



## Capacity building of Peace Networks in the Great Lakes Region August 2005

---

### Capacity building

Capacity building of local organizations and networks is key to our approach. There are two rationales behind this. Firstly, to ensure ownership and sustainability beyond a project's lifespan we work to build the capacity of local partner organizations to ensure the continuation of activities after FEWER Africa pulls out. Secondly, this approach recognizes that peace processes in a complex and politically fragile region such as the Great Lakes can only be successfully advanced if local realities are taken into account. Our aim is to strengthen our partner



organisations' capacities to engage in effective peacebuilding by analyzing the triggers and proximate causes of conflict within their societies and communicating these to local, national, regional and international stakeholders. This enlightens policy making processes and contributes to effectively meeting the myriad of complex needs in each organisations' respective communities.

*AIP working with local women's organisations in East DRC to increase the role of women in understanding and addressing conflict issues*

### Supporting local networks in the Great Lakes

The creation of local networks that can carry out regular and rigorous analysis is an output of our programming activities.

These networks need to be mobilized and supported in order to carry out timely and accurate local-level analysis which will feed into national/regional consultations to produce concrete policy recommendations for national/regional and international policy communities. Through a process of information-exchange, local organisations are better able to drive their

#### **FEWER Africa and AIP – working with local organizations to reach remote areas**

Since 2003, AIP with FEWER Africa have organised a series of roundtables/workshops to provide key stakeholders in the DRC conflict with training in conflict resolution and peacebuilding methodology as part of the project, "Strengthening Community-based Reconciliation and Peacebuilding in the DRC". In particular AIP has worked with smaller networks in Ituri region, strengthening the capacity of Community Based Organisations (CBOs) in remote areas that have been particularly touched by the conflict, but not by peacebuilding initiatives e.g. Aveba, Mahagi, Aru, Tchomia, Kasenyi. By building the capacity of grassroots organizations to make informed choices, these activities contributes to our objective of Early Warning and Early Response to identify alternative ways of addressing conflict in Ituri, particularly at a grassroots level.

respective processes for political change and lasting peace at the local level, while engaging regional and international policy makers for a sustainable peace building at a regional and international level.



## Strategic choice of local partners

We work with established organizations in each country. Given the weak analytical and organizational capacities of many government and non-government agencies in the Great Lakes region, we also work to support individuals within different organizations who do have the capacity to do analysis. We work with several different non-governmental and governmental agencies in each local network to ensure that analysis is balanced and contains different viewpoints. In each of the countries identified, we will have a lead agency that will work with our researchers/focal points that will identify actors on the ground that should be supported and mobilized to participate in this network. The lead agency in collaboration with our researchers/focal points will perform initial stakeholder mapping to identify local actors and hold initial meetings to create this consortium of grassroots actors to gather, process and deliver local knowledge and locally produced intelligence. The longer term objective is to support these local actors that can provide regular analysis; capacity-building for local networks will be ongoing during the 12 month project cycle.



The first Congolese refugees arrived in Kyaka II settlement in July 2003. Over the past month, Kyaka II's population has increased by 50 percent. © UNHCR

## Expertise Exchange

In June 2005, FEWER-Africa conducted a joint assessment of the Kyaka II refugee settlement (Western Uganda) in collaboration with the Centre for Conflict Resolution (CECORE) on the request of UNHCR in order to understand conflict dynamics between host and refugee communities in Kyaka II (and surrounding areas) as well as peace and conflict dynamics between different communities within the settlement. Monitoring population movements and refugee flows is crucial to identifying potential hot spots in the region. Recruits for the newly created Militia group "Revolutionary Movement for the Congo" were largely drawn from Ugandan refugee camps.

## FEWER Africa

---

The *Forum on Early Warning and Early Response-Africa* is a network of organisations, including civil society networks, non-governmental and inter-governmental organisations, universities and research institutes. FEWER aims to provide early warning and promote coordinated, early responses to violent conflict in volatile regions of the world.

FEWERAfrica, based in Nairobi provides hands-on support in project management and outreach. The other network office in Moscow (FEWER-Eurasia) along with FEWER Africa are mandated to ensure that the FEWER common agenda is implemented. These offices of FEWER ensure an international quality assurance mechanism, oversee international dissemination, support fundraising efforts, and are responsible for financial management and donor reporting. In addition, these offices undertake international awareness raising and engagement with policymakers. Exchange of expertise within the network is also a core function of the FEWER – Africa and Eurasia offices.



## **Local partner organisations in this briefing**

---

FEWER Africa works with local community based and civil society organisations across the Great Lakes region. Two the most established members of the network are AIP (Africa Initiative Programme) based in Bunia, DRC, and CECORE (The Center for Conflict Resolution) based in Kampala, Uganda.

*Africa Initiative Programme*, established in July 1988, is a branch of the Campaign for Peace and a member of the FEWER Africa network. The goal of the organisation is to co-ordinate peacebuilding activities among civil society organisations and other organisations dealing with conflict resolution. The aim is to efficiently contribute to the restoration of peace and harmony within the Great Lakes region of Central Africa. Comprised of primarily Congolese nationals, AIP is closely linked with local communities and organisations in the DRC, particularly in the Eastern Provinces. Since 2003, AIP along with FEWER Africa have organised a series of workshops to provide key stakeholders in the DRC conflict with training in conflict resolution and peacebuilding methodology as part of the project, "Strengthening Community-based Reconciliation and Peacebuilding in the DRC". Participants in our seminars have included members of the Ituri Interim Administration, civil society organizations, women's groups throughout Ituri, ex-combatants as well community leaders (including those from rival Hema and Lendu communities). The goal has been to supply key stakeholders in the DRC conflict with tools to work towards achieving solutions and build their capacity to make informed choices while exploring alternative ways of addressing the Ituri crisis, particularly at a grassroots level.

*Center for Conflict Resolution (CECORE)* is an initiative of Ugandan people working to seek alternative and creative means of preventing, managing and resolving conflicts. Members come from a rich background of peace and human rights work, research and training. CECORE is a non-profit NGO with programmes in the Great Lakes Region and Greater Horn of Africa. Programs include, Education and Training in Peace Education and Conflict Prevention and Resolution Skills, Media and Peace-building training seminars, 'Building Bridges' - Conflict Resolution in practice, Linking parties in conflict for dialogue with assistance from experienced mediators for healing and reconciliation, Networking and Advocacy and Research Documentation and information dissemination-gather information on sources and types of conflicts. Expertise exchange is ongoing in Rwanda, Uganda, DRC, Kenya