



TESO INITIATIVE FOR PEACE

Teso Initiative for Peace is a local, membership, non-profit making, non-government organization that was founded in Teso by religious and opinion leaders of the region to mitigate the devastating insurgency that befell Teso in the 1980s, and carry out continuous peace building in and between Teso and Karamoja. The desire to continue building peace in the region encouraged the leaders to register TIP with the national NGO board on 21st September 2001.

For the last eleven years, Teso Initiative for peace (TIP) has embarked on implementing peace building activities in Teso and parts of Karamoja with support from Trocaire, European union (EU) under the Democratic Governance and Accountability Program (DGAP) fund, Diakonia and the then German Development Service (ded) in promoting peace building in North-eastern Uganda. With a vision of peaceful and prosperous communities in North eastern Uganda, TIP has a mission to promote a culture of peace and participatory Governance among individuals, communities and institutions in North eastern Uganda through transformative intervention. TIP has targeted especially the most conflict affected border Sub Counties of Teso and Karamoja.

Teso Initiative for Peace currently works in the districts of Soroti, Katakwi, Amuria, Abim, Napak and Nakapiripirit in the sub counties of Magoro, Ngariam, Palam, Ongongoja, Omodoi, Usuk and Katakwi in Katakwi district, Lolachat and Nabilatuk in Nakapiripirit district; Iriiri and Lokopo in Napak; Nyakwae and Morulem in Abim; Acowa, Kapelebyong and Obalanga in Amuria and Gweri, Kamuda and Soroti Municipality in Soroti District.

PROJECTS

Enhancing youth and women's participation in Justice, peace building and conflict transformation. This project is being funded by Diakonia and is implemented in Amuria, Napak district and Abim Districts, aiming at facilitating community reconciliation and reintegration as well as creating life sustaining skills and opportunities through capacity building to 25 youth and women groups. These groups meet jointly on a quarterly basis to monitor, plan and review their group progress and help the group leaders to have a SWOT analysis of their respective groups.

Enhancing peaceful co-existence in and between Teso and Karamoja. This project is being funded by Trócaire under support from European Union (EU) and is implemented in seven selected sub counties from three Districts of Soroti, Katakwi and Amuria, aiming at enhancing and sustaining peaceful co-existence in Teso and between Teso and Karamoja communities, through promoting dialogues between rights holders



A dialogue meeting between Iteso and Karimojong about land issues along the border between Kapelebyong S/C (teso) and Lokopo S/C (Karamoja)

and duty bearers, empowering rights holders and awareness raising among them on the rights to Education, Health and other rights; Peace Education in schools and communities: this project was funded by GIZ and is implemented in 14 selected sub counties from the four districts of Soroti, Katakwi, Amuria Napak, aiming at grooming a generation of young people who appreciate the values of peace, Non-Violence and peaceful co-existence; through training of Peace Club patrons who animate peace work in their respective schools by starting-up school peace clubs. TIP supports the clubs with small grants for small projects to help the club members to acquire skills. TIP has now established 154 school peace clubs in the region, which are monitored periodically to establish the level of progress and identify any gaps. Promotion of peaceful co-existence between Iteso and Karimojong through joint activities: this project was funded by former ded now GIZ. This was implemented in the Districts of Amuria, present day Napak and Katakwi, aiming at promoting reconciliation and peaceful co-existence between the communities of Teso and Karamoja. Having its focus along the border areas of Teso and Karamoja, the project was implemented through inventing joint activities between the two sides, including joint desilting of water dams, joint road work, joint gardening, joint youth peace drama, joint radio talk shows, dialogues, among other joint activities.

Capacity enhancement for political party leaders in Teso: this project was supported by Trócaire and was implemented in the three districts of Katakwi, Amuria and Soroti benefiting the executives of all active political parties in Teso, aiming at appreciating the political differences among political par-

ties and promoting Non-violence among politicians during the 2011 campaigns, election and after elections. This was done through training of political party leaders and their executive committees on peace building and conflict transformation, Non-Violent communication skills, Alternatives to Violence Projects, and facilitating dialogue among all them to promote free, fair and non-violent elections in Teso.

Current Activities and beneficiaries: Aware that bad governance can lead to violence, TIP is undertaking activities aimed at enhancing informed participation in promoting good governance and human rights access to quality education and healthcare services in seven sub-counties. It is doing this through clan leaders, Parish Development Committees, youth and women. TIP undertakes the above activities through dialogues, Citizen Manifesto surgeries, Quarterly planning and review meetings, facilitating community learning exchange visits, Community theatre and peace drama, Cinema Education for schools and communities, Teso-Karamoja Children's play days, Radio talk shows, joint celebrations with the Teso Peace Actors' Coalition, and other Joint activities between Iteso and Karimojong.

In the Teso Today TIP is proud to have registered a number of tremendous contributions as our achievements towards the development processes of Teso and parts of Karamoja as we join the Government of Uganda and the rest of Civil Society Organisations in celebrating Uganda's 50th birthday.

Achievements:

- Enhanced appreciation of peace and peaceful co-existence among communities.
- No more violent school strikes in Teso due to establishment of peace school clubs
- Reduced prejudices between Iteso and Karimojong due to joint activities.
- Establishment of Apeitolim, Kobulin, Apeipong/Arengipua joint settlements due to the joint efforts of the peace actors, central and local governments.

- Our Early Warning and Response Systems approach has enhanced community vigilance.
- Improving social accountability among duty bearers
- Teso experienced peaceful elections in 2011 due to our engagement with political party leaders.
- Improving community livelihoods through the entrepreneurship support
- The coming up of Teso-Karamoja Peaceful Co-existence Initiatives Program (TEKAPIP)

Challenges:

- Increasing land conflicts due to return and resettlement of communities.
- The occurrence of isolated incidences of cattle thefts.
- Difficulty in accessing some areas due to natural hindrances like floods
- Limited financial resources to have a wider scope of geographical coverage.

Future plans

- Carry out research and document the best practices of peace building in Teso and Karamoja
- Continue awareness creation among communities on governance, human rights, gender, climate change and HIV/AIDS.
- Supporting community demand-driven peace building and conflict mitigation measures and approaches.
- Continue cooperating with other peace actors, central and local government institutions to ensure sustainability of our projects.

We complement government's efforts in ensuring a violent free society, a society where people appreciate difference and do not resort to violent means of conflict resolution. We are contributing to the agenda of good governance guided by the principles of conflict being a driving force to positive peace and development as enshrined in the Peace Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP – strategic objective 4)

We look towards a future where Teso people will contribute to the national agenda by being a trustworthy community devoid of violence but laden with development and the fear of God. This is the future we hope to build together.

"For peace we stand"

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