons and members of the Board of Directors as indicated in the table below:

**Table 1 The Constituents of TIP**

|   | Level                  | Males | Females | Total |
|---|------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| 1 | Annual General Meeting | 29    | 27      | 56    |
| 2 | Board of Directors     | 03    | 04      | 07    |
| 3 | Secretariat            | 05    | 05      | 10    |
| 4 | Local Council leaders  | 10    | 00      | 10    |
| 5 | Teachers               | 40    | 40      | 80    |
| 6 | Smallholder farmers    | 290   | 399     | 689   |
|   | Total                  | 377   | 475     | 852   |

**Table 2 Activity coverage in 2023**

|       | District | Sub-county | Parishes                                          |
|-------|----------|------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Soroti   | Gweri      | Gweri, Dokolo, Abelet, Opucet                     |
|       |          | Awaliwal   | Omugenya, Awaliwal, Takaramiam, Damasiko, Telamot |
|       |          | Aukot      | Awoja, Aukot, Osuguro, Achaboi                    |
|       |          | Kamuda     | Olio, Aminit, Kamuda, Odina,                      |
|       |          | Lalle      | Lalle, Gwetom                                     |
| Total | 1        | 5          | 19                                                |

### 1.9.3 Financing in 2023

The projects implemented in 2023 were financed by Agiamondo Civil Peace Service, Foundation Suyana Mundial, local donations, contributions and balances brought down from 2022 as shown below:

**Table 3 TIP finances in 2023**

| Financing source                          | B/fd from 2022    | Received in 2023   | Total available    |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Agiamondo-Civil Peace Service</b>      | 20,049,788        | 10,000,000         | <b>30,049,788</b>  |
| <b>Board of Directors</b>                 | 967,885           | 18,630,976         | <b>19,598,861</b>  |
| <b>GFA Consulting Group</b>               | 116,405           | 0                  | <b>116,405</b>     |
| <b>Teso Initiative for Peace-Alup</b>     | 5,252             | 0                  | <b>5,252</b>       |
| <b>Teso Initiative for Peace-Projects</b> |                   | 40,000,000         | <b>40,000,000</b>  |
| <b>Foundation Suyana Mundial</b>          | 0                 | 150,286,500        | <b>150,286,500</b> |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              | <b>21,139,330</b> | <b>218,917,476</b> | <b>240,056,806</b> |

## 2.0. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION

For the year ended December 2023, Teso Initiative for Peace implemented activities in Gweri, Awaliwal, Aukot, Kamuda and Lalle sub counties of Soroti district to enhance community land rights awareness, land conflict resolution, village saving and lending for investment and community organizing for livelihood enhancement.

The activities carried out are aligned against the strategic plan Key Result Areas; in 2023 implementation was done against KRA 1, 3 and 5. The project supported by Agiamondo Civil Peace Service aimed at strengthening land rights awareness for nonviolent dispute resolution in five villages of Moru'apesur in Abelet parish, Aleere in Gweri parish, Osuguro in Osuguro parish, Awoja in Awoja parish and Okoolei in Aukot parish in Aukot in Soroti District; while that supported by Foundation Suyana Mundial is purposed to contribute to increased food, income, health and education security of 689 smallholder farmers and 40 schools in the five sub-counties i.e. Gweri, Aukot, Awaliwal, Kamuda and Lalle of Soroti district.

**KRA 1: Increased access to justice and peaceful means to conflict resolution by individuals, communities and institutions.**

Under the above Key Result Area (KRA), TIP's mandate is creating awareness, holding public dialogues, training and supporting community-based structures to enhance access to justice and non-violent conflict resolution. The following outcomes were planned to be achieved:

**Expected Outcomes**

- a) Individuals and communities embrace non-violence
- b) Mediation mechanisms are strengthened, embraced and sustained by the community
- c) Land tenure security secured in an all-inclusive manner
- d) Community-led partnerships and networks for peace enhanced

**Activity 1.1: Awareness building**

**1.1.1. Project Consultative meetings**

TIP held an inception meeting of the Community Empowerment Project financed by Foundation Suyana with the Soroti District NGO Monitoring Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 where project information was shared and the project was launched. In attendance were the Soroti District and sub-county leaders.

**1.1.2. Radio Talk shows**



The LC 3 Chairpersons of Aukot and Gweri discussing the Land Project as radio panelists

Two radio talk shows were held 2023. The first radio talk show took place at Etop radio Fm in Soroti; it hosted the Sub County Local Council 3 Chairpersons. The topic of discussion was “**The LAND project**: strengthening land rights awareness for nonviolence in land dispute resolution”.

The second radio talk show was used to launch the “Community Empowerment Project” in Soroti district on 14/10/2023. The panellists were Subcounty leaders of the project area, the

Programme Support Manager TIP and Project Officer. TIP was exhorted to continue aligning its work to that of Soroti District and the respective sub-counties.

### **1.1.3. Land Rights Awareness**

Land rights awareness was carried out in 2 Villages of Gweri Sub County and 3 villages of Aukot Sub County. The activity aimed at raising community awareness on their land rights under customary dispensation as provided for in the laws of Uganda. Through the same activity Village Dispute Resolution Team members were selected by the communities to be trained in Alternative Dispute Resolution.



The Facilitator engages communities on understanding land rights during an awareness session in Moruapesur Village - Gweri S/C

#### **Activity 1.2: Training of rights holders**

There was a four day training of VDRT members purposed to impart knowledge and skills in ADR mechanisms with topics of focus being team building, peace, conflict and violence, understanding types and causes of conflict, forms of violence, and types of peace; schools of thoughts about conflicts, dynamics of conflicts, origin of conflicts and Violence, Conflict Analysis and its reasons, tools of Conflict analysis, understanding our response to conflict and ADR, Mediation (principles, phases/stages and steps involved including roles and characteristics of a mediator), Merits and Limitations to mediation, self-awareness in mediation, communication in mediation, a practical role play of mediation.

**KRA 3: Enhanced adoption of appropriate livelihood and climate smart practices and technologies at household and community levels in north-eastern Uganda by 2024.**

Under the above Key Result Area (KRA), TIP envisaged organizing and training small holder farmers to adopt functional production and marketing enterprises for food and income security at household level.

#### **Expected outcome**

- a) Functional production and marketing enterprises established
- b) Types of enterprises linked to reliable markets
- c) Households practicing climate smart agriculture
- d) Households saving and investing gainfully

#### **Activity 1: Organizing rights holders**

##### **3.1.1 Profiling smallholder farmer groups**

This activity involved identifying and enlisting 25 active smallholder farmer groups; for groups to qualify were required to have a constitution, have a valid registration with the local government, have group records and have running activities. This requirement was



meant to address current shortfalls where people form groups to get assistance and disband afterwards. The profiling was meant to reinforce responsible and stable membership. This activity was done in consultation with the respective subcounty Community Development Officers in keeping with the requirements in Soroti District on group registration, presence and performance. Alongside the above, profiling was done to collect information of the 40 schools (i.e., presence of land, school enrolment, existence of functional School Management Committees and Parents Teachers Association).

### *Activity 3.1.2. Training in group dynamics*

Following the profiling of groups, there was a one day's training in group management. The training took place in the respective group location and was done by the project staff using a guide developed to this effect.

**KRA 5: Policies and guidelines on TIP and its programmes are reviewed and operationalized.**

Under the above KRA, TIP envisages reviewing and developing new policies, developing MIS, hold Annual General Meeting, Board and Staff meetings and fundraise.

### **Expected outcomes**

- a) Functional structures, systems and procedures
- b) Functional institutional advocacy framework
- c) A well-resourced and sustainable organisation

### **Activity 5.1: Organisational meetings**

#### **5.1.1. Staff meetings**

The operations of the organization were managed by a team of five volunteers due to financial limitations. The volunteer team nonetheless held 5 activity-based meetings on report development, fund raising, accounting and operations.

At the close of the year staff chose secret friends and bought each other a gift to celebrate the successes attained in 2023.

|                                                                                     |                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |                |
| <p>The Red coincidence! Michael Odicha to Atyang Petua Wabwire</p>                  | <p>The Green connection: Ayub Muhammad (right) to Oliba Richard ('eliba' means green in Ateso)</p> |

|                                                                                   |                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |
| <p>A sigh of yoy: From Areu John to Apolot Fiona</p>                              | <p>Enjoined suprise: From Amoding Florence (right) to Acen Proscovia (left)</p>    |

### 5.1.2. Annual General Meeting

TIP held its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting with the following highlights:

- The meeting received and approved the Chairperson's communication, chairperson's report, Honorary Treasurer's report and the 2022 audited accounts for the record.
- The minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> AGM were received and approved for the record.
- The assembly resolved to increase subscription fees from Ugx20,000 to 30,000 for ordinary members and from Ugx50,000 to Ugx60,000 for members elected to the Board of Directors
- The meeting resolved that TIP charges 'ownership fees' to groups that it supports. The amount was left to the discretion of the Board of Directors
- The meeting upheld the creation of a fundraising committee to support the secretariat.
- SONA Associates Certified Public Accountants were selected to audit the 2023 accounts
- The meeting elected the new Board of Directors (2024 to 2026) in the persons of:





|                         |                    |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Okolo Martin Morris     | Chairperson        | (centre)           |
| Asio Christine          | Vice chairperson   | (blue dress)       |
| Apolot Stella Rose      | Honorary Treasurer | (kitenge dress)    |
| Eidu William            | Member             | (first from right) |
| Oluca Vincent           | Member             | (first from left)  |
| Odolon John King Otiema | Member             | (on Kaunda suit)   |
| Anyilat Mary            | Member             | (on gomesi)        |

### 5.1.3 Board of Directors meetings

The Board of Directors met four times in the course of 2023 and resolved on the following actions:

- Approved the disposal of assets whose use could not adequately be sustained in the organization
- Received and approved the 2022 audit report.
- Reviewed and approved the 2023 budget estimates
- Approved the filing of the 2022 annual returns with the NGO Bureau
- Approved the recruitment of 9 staff given the financing by Foundation Suyana Mundial
- Received and approved the chairperson's and Honorary Treasurer's reports to the 15<sup>th</sup> AGM

### 5.1.4 Board Committee meetings

The Finance and Administration Committee held a meeting to receive the 2022 accounts and negotiated the audit. The meeting also approved the revised 2023 budget.

The Procurement and Disposal of Assets Committee also met twice to consider the disposal of some assets, prequalification of service providers and award of procurements.

### 5.1.5. Partner meetings

TIP hosted a fact-finding mission and work place assessment team of two officers from Foundation SUYANA Mundial. The interaction enhanced the development of a community integrated project. The fact-finding mission paid a visit to a number of communities, local government leaders and the National Semi Arid Resources Research Institute (NaSARRI).



Director NaSARRI (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) explaining the NaSARRI field operations to the Foundation Suyana visiting team (Emma MacGeachy (extreme left) and Chiara Borner (first on the right)).

#### 5.1.6. Project backstopping and close out meeting:

TIP held a backstopping meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 for the **Land rights Awareness for Nonviolent Dispute Resolution** project which involved the Village Dispute Resolution Team members (VDRTs), Local Council I, II and III Chairpersons, Parish Chiefs, Senior Assistant Chief Administrative Officers (SACAOs), Sub- County Internal Security Officers (GISOs) from Gweri and Aukot sub-counties.



*Participants sharing the LAND project achievements, challenges and way forward*



*The LC III chairperson Gweri (right) proposing the way forward for the LAND project*

Project achievements, challenges and way forward were shared during the meeting. Among the project achievements shared included the following:

- The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Soroti District Local Government
- The Community Rapid Assessment (CRA) was very informative of the contextual issues and helped TIP to design intervention.
- The 5 community-based awareness raising sessions on general land rights and non-violent dispute resolution increased the level of community awareness and knowledge on their land rights
- The 30 VDRTs mediated land disputes, enhanced land rights awareness and caused reduction in land dispute tensions in the five villages where they operate
- The resolving of 8 land disputes with consent agreements from the 18 registered

#### **5.1.7. Fundraising**

TIP developed a fundraising strategy. TIP applied to the Slovak Embassy-Nairobi, Foundation Suyana Mundial, CivFund and UNFA. It was successful with its application to Foundation Suyana Mundial and CivFund.

#### **5.1.8. Procurements**

Under the Community Empowerment Project, 5 laptops, one desk top, 2 motorcycles and purchase of MS Professional plus 2019 licenses. Agiamondo Civil Peace Service supported in buying EPSON printer and scanner.

### **KRA 6:**

### **Human resources capacity strengthened**

#### **Activity 6.1. Staff recruitment**

The activities of the greater part of 2023 were overseen by five volunteers until September 2023 when there was a formal recruitment. The five volunteers applied for consideration; there were other four job openings. The Board of Directors advertised, shortlisted, interviewed and resolved to employ nine (9) staff on its payroll with contributions from Foundation Suyana Mundial. The Board also agreed to hire two volunteers.





Chairperson Personnel Committee (immediate centre) debriefing the interviewees

### Activity 6.2. Staff training

Muhammad Ayub participated in a five-day training in land governance hosted in Arusha Tanzania.

There was a five-day training in Community Lead Total Sanitation (CLTS) courtesy of Foundation Suyana Mundial with a practicum at Aguroi Cell, Agora Ward of Soroti City West Division. The training was purposed to acquaint staff with the sustainable sanitation, pre-triggering, ODF, Triggering, follow-up skills and monitoring in lieu of embarking on the promotion of hygiene and sanitation at community and in primary schools.



Trainers in CLTS: Ms. Adeko (left) and Odolon John King (right)



The youth transcribing the community map during a CLTS triggering visit at Aguroi village

## **6.0. SYNERGIES AND COLLABORATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS**

TIP is a member of the Teso land issues Interest Groups (IGs; a member of the Teso Anti-Corruption Coalition, Teso Peace Actors Coalition (TEPAC).

TIP is a member of the Ateker Development Foundation Multi-actor Partnership (ADEFO-MAP) platform coordinated by Soroti Catholic Diocese Integrated Development Organization (SOCADIDO). The platform seeks to establish and institutionalise partnership (SDG17) for agribusiness improvement in the Teso subregion. In the course of 2023, three staff of TIP participated in the consultative processes for the development of operational framework, master plan for Teso farm-prenuer mentorship training, member organizational capacity assessments and synthesis.

TIP participated in the Land governance training and follow up actions under the Landmateriat partnership. There was a meeting in Arusha on the same and this resulted into the development of some ICT actions for further training.

TIP participated in the CivFund Financial Boot Camp during which strategies for fundraising were shared.

TIP also participated in the Teso sub-regional Education Policy Review of the White Paper on Education hosted by Soroti District at the Soroti Core Teacher Training Institute.

## **7.0. CHALLENGES**

- Financing opportunities became unpredictable amidst the ever-rising administrative costs in the areas of hire of office space, security services and maintenance of equipment. This limitation arises from TIP's sole reliance on foreign donor remittances sourced through proposal writing.

## **8.0 LEARNING POINTS**

- Engaging local leaders is strategic in advocating for the recognition of the outcomes of the community-based mediation processes.
- The pro-people mobilization approaches like community theatre promotes project visibility.

## **9.0. FUTURE PLANS**

1. Follow up community-based resource persons (Poultry agents, agriculture extension, VSLA, VDRTs) earlier on trained to ensure that they sustain their commitments
2. Train smallholder farmer in farm-entrepreneurship and collective marketing
3. TIP continues to fundraise to sustain its interventions
4. Besides knowing their land rights, people should be organized and supported to put their land to production in order to address food and income security. This calls for land planning and management, production, processing and marketing through cooperative arrangements. It also calls for the diversification of livelihood sources and practices



### 9.1. BUDGET PROJECTIONS FOR 2024

|   | Budget item                                | Projected amounts   | Percentage  |
|---|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Human resource support                     | 107,640,000=        | 14%         |
| 2 | Programme                                  | 523,880,000=        | 70%         |
| 3 | Staff capacity building                    | 5,400,000=          | 1%          |
| 4 | Capital investment                         | 34,200,000=         | 5%          |
| 5 | Monitoring, Evaluation, Audit and Learning | 35,400,000=         | 5%          |
| 6 | Administration                             | 40,640,000=         | 5%          |
|   | <b>Total</b>                               | <b>747,160,000=</b> | <b>100%</b> |

### 9.2. FINANCING PLAN

|   | Source                    | Amount              | Notes                               |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Suyana Mundial Foundation | 483,588,000=        | Community Empowerment Project (CEP) |
| 2 | Board of Directors        | 263,572,000=        | Indicative figures for fundraising  |
|   | <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>747,160,000=</b> |                                     |

### 9.3. CONCLUSION

TIP is grateful to government for promoting progressive and supportive policies to Civil Society actors in complementing its efforts in actualizing the National Development Plan III. It is these efforts that assure financing partners that an NGO like TIP has space to enhance community participation in their own development; the reason why TIP is grateful to Foundation Suyana Mundial, Agiamondo Civil Peace Service and people of good will who support TIP's work.

**ODEKE MICHAEL**  
**DIRECTOR**



TIP financial  
performance report 2