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UGANDA

SUPPORTING ACCESS TO JUSTICE, FOSTERING EQUITY AND PEACE PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

September 1, 2013- September 30, 2014

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DISCLAIMER

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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ACRONYMS

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AIP	Administrative Improvement Plan
APS	Annual Program Statement
CEWERU	Conflict Early Warning and Response Unit, Ministry of Internal Affairs
CLV	Community Legal Volunteer
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DOP	District Operational Plan
FHRI	Foundation for Human Rights Initiative
FIDA	Uganda Association of Women Lawyers
GOU	Government of Uganda
GR	Global Rights
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IR	Intermediate Result
JLOS	Justice Law and Order Sector
JRP	Justice and Reconciliation Project
KCSON	Kibaale Civil Society Network
LC	Local Council
LDC	Law Development Centre
LEMU	Land and Equity Movement in Uganda
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
MLHUD	Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
NCSC	National Center for State Courts
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
SAFE	Supporting Access to Justice, Fostering Equity and Peace
SFCG	Search for Common Ground
TOT	Training of Trainers
ULA	Uganda Land Alliance
USAID	United States Agency for International

INTRODUCTION

As required under its Contract 617-C-12-000005, with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) submits the following Year 2 Annual Report of the Supporting Access to Justice, Fostering Equity and Peace (SAFE) Program. USAID's SAFE Program is a five-year initiative to improve citizen access to land-related justice and to strengthen peacebuilding and conflict mitigation.

This Report is organized to track to the program's progress under the objectives and intermediate results identified in the program's Work Plan. The Report highlights progress towards planned achievement of milestones and performance management indicators. The Report details the program's contributions to access to justice and conflict mitigation in Uganda. The Report includes success stories and information on results, challenges, and next steps to be implemented in Quarter 1 of Year 3. Key documents produced in Year 2 are included in the Annex to this Report.

The SAFE Program seeks to strengthen peace building and conflict mitigation in Uganda by improving access to justice in land matters in 20 target districts and enhancing peace and reconciliation in conflict prone regions under USAID DO 2 Democracy and Governance Systems Strengthened and Made More Accountable. The relevant Intermediate Results (IR) are:

IR 2.2	ENABLING ENVIRONMENT IMPROVED FOR SERVICE DELIVERY
IR 2.3	PEACE BUILDING AND CONFLICT MITIGATION STRENGTHENED

The SAFE Program provides technical assistance, training, grants, and program design through two components: *Component 1 Improved Access to Justice* and *Component 2 Enhanced Peace and Reconciliation*. In addition, program implementation will seek to address crosscutting principles of Gender, Youth, Ethnicity, Anti-Corruption, and Oil Production.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

During Year 2, the Supporting Access to Justice, Fostering Equity and Peace (SAFE) Program implemented activities to improve access to justice and peace and reconciliation in Uganda, with the deliberate aim of ensuring the sustainability of our activities even after Program ends. SAFE works closely with the Conflict Early Warning and Response Unit (CEWERU) at the Ministry of Internal Affairs during implementation of conflict monitors training, conflict assessment reports and conflict mapping. SAFE's second round of grants cover multiple districts in the North and West, addressing a range of issues in both Component I and Component II and all have components targeting women and youth. Illustrative progress highlights are described below:

IMPROVED ACCESS TO JUSTICE

- The Program finalized and distributed the Land Rights Hand Book and Sensitization Toolkit to the Ministry of Lands and SAFE grantees.
- The program provided legal aid to a total of 932 beneficiaries (485 men and 447 women) and sensitized a total of 10,305 beneficiaries across the districts of Gulu, Amuru, Lira, Moroto, Kibaale, Jinja and Masaka.
- The program registered 116 cases for mediation. 68 of the cases were completed with Memoranda of Understanding signed between the parties.

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

- SAFE completed a rapid assessment of the refugee crisis in West Nile region stemming from the influx of refugees from South Sudan. The assessment focused on conflict tensions and triggers and was able to inform grant-making activities through two CSOs.
- 180 conflict monitors from 27 districts were trained in conflict monitoring, analysis and reporting. The training involved a practical session on using the toll-free SMS system to report conflict incidents as they occur.
- SAFE conducted consultations with local government officials, civil society and oil and gas companies in the Albertine region to establish key activities to mitigate conflicts related to the discovery of oil and gas in the area.
- SAFE trained 28 radio journalists in conflict-sensitive reporting, introducing conflict transformation models that integrate diverse voices in reporting of conflict and highlight women's and youths' perspectives.

SAFE IN PICTURES

Quarter one in pictures Component II



1. *Patrick Zimurinda, head of political talk shows at Kagadi Kibaale Community radio records voices of students of Rugashari SS Peace club- during children peace radio platform*
2. *Right is Semigaruka Jeremiah a member of Dispute Resolution Committee, tells Patrick Zimurinda of radio KKCR on how DRCs work and their successes*

Quarter 2 Component II



3. *A participant contributes to a discussion during the conflict monitor's training in Tororo*

4. *Students at the radio theater taking part in radio talk show in Nebbi District to promote youth involvement in peace building*

Component I



5. *Executive Director addressing community members during a monitoring visit in conducted in Moroto district*
6. *Foundation of Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) officers attending to clients during a mobile legal aid camp conducted in Jinja district*



7. *The Director Information, Ministry of Information and National Guidance Mr. Simon Mayende handover a copy of the Government's Communication Strategy to Ms Jennifer Ober chief of Party USAID SAFE during the media training workshop*
8. *Participants at the Media training workshop pose for a group phograph with the Director Information, Ministry of Information and National Guidance Mr. Simon Mayende (middle with a walking stick) and USAID Chief of Party Jennifer Ober (middle)*

Quarter 4
Component II



9



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9. *A participant of a truth telling dialogues feedback meeting suggests to the committee way forward to deal with legacy of conflict in Atiak sub-county*
10. *A member of TTRC, Bishop McLord Baker Ochola II prays for members of one of the families in Atiak as they opted for spiritual healing following their transition challenge*

Component I



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Captions

11. *LEMU staff facilitating a village meeting at Akwaka village (Bar Odir Communal Land Site) to write their communal land governance rules (1st Draft) on 28th July 2014*
12. *Senior Land Officer Kibaale District Local Government Mr. John Kabigumire sensitizing community members in Nyansimbi village, Nyansimbi parish, Birembo sub County, Kibaale district on Wednesday July 9, 2014*

GENERAL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

About the SAFE Program

Having started in 2012, the SAFE Program is the first of its kind in Uganda and builds on the earlier efforts of the Ugandan Government, particularly the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD). SAFE began with a baseline assessment to gauge perceptions on access to justice and peace and reconciliation in Uganda and establish the basis for the measurement of program impact. The establishment of public perception baselines is further supported by exit surveys in District Courts and a Conflict Mapping Exercise completed at the end of Year 2.

The five-year SAFE Program is implemented by the National Center for State Courts in partnership with two mission-driven non-profit organizations, Global Rights, and Search for Common Ground. The Program harnesses the expertise of each organization to meet objectives.

Work Plan and Performance Management Plan

The Year 3 Work Plan and Performance Management Plan were submitted in September 2014. For reference purposes, the SAFE Work Plan and Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) are included as attachments to this report as GEN 1 and GEN 2.

COMPONENT I: ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Component I focuses on facilitating access to justice by improving the management of land-related disputes, and creating awareness of the land tenure and administration systems. Program activities targeted twenty (20) districts; Amuru, Arua, Buliisa, Gulu, Hoima, Jinja, Kibaale, Kiboga, Lira, Masaka, Masindi, Mbale, Mbarara, Mityana, Moroto, Mukono, Nebbi, Tororo, Soroti and Wakiso. The Program has continued to channelled resources in order to: a) strengthen the capacity of formal institutions responsible for the management, administration and enforcement of land rights, and resolution of land disputes; b) improve linkages between formal and informal rights and institutions; and c) increase the capacity of Ugandan CSOs to facilitate access to justice and legal services, disseminate information, educate the public, and monitor local government and traditional structures.

I.1 Institutions for Land Administration and Dispute Resolution Made More Accountable and Accessible

Uganda's land administration structures have faced a 100% increase in demand for services. The number of districts has increased from 56 to 111 over the period of 2000 to 2010. Additional stress on the land administration system comes from the rise in Uganda's youth population. Land administration is highly decentralized, with multiple centers of authority, many of which lack the capacity to deliver the services required. Further adding to tensions, land is at the heart of Uganda's new model of economic development – especially oil activities in the Albertine region, which has, for example, caused land transactions and speculation to escalate. Reserving lands for infrastructure building, development of refineries, and oil exploration. These changes impact land's ability to serve as the main source of income and livelihoods for most Ugandans, and as sites for cultural and community traditions. As a result, effective, efficient, even-handed, and transparent land dispute resolution services are vital to mitigating conflict and ensuring livelihoods.

Expected Results

- Enhanced knowledge and skills of district land officials, District Land Board and Area Land Committees for land administration and mitigation of land disputes
- Increased enforcement of land regulations by district based judiciary officers, administrative land bodies and traditional mechanisms
- Developed and approved training curriculum and manuals for TOT and practice direction training
- Enhanced transparency of customary land transactions at the sub-county level

Year 2 Achievements:

- Training of Trainers Toolkit finalized. The guide currently is being used by the MLHUD in building the capacity of its trainers to deliver effective adult education programs consistently.

Trainer of Trainer's Curriculum for Ministry of Lands Officials

During the year under review, SAFE finalized the development of the Training of Trainers toolkit. A total of 53 participants (26 women and 27 men) attended the workshop. The participants included District Land Officers from SAFE's twenty target Districts, members of District Land Boards, officials from the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD) and SAFE component I grantees.

Practice Direction Training Program

SAFE subcontracted Uganda Land Alliance to develop the Specialized Four Part Practice Direction Training Program. A copy of the draft curriculum was shared with the MLHUD for comments. SAFE has since held meetings with the MLHUD to plan for the validation of the curriculum. The ministry provided

a list of participants and proposed a validation date in Quarter 1 of Year 3. The curriculum is intended for use by ALCs, DLBs and support institutions.

Administrative Improvement Plans

A survey on the functionality of DLB and ALC was conducted across the 20 component target districts in Quarter 1. The survey identified the gaps affecting effective and efficient operation of the DLB and ALC. In Quarters 2 and 3 further consultative meetings were conducted in all the 20 districts by a short Term Technical Advisor hired by SAFE. The meetings discussed the gaps identified during the survey and provided a forum for the respective districts to suggest possible areas for SAFE support. The suggestions have informed the adjustment of the AIPs drafted in year 1. The STTA also made recommendations for rolling out the assistance in phases. In the beginning of Year 3, Quarter 1 SAFE will draft an AIP matrix with details of how the assistance will be rolled out and immediately thereafter roll out technical assistance in the suggested Phase I districts.

1.2 Administrative Land Management and Legal Aid Services Made More Efficient

The most common form of land ownership in Uganda is customary, and traditional authorities and customary forums for resolving disputes are vital to land conflict mitigation. At the same time, legal aid services are most often sought for land issues, inheritance and succession, human rights, and court procedures. Increased efficiency in the system will require improved coordination between traditional authorities, local council Courts, and Magistrates Courts. The improvement of land administration management and land-related paralegal services dovetails with sub-component 1.1 to ensure that the quality of the services improves.

Expected Results

- Enhanced knowledge and awareness of traditional and elders councils of the 1998 Land Act, as amended, and ADR mechanisms for resolution of land disputes.
- Increased provision of legal representation and paralegal services to women, youth, and disadvantaged groups by NGOs/CBOs.
- Improved efficiency of traditional and formal institutions for dispute resolution.
- Improved linkages between traditional authorities, Local Council Courts and Magistrates Courts in resolution of land disputes.

Year 2 Achievements:

- The Team finalized and distributed 544 and 444 copies of the Land Rights Handbook and the Sensitization Toolkit for Traditional Leaders and Elders, respectively. Both the Handbook and the Toolkit were developed through participatory exchanges with GOU, CSO stakeholders, and USAID.
- SAFE provided legal aid to a total of 932 beneficiaries (485 men and 447 women) and sensitized a total of 10,305 beneficiaries across the districts of Gulu, Amuru, Lira, Moroto, Kibaale, Jinja and Masaka.

Legal and Practical Resources

Land Rights Handbook

SAFE finalized the development of the Land Rights Handbook in Quarter 3, following a validation meeting that was held in Quarter 1. The meeting was attended by 53 participants (26 women and 27 men). The participants included district land officers from SAFE's 20 target districts, officials from the MLHUD, representatives from Oil companies such as Tullow Uganda Operations and CNOOC Uganda Limited, and representatives from a cross section of Civil Society.

In Quarter 2, SAFE made a presentation on the Handbook to the USAID Mission in partnership with the Land and Equity Movement in Uganda (LEMU) which was attended by the Mission Director and the Mission’s Private Sector Unit, Economic and Planning Unit, and the Democracy, Rights and Governance Programs. The Mission commended SAFE’s effort in developing the Handbook and suggested that during its review the Team should incorporate the role of the Uganda Investment Authority and Uganda Institute of Banking in land inclusion issues.

544 copies of the handbook were later distributed to SAFE grantees (Uganda Land Alliance (ULA), Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA), LEMU, Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI), Law Development Centre (LDC) and Uganda Law Society (ULS)), members of the Northern Uganda Land Platform, MLHUD staff, oil company employees, and key stakeholders implementing land related activities. SAFE grantees are currently using the Handbook as a quick reference guide to provide legal and paralegal services to individuals seeking to enforce their land rights.

Sensitization Toolkit for Traditional Leaders and Elders

SAFE finalized the development of the Sensitization Toolkit for Traditional Leaders and Elders during Quarter 2. The validation meeting for the Toolkit was attended by 45 participants (15 women and 30 men) representing a wide variety of stakeholders including Traditional/Cultural Institutions (KerKwaro, Acholi, and Lango Cultural Foundations, Iteso Cultural Union, Buganda, Busoga, and Bunyoro, and Kitara Kingdoms, Karimojong elders), Tullow Uganda and a cross section of civil society organizations. SAFE distributed 424 copies of the Toolkit to SAFE’s grantees and traditional and cultural institutions. The Toolkit aims to increase the knowledge of traditional leaders and elders on the Land Act, their role in addressing and mitigating land disputes in their communities, and forming linkages between traditional authorities, Local Council (LC) courts and magistrates for purposes of improving land dispute resolution. In Year 3, SAFE plans to translate the toolkit in five major local languages commonly spoken across the 20 target districts.

Community Legal Volunteers Manual

SAFE printed and distributed a total of 444 copies of the Community Legal Volunteers (CLV) Manual to Component I grantees including the ULA, FIDA, LEMU, FHRI, Legal Aid Clinic of LDC. SAFE grantees will benefit from this resource manual when they design and conduct CLV training activities and when they provide legal aid services to target communities. SAFE and its grantees will also use the manual to develop legal awareness posters, which will be placed in high-traffic public areas for the benefit of the community.

1.2.1 LEGAL AND PARALEGAL SERVICES

Legal Aid Services

SAFE provided legal aid to a total of 932 beneficiaries (485 men and 447 women) through local partners in the districts of Amuru, Gulu, Lira, Masaka, Jinja, Kibaale and Moroto.

Legal Aid Services Provided					
District	Gulu& Lira	Amuru&Moroto	Masaka and Jinja	Kibaale	Lira
Grantee	FIDA	ULA	FHRI	LAC and LAP	LEMU
Men	92	33	164	179	17
Women	165	30	119	123	10
Total	257	63	283	302	27

The legal aid services covered a full range of services from legal advice and counseling, filing land disputes in court, legal representation, drafting legal documents and mediation of disputes. Beneficiaries have

visited grantee's offices directly and grantees have also conducted mobile legal aid clinics at the grassroots level. Mobile Legal Aid Clinics have helped to bring legal services directly to communities that lack access to grantees.

Community Legal Volunteers/Paralegal Services

SAFE trained 204 (141 men and 63 women) community legal volunteers through grantees during Year 2 in the districts of Lira, Gulu, Kibaale, Amuru and Moroto. Training of CLVs has helped to scale up the work of the grantees within their districts of operation. CLVs are equipped with basic legal information to offer first contact legal consultations and advice to solve day-to-day legal issues affecting the community. The CLVs, trained in the second and third quarter of Year 2, have participated not only in sensitization of the community but also in provision of advice to beneficiaries on simple legal issues and referral to appropriate agencies.

I.2.2 DISPUTE RESOLUTION MECHANISMS

Improving Relationships and Coordination of Land Dispute Resolution Bodies

In Year 2, SAFE organized a series of meetings and trainings both at the local and national level to contribute to improved linkages and coordination of land dispute resolution bodies. SAFE held two of the meetings in Lira and Gulu Districts. In Gulu, the meeting was targeted at improving record keeping of land related decisions and settlements from informal dispute resolution bodies. Accordingly, SAFE held a meeting on land dispute management with six traditional leaders and staff members of the Acholi Cultural Institution (Ker Kwaro Acholi). The meeting was meant to follow-up on the use of a Case Management Book which FIDA distributed to traditional leaders in Acholi sub region. The meeting enabled the traditional leaders to share their feedback on the Book, which aims to improve recording the outcome of land disputes resolved by traditional leaders.

In Lira SAFE met with 11 representatives of the Lango Cultural Fraternity and one staff member of Ker Kwaro Acholi. The meeting allowed SAFE to design interventions meant to improve coordination between the cultural institution and formal institutions of land justice in Lira District. Accordingly, one staff of Ker Kwaro Acholi also participated in the meeting and shared the experiences of Ker Kwaro with the Lango Cultural fraternity.

Land Institution Trainings

SAFE conducted two trainings for local dispute resolution bodies (*Traditional Leaders and Local Council Court members, and Justice Law and Order Stakeholders*). The purpose of these trainings was to enable stakeholders to better understand both the formal and informal land justice institutions and the linkages between the two systems. The topics covered during these trainings included land tenure systems, land administration institutions, land dispute resolution, alternative dispute resolution, and the role of community leaders. In Lira, the training was held in Agweng Sub County and was attended by 20 participants (15 men and 5 women). In Kibaale, the training benefited 80 participants comprising 32 female and 58 male. The training enhanced the understanding of the LCs, Area Land Committees, Sub County Court Committees and traditional leaders on their roles in land administration and dispute resolution. It also enabled them to appreciate the role played by different stakeholders in adjudication of land cases and referral mechanisms.

A national level meeting was also held in Kampala where 21 participants attended (9 women and 12 men). The meeting drew participants from the Courts of Law, CSOs that work with traditional institutions in resolution of land disputes (LDC, ULA, and Action Aid Uganda) and private legal practitioners. The purpose of this meeting was to influence a formal harmonization between the informal and formal institution of land justice. The meeting explored mechanisms of linking and

strengthening the traditional and formal land justice sectors. It was agreed that the members of the task force should lobby the MLHUD on guidelines for clan mediations, consult with JLOS on how to harmonize the formal and informal land justice structure.

Improved Transparency among Dispute Resolution Bodies

SAFE conducted series of thirteen technical support visits to Local Council 2 Court Committees and one Sub County Court Committee in Gulu and Lira Districts throughout Year 2. In Gulu nine technical support visits were made in which the team worked with 63 members from these committees (17 women, 46 men and 11 youth). During the visit the Committee members were guided on how to conduct mediations. The Team especially focused on applying the principles of natural justice, equity and fairness and drafting simple memoranda of understanding (MOUs). It is envisaged that quarterly technical support will improve their overall transparency and efficiency.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Grants

During Year 2, SAFE registered 116 cases for mediation. 68 of the cases were resolved with MOUs signed between the parties. The Memoranda await implementation of the terms agreed to by the parties. The nature of cases handled includes land disputes (ownership, disagreements in sale, illegal evictions, boundary disputes, and trespassing), and succession issues (managing and distribution of a deceased person's estate). The use of ADR mechanisms is intended to amicably resolve land disputes while peacefully reconciling conflicting parties instead of having parties resort to legal redress in courts of law, which are often slow at resolving cases. The ADR services provided include mediation of land disputes, training of CLVs in ADR, and sensitization of community members on the use of and benefits of ADR. SAFE will follow up and compile comprehensive data of these cases by Quarter 1 of Year 3.

1.2.3 SENSITIZATION CAMPAIGNS

SAFE reached out to 10,305 beneficiaries (5726 men and 4579 women) through sensitization campaigns. The sensitizations were conducted by five (5) of SAFE's grantees in the districts of Amuru, Moroto, Gulu, Kibaale, Masaka and Jinja. The sensitization campaigns were tailored towards the needs of particular communities. Accordingly the different districts focused on different topics depending on their community needs. (See details for each grantee below the table). These sensitization campaigns continue to raise awareness.

Beneficiaries reached through sensitization campaigns					
District	Gulu& Lira	Amuru&Moroto	Masaka and Jinja	Lira	Total
Grantee	FIDA	ULA	FHRI	LEMU	
Men	830	2541	598	1757	5726
Women	766	2170	343	1300	4579
Total	1596	4711	941	3057	10305

FHRI in Masaka and Jinja focused on mailo, freehold and customary land tenure systems predominant in Masaka and Jinja respectively. The sensitization sessions particularly focused on the importance of registration of land, procedures involved in acquisition of the different certificates of title, and laws governing succession and inheritance of family land and spousal consent. In Moroto, Gulu, Lira and Amuru- FIDA, ULA and LEMU emphasized customary land tenure, which is the predominant system used in those districts. In Amuru, Lira and Gulu, the grantees focused on the rights of vulnerable populations (widows, women and orphans) with regards to access and use of land, informal and formal land justice institutions, and inheritance and succession. In Moroto- the ULA talked about rights to land and natural resources. There are a number of companies involved in extracting minerals in Karamoja sub

region. Campaigns focused on Customary Land Associations in Moroto and Lira Districts where ULA and LEMU work with communities who are interested in protecting their communal land interests.

ULA also organized one national sensitization campaign in Kampala, targeting the Land User Committee members of the High Court Land Division. This meeting was attended by High Court Judges and Registrars attached to the Land Division of the High Court. Magistrates and Chief Magistrates, representatives from State House, the land division of the Uganda Police Force, and Court Bailiffs also attended. Overall, a total of 24 members (13 men and 11 women) attended the meeting. The objective of the meeting was to influence practice and policy change in delivering access to land justice. The key issues identified as hindrances to access to justice were movement of files to and from the execution division and conflicting court decisions— for instance the case of the LC Courts decision. Participants mentioned the need to respect court orders by both administrative and political leaders and called for the appearance of government agencies before the courts of law whenever called upon.

1.3 Legal Awareness on Land Matters Increased

Land administration and management can be highly technical since it is constrained by very specific laws. Average citizens and even local community leaders may not fully understand the issues and legal frameworks surrounding land disputes. A better understanding of land administration systems can empower people to exercise their rights through the appropriate land dispute mechanisms. Increased knowledge of legal matters surrounding land disputes will help institutions gain credibility among citizens and likely improve compliance with decisions made by the dispute resolution systems.

Expected Results

- Increased knowledge and awareness of communities about their land rights to formal or informal redress of land disputes, and of duty bearers in protection of access to justice in land matters.
- Enhanced role of social networks, radio programs, mobile clinics, and other media to raise the awareness about processes involved in land related legal procedures.

Year 2 Achievements:

- SAFE trained 375 participants (267 men and 108 women), produced 450 Information, Education and Communication (IEC) posters in Luo and Ngakarimojong, and held 11 radio talk shows to generate land rights awareness

SAFE continues to promote legal awareness through trainings of local leaders, radio talk shows, spot messages and jingles, and dissemination of IEC materials.

SAFE trained 375 participants (267 men and 108 women) from a variety of backgrounds and sectors. The trainings targeted local government leaders at the sub-county level, traditional and cultural leaders and elders, CLVs and a cross section of members from the CSOs. The trainings covered a range of topics including ADR mechanisms, land tenure systems, land management and administration, and land rights in marriage. The trainings enhanced the capacity of the local leaders on land rights, procedures and management.

Radio Talk Shows

SAFE uses radio talk shows as a means to disseminate and educate the public on their land rights. Through grantees, 11 radio talk shows were held on Ruping FM and Mega FM in Gulu, Best FM in Masaka, Radio Waa and Unity FM in Lira, Basoga, Baino in Jinja, and Nenah FM in Moroto. The facilitators of the talk shows included grantee staff, technocrats from the district and sub county governments such as District Environment Officers, District Police Commander. The topics discussed during the talk shows varied from district to district depending on the leading regional issues at the time. In Gulu, Lira and Amuru the topics discussed included the National Land Policy and its effects on rights

over customary land, rights of the vulnerable to land, and the key institutions involved in land justice. Radio talk shows have increased awareness rising on land rights within their communities. Feedback from listeners on the radio talk shows was solicited through call-in sessions where speakers were able to provide additional clarification on select topics.

Radio Spot Messages

Four spot messages were aired in Amuru, Moroto, Lira, Jinja and Masaka districts on Mega, Nenah, Unity over the course of Year 2. The spot messages specifically touched on sections 27 and 39 of the Land Act and on the protection of communal land. Section 27 emphasizes the protection of land rights of the most vulnerable groups while section 39 deals with the issue of family land and consent. It prohibits dealings on family land without spousal consent. The use of spot messages to disseminate information on land rights has raised awareness among community members on how to demand and safeguard their land rights.

Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Materials on Land Rights

During Year 2, SAFE developed, printed, and distributed a number of IEC materials including posters, policy documents and T-shirts. The IEC materials create awareness among the target group beneficiaries and also act as a quick reference guide for community members.

Posters: SAFE produced, and printed 450 copies of posters on land matters. Information on the posters include how to file a land dispute before an LC, Magistrate or High Court. The posters were drafted in Luo and Ng'karimojong which are the languages most widely spoken in the targeted project areas (Gulu, Amuru, Lira and Moroto). The posters have been distributed during community awareness sessions and are displayed in public places for easy access by community members.

Policy briefs: SAFE developed two policy briefs during Year 2: one on *communal land protection* and the other on *communal land justice- towards a meaningful harmonization*. The policy briefs were shared with members of the Northern Uganda Land Platform (The Platform comprises a cross section of civil society organisations working on land issues) and members of the Magistrates task force. The purpose of the policy brief is to influence and advocate for communal land protection and harmonization of the formal and informal land justice systems.

T-shirts and Apparel: In order to improve visibility and effective communication among target beneficiaries, ULA printed and distributed 80 t-shirts to trained Traditional Leaders and CLVs. The t-shirts displayed different land rights slogans and messages including: "Ask me about your land rights", "Promote equal rights to land inheritance", "Real men embrace women's rights to land", "Make women's tenure security a reality", and "Embrace Alternative Dispute Resolution for land justice".

Sensitization and legal awareness sessions enable communities to acquire more knowledge on land rights, resources and mechanisms available for formal and informal land dispute resolution. The use of CLVs, radio programs, and mobile legal aid clinics raises awareness on processes involved in land related procedures for better understanding of relevant land laws and systems.

1.4 Improved Oversight by Non-State Actors

For improvement to be sustained, tracking and monitoring of land administration and management systems must become a regular activity for local CSOs. The monitoring of cases and advocating for reform will ensure that the public stays engaged in the process of improvement and transparency. The Government of Uganda has experience with CSO oversight from the public-expenditure tracking model, which can be expanded to include the tracking of land dispute resolution activities. CSOs and land

administration authorities can have a mutually beneficial relationship, and cultivating such relationships will underpin activities of this sub-component.

Year 2 Achievements:

- A Civil Society Capacity Building Toolkit that was finalized in Year 1 has been used by SAFE to conduct capacity building trainings among SAFE grantees in Year 2.

Civil Society Capacity Building Toolkit

In Quarter 1 of Year 2, SAFE published a Capacity Building Toolkit for use by SAFE grantees. The manual is now being used for capacity building trainings of grantees according to topics they deem necessary.

Oversight by Non-State Actors' Grants

In Year 2, SAFE sent out the general call for applications to the public and received two applications for the Oversight by Non-State Actors grants. SAFE forwarded one of the applicants to USAID for approval—Masindi NGO Forum. The Forum is implementing Non State Actor oversight activities in Masindi district. SAFE will use the completed toolkit to conduct trainings.

Next Steps

In the first quarter of Year 3, SAFE will finalize and print both the Training of Trainers Guide and the Specialized Four Part Training Curriculum.

SAFE will continue to implement Legal Awareness, sensitization and ADR grants through the grantees already approved and new grantees approved within Year 3. SAFE has six grantees in the districts of Amuru, Gulu, Moroto, Kibaale, Kiboga, Masaka and Jinja.

In Year 3, SAFE will roll out the *Toolkit for Oversight by Non-State Actors* for use by grantees in conducting monitoring and oversight activities funded by SAFE

COMPONENT 2: PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

Component 2 facilitates the prevention and transformation of emerging conflicts while addressing old conflicts in partnership with existing civil society networks and local governments to promote peace building and foster social inclusion. Activities target the initial 20 SAFE districts, but have the flexibility to respond to new conflicts in other parts of Uganda. Component 2 objectives are aided through the implementation of grants to two local partners issued under an established Annual Program Statement (APS) grant that provides for the funding of activities on a rolling basis, as well as the funding of rapid-response initiatives that meet emerging needs identified through monthly conflict assessments.

2.1 Emerging Violent Conflict Transformed into Peaceful Outcomes

Lasting peace, stability, and national reconciliation are critical to sustainable socioeconomic development in Uganda. Despite the gains of the past, stability is still precarious and some root causes of instability remain unresolved. In addition, new conflict triggers are emerging and the nature of conflict is continually changing. With large increases in population and commercial oil activity, increased strains are being placed on a public seeking peace and stability.

<i>Expected Results</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved capacity of local actors to respond to conflict drivers in a timely manner• Enhanced public understanding of importance of reconciliation• Increased public awareness of oil activity

During Year 2, the SAFE Program recognized that challenges to sustainable peace, stability and national reconciliation remain. Despite the Program’s initiatives and those of other stakeholders and partners, there is still a need to step up the momentum for conflict prevention and response to latent conflicts.

Year 2 Achievements:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SAFE trained 225 Conflict Monitors in five sub-regions, which reflects major progress compared to Year 1 in which only 14 were trained. These monitors are instrumental in reporting conflict incidents at local or regional level/• SAFE trained 28 radio journalists in conflict-sensitive reporting, introducing conflict transformation models that integrate diverse voices in reporting of conflict and highlight women and youth perspectives.• SAFE executed a conflict sensitive leadership training for 45 leaders from Moroto District as a direct response to the border dispute between Rupa and Katikékile sub counties.• To commemorate International Peace Day on September 21, SAFE sponsored a sports football tournament in Adjumani District between South Sudanese refugees and members of the host community. The objective of the tournament was to use sports as an avenue for peace. The uniqueness of this tournament was that each team included both host communities and refugees as opposed to refugee-only teams against host community-only teams. This unique arrangement was the first of its kind in the region.• SAFE issued a request for applications (RFA) for oil and gas activities. A total of 24 CSOs have applied for the grants to date- three of which are expected to receive grant funding during Quarter 1 of Year 3.

Monthly Conflict Assessments and Conflict Monitor Training

Throughout Year 2, the SAFE program continued to conduct and report on monthly conflict assessments. The SAFE Program has received positive feedback from recipients of the report regarding the quality and usefulness of the monthly conflict assessment reports. The reports have been shared with USAID Uganda and the Conflict Early Warning and Response Unit (CEWERU) of the Ministry of

Internal Affairs. The reports have been distributed to other peacebuilding partners in Uganda including SAFE grantees. As a result of the improved quality and utility of the monthly reports, the SAFE Team has seen an increase in the number of requests from stakeholders who want to be added to the report's mailing list. As part of strengthening the monthly conflict assessments, SAFE continues to provide technical support, coaching and mentoring to conflict monitors.

The Program selected and trained a total of 225 Conflict Monitors from the sub-regions of Bukedi, Kigezi, West Nile, Karamoja and Lango. They report conflict incidents to the SAFE Program for its monthly conflict assessments. Conflict Monitors are community volunteers and are part of a network that informs the monthly conflict assessments.

During the year, SAFE revised and updated the Conflict Monitors' training manual to capture new dimensions based on its experience using the original version developed in June 2013 and the feedback they received. The revised training manual is more user-friendly, presents the conflict categories more logically, and provides clearer guidelines for conflict incident reporting.

Emergency Conflict Assessments

The SAFE Program carried out seven emergency conflict assessments over the course of Year 2. Emergency conflict assessments serve as a precursor to targeted interventions that reduce tensions and mitigate latent conflicts before they turn violent. During the year, most of the conflict incidents that triggered emergency conflict assessments were related to land disputes.

Depending on findings from emergency conflict assessments, the SAFE Program may decide to issue a short-term emergency grant through the Annual Program Statements (APS), which enables SAFE and CSOs to implement interventions in a timely manner. In addition to providing APS grants to select CSOs, SAFE has intervened directly in one the conflict through providing conflict-sensitive leadership training to political leaders in Moroto and Napak districts. SAFE has found this approach to be very helpful because it engages key political leaders, some of whom are involved in fuelling and escalating conflicts-even if inadvertently. This is a model that the SAFE program intends to apply in all conflicts where APS grants are to be issued for the remainder of the life of the program

As a result of the seven emergency conflict assessments, two APS grants were awarded to ACORD Uganda and RICE-West Nile to deal with the conflict involving South Sudan refugees and refugee host communities in West Nile. The SAFE team conducted a one day training in Arua in September 2014. The training sought to help grantees with implementation of APS grants and to review relevant skills and knowledge of USAID SAFE principles. The participating organizations included Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment (RICE-WN) and ACORD in Adjumani. The grantees and radio station staff who will implement the activities on conflict sensitive radio programming in refugee camps attended. The training was well received and participants requested continuous support. The radio station staff appreciated the presentation on conflict sensitive journalism and requested that SAFE conduct a more longer training for additional journalists. Training topics included conflict sensitive reporting on refugee settlement, reviewing project context, and the "Do No Harm" Principle. This training will lead to on-going mentoring for the grantees and radio station staff.

Ownership and Participation of Grassroots Actors

The SAFE Program continued to involve local governments and local communities in the monthly conflict assessments as well as other activities implemented by grantees. Community Development Officers (CDOs), Sub County Chiefs and members of the local community helped Conflict Monitors with verifying conflict incidents.

SAFE, through the Teso initiative for Peace (TIP), implemented 11 discussions on Community Conflict Early Warning Response and Referral Systems in Asuret and Katine Sub counties. The dialogues helped them to map out the nature of conflicts, community response and referral mechanisms. As a result, there was a noticeable improvement in the participation of grassroots actors in mitigating violent conflicts. Earlier in the year, the district speaker of Moroto District contacted the Program about tensions involving a conflict between Rupa and Katikekile Sub Counties. While SAFE's monthly conflict assessments also later established that tension between the two sub counties existed, the local leaders of Moroto demonstrated ownership and participation in the Program's conflict assessments by approaching SAFE to look into the conflict and assess the potential for violence.

The SAFE team also travelled to Bundibugyo District to carry out an emergency analysis of the conflict between the Bamba and the Bakonzo which started with the coronation of the King of Bamba, a section that broke away from the mainstream Tooro Kingdom. In consultation with local stakeholders, including conflict parties, SAFE came up with several recommendations to resolve the conflict, including facilitating dialogues between the conflict parties. SAFE continued to provide technical support to grantees to enhance their capacity to monitor and evaluate the impact of their activities in preventing, mitigating and transforming conflicts. Grantees have continued to help report and/or verify conflict incidents.

Messaging for Peace

SAFE grantees disseminated and distributed peace messages across target districts through banners, billboards, radio spot jingles, T-shirts, caps, calendars and stickers and other materials. Radio talk shows were the most popular platform for peace messaging because the discussion format makes topics more appealing. The *Children's Peace Media Platform*—a radio program implemented by KSCON which promotes children and young people's voices in peace building—also attracted considerable interest among its targeted beneficiaries.

During Year 2, SAFE trained radio journalists in conflict sensitive journalism. Trainings empowered journalists to use radio to promote new conflict transformation models, highlight success stories in peace building and reconciliation, and integrate diverse voices in discussions of conflict including women's perspectives and youth issues. Journalists committed to create a network through which they can share experiences and technical support to build their capacity on peace building journalism. SAFE worked with URN to support the nascent network with its activities. There are now Google and Facebook groups dedicated to *Conflict Sensitive Reporting-Uganda (CSR-U)*, to help journalists share resources and experiences to promote peace building journalism. Although the network primarily targets SAFE Program supported journalists and radio stations, many outside journalists have contacted the administrators of the network to join and participate.

SAFE completed a baseline assessment in six model radio stations (Nenah FM in Moroto, Teso Broadcasting Service in Soroti, Radio Pacis in Arua, Veros FM in Tororo, Rainbow Radio in Nebbi and Radio Kitara FM in Masindi District) in Year 2 to establish the extent to which these stations embed conflict sensitivity in their reporting. Key findings suggest otherwise.

SAFE grantee ACORD has started to develop a documentary film on conflict prevention and management. The documentary covers key milestones and challenges in conflict resolution and reconciliation in northern Uganda, and will capture most of the activities supported by the SAFE Program. During Year 2, SAFE grantees used a variety of approaches to promote peace messages. For example, ACORD executed radio talk shows on land conflicts with complimentary spot messages. The radio talk shows focused on land dispute resolution, a gap that they had found to be a recurring problem. The radio talk show panelists comprised of sub county local leaders, sub county Peace Committees, and the Speaker of Gulu District who all reiterated the need to promote mediation of land

conflicts because of the negative impact on development and harmonious coexistence in northern Uganda. The talk shows also provided an opportunity for listeners to call in and talk with speakers to better understand the role and locations of peace committees.

SAFE grantee, Life Concern (LICO) executed radio talk shows through its weekly radio program — *Peace Education in Secondary Schools*. The radio talk shows featured students from SAFE supported peace clubs who spoke about violence prevention, and how they work with school administrators to avoid strikes and conflicts. It provided an opportunity for youth voices to be heard on issues related to peace and reconciliation. Most of the schools where peace clubs have been established were excited to listen to their colleagues over radio.

In Soroti District, Teso Initiative for Peace (TIP) produced and distributed stickers containing peace messages. The messages were distributed in local communities where people have since placed the messages on their front doors and other public places. In addition, they also executed two radio talk shows on Delta FM. The radio talk shows focused on promotion of peaceful approaches to resolving conflicts. In the Albertine region, KCSON continued to air spot jingles. The jingle calls for harmonious co-existence, intercultural tolerance and acceptance of diversity for development. An additional radio talk show focusing on tribal conflicts in the district was aired at different times. The radio talk shows featured members of the Dispute Resolution Committees (DRC). *Children's Peace Voice*, a weekly SAFE-funded radio program was also aired and featured children talking about the need to promote peaceful co-existence in the district. KCSON also produced and distributed one hundred brochures and one thousand posters, all containing peace messages.

In addition, KCSON established ten peace corners in ten sub counties of Kibaale District. The peace corners provide a platform for people to share messages of peace and contact information of security personnel. The residents and leaders in the sub counties have said favorable things about the peace corners because they not only serve a central point for public information, but also as an avenue for mobilizing the community for various events.

The Uganda Radio Network (URN) has continued to facilitate the development and broadcast of conflict sensitive journalism programs among six partner radio stations in Moroto, Tororo, Masindi, Arua, Nebbi and Kibaale. The production of these programs was helped through the online mentoring and feedback URN received on the *Conflict Sensitive Journalism* Google group mentioned earlier. SAFE will continue to closely collaborate with these radio stations to increase their potential to report fairly and accurately in conflict situations.

Private Sector and Oil and Other Natural Resources

The SAFE Program began implementing oil and gas initiatives in the Albertine region during Year 2. SAFE carried out a series of consultations to better understand the operating context in oil and other natural resource producing areas, with a focus on how local governments and CSOs are fulfilling their mandates. SAFE also wanted to understand how private sector oil companies are involved in public-private cooperation initiatives to mitigate disputes. SAFE organized and held meetings with national and district level stakeholders, oil companies, civil society, cultural leaders and local government officials with the aim of understanding who is currently doing what, where and with whom. This consultation was important for planning and avoiding the duplication of effort and for identifying opportunities for partnership and collaboration.

The meetings also helped to identify the current capacity needs of stakeholders that might apply for activity grants from the SAFE program to implement oil and gas related initiatives. Most stakeholders applauded the planned initiatives which mainly involve production and dissemination of information and

awareness materials; public information and training sessions; public-private roundtables (dialogues); and initiatives that involve local governments, civil society, the media, and the private sector.

In addition, SAFE undertook a capacity assessment to understand the capacity, capacity gaps as well as the capacity building needs of the (predominantly broadcast) media houses in the Albertine region. During the assessment, SAFE team met 30 officials from the media house; 19 of them were males while 11 were females. The 10 major broadcast media houses will be critical partners for SAFE's oil and gas activities and will particularly play a key role during the multi-stakeholder roundtables for oil and gas initiatives by providing a media platform through which issues discussed during the multi-stakeholder roundtables will find space on air and also allow the larger population that may not have participated in the roundtables to contribute to the debates. During Year 3 of the Program, these media houses will receive training in conflict sensitive journalism and reporting, and will collaborate with the three CSO grantees expected to receive grants to implement the multi-stakeholder roundtables.

During the year, SAFE Program issued a request for application (RFA) for CSO partners to apply for grants to implement multi-stakeholder roundtables for oil and gas initiatives in the Albertine region. Altogether, 24 CSOs applied for grants. After an elaborate, multi-stage evaluation and assessment process, six proposals were recommended for further screening. The six applicants were visited in the field, and three are expected to receive the grants in Quarter 1 of Year 3 (October – December 2014).

During the year, the SAFE Program held several meetings with three major private sector companies, i.e. Total E&P, Tullow Oil and CNOOC. The meetings were aimed at obtaining buy-in for SAFE's planned multi-stakeholder roundtables that will require the participation of the oil companies. Also, the meetings explored opportunities for regular interface between SAFE and the three major oil companies. It was agreed that, SAFE would be holding periodic joint meetings with the three oil companies.

Global Rights Alert also organized a one day meeting to discuss the Resettlement Action Plan Report which was prepared by MS Strategic Friends International for the proposed compulsory acquisition of land for an oil refinery in Kabaale Parish, Buseruka Sub County, Hoima District. Global Rights Alert presented a paper on the potential human rights violations and risks inherent in the implementation of the report, and proposed ways to address the gaps identified. Hoima is one of SAFE's target district and oil production is a cross cutting theme in the implementation of all SAFE's activities there. SAFE utilized this meeting to create partnerships with various stakeholders from the districts of Hoima and Kibaale.

2.2 Enhanced Processes for Community Reconciliation

To sustain peace in areas affected by conflict, the program focuses on promoting reconciliation as a peace strategy with a focus on addressing risks of potential conflict. Reconciliation entails restoring relations and mutual respect among individuals and communities that have recently experienced conflict or continue to face conflict.

- | Expected Results |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased tolerance of former combatants and community cohesion• Reduced perceptions of inequality in access to services |

Communities, local networks, organizations, and traditional reconciliation mechanisms need to be included in the activities to further enhance the community reconciliation processes. Significant assistance under this sub-component is currently conducted through the grants program.

Peace Dividends in Conflict affected communities

During the year, SAFE grantee Kibaale Civil Society Network (KCSON) implemented a *Tribal Conflict Management and Peace Building* project in Kibaale District. This project generated peace dividends through building community sanitary and water facilities at three public markets where different conflicting ethnic groups within Kibaale District interact with one another. KCSON constructed a

ventilated pit latrine and shallow well in Kitutu-Matale Sub County in Kibaale District, both of which are strategically located in the Kitutu trading center where feuding tribes in Kibaale District come together. KCSON also established three rubbish pits and bins in Igayaza and Muhoro Markets in Kibaale District which can be used by different ethnic groups. While SAFE provided the funding to purchase printable bins, the local community voluntarily worked on constructing the garbage pits. Construction successfully brought together ethnic rivals—the Banyoro and the Bakiga—who worked alongside one another to build the garbage pits. KCSON also used this as an opportunity to sensitize the two communities about the need for peaceful co-existence and ethnic tolerance. The local leaders and the community members committed to sustaining the facilities. The peace dividend initiatives sought to promote co-existence between the Banyoro and Bakiga, two major ethnic groups that have a history of conflict and violence over land, political power and other scarce resources.

Promotion of Co-existence

SAFE developed a series of case studies on land related services during Year 2 that were included in the Component II's CLV manual. SAFE issued a call for grants to promote the use of scorecards to rate public services related to land and will initiate and pilot the use of score cards by CSOs in Year 3. The scorecard activities will be related to the community perceptions of marginalization and inequality in service delivery. SAFE grantees are currently working with school peace clubs to pilot youth involvement in conflict problem solving in two target districts. Technical assistance to promote community-government dialogue and problem solving on issues of access to land related services is expected to start upon award of the next round of grants. Next year, SAFE also plans to work with grantees to create youth parliaments that further engage youth in problem solving.

SAFE participated in a series of activities commemorating the International Day of Peace on 17 September at the Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala. The International Day of Peace is celebrated around the world on September 21 every year. The theme for 2014 celebrations was “*The Right of Peoples to Peace.*” A dialogue was organised by Isis-WICCE in partnership with the Office of the Prime Minister and Inter-Religious Council of Uganda, under the theme “*The Right of Peoples to Peace: Challenges and Opportunities*”. This dialogue provided an opportunity for SAFE stakeholders to reflect on the critical challenges to sustainable peace in Uganda and build consensus on how to fast track the development of the National Peace Policy. The dialogue was attended by a number of stake holders including Action for Research and Development in Uganda (ACORD), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Land and Equity Movement in Uganda (LEMU), academics, scholars and researchers from Makerere's Department of Peace and Religious Studies, and religious leaders. This dialogue enabled SAFE to appreciate the challenges to sustainable peace in Uganda generally but highlighted the fact that youth and women often bear the greatest burdens during conflict.

Cohesion and Reconciliation in LRA affected Areas

SAFE awarded a grant to the Justice and Reconciliation Project (JRP) to implement the *Bearing Witness: Dealing with the Past to Create a Better Future* project to promote cohesion and reconciliation in Amuru District. JRP held consultation workshops in order to generate an environment that encouraged openness and honesty in order to promote reconciliation. From the workshops, they were able to collect best practices that can be replicated in other LRA affected communities in Year 3. Workshops included truth telling sessions, music events, and sports activities to address cohesion and reconciliation issues in the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) affected areas. Through the *Bearing Witness: Dealing with the Past to Create a Better Future* project, SAFE identified victim groups in Atiak¹ Sub County in Amuru District, and executed several rounds of informal truth telling dialogues. The victim groups included

¹Atiak Sub County was the most affected by the LRA conflict in northern Uganda.

survivors of war, ex combatants, family members of missing persons, or those that remain in LRA captivity.

Also during the year, JRP trained members of the Community Reconciliation team in leading and coordinating truth telling dialogues and in mobilizing local communities. Members of the team were vetted by the local residents based on their integrity and trustworthiness. Truth telling sessions took place in *story telling circles*—a safe platform where victims and survivors of the LRA war shared their experiences during the conflict. Some people prefer to write their experiences while others prefer one-on-one therapeutic discussions. As a result, JRP was able to document and record personal narratives in order to identify key issues that require national truth telling and reconciliation.

Members of victim groups have started to exhibit appreciation for each other's lived experiences and have started working together to promote social cohesion, healing from trauma, and reconciliation. The Program has also learned that truth telling sessions require patience and thoughtful facilitation since group members are still in the process of building trust and confidence among each other and with the facilitators.

SAFE also awarded a grant to ACORD to implement *Supporting Sustainable Community Peace Building Process in Northern Uganda*. During Year 2, ACORD executed a rapid assessment to determine specific target groups and existing peace structures in Pabbo and Amuru Sub counties in Amuru District; and Palaro and Odek Sub Counties in Gulu District prior to establishing peace committees and holding trainings and dialogues in target areas. The Sub County Peace Committees that were formed by ACORD in Palaro and Odek Sub Counties in Gulu District, and Amuru and Pabbo in Amuru District facilitated community peace and reconciliation dialogues that involved a total of 142 participants. In Odek, Amuru and Pabbo Sub counties, the community chose to hold a dialogue on land dispute resolution—while in Palaro Sub County, the community discussed gender based violence, which is currently a common problem there.

AYINET also executed community peace and reconciliation dialogues in Agweng Sub County in Lira District, and Odek Sub county in Gulu District. The dialogues explored barriers to reconciliation in Lango and Acholi sub regions and how youth can help address them. They found that the Langi and Acholi tribes continue to blame one another for the outbreak of the LRA conflict partly because they have a long history of not getting along and stereotyping on both sides is ingrained. Nonetheless, the youth resolved to establish a solution through continued dialogue in order to promote cultural understanding and eventually reconciliation and to promote peace messaging through radio programs. Prior to the dialogues, AYINET had organized youth groups to perform theater or drama as a tool for reconciliation and trauma healing. They also held several sports competitions (netball and volle ball) in Lira Prison.

GLACCR implemented highly visible solidarity events involving youths in Amuru District who competed in traditional dances and music. The purpose of dances and drama were to promote healing and reconciliation through dances, songs and drama that convey messages of peace and reconciliation.

Next Steps

The following major activities are proposed for implementation during Year 3:

- Assisting local governments with the development and implementation of conflict management capacity building plans
- Training grantees in conflict identification and analysis

- Holding media and peace building trainings for practicing journalists and students in their last year of journalism studies
- Conducting trainings for journalists/media on their role in reporting on oil/gas and other natural resource extraction
- Analyzing the capacity of government/ partners to take up the monthly conflict assessment (strategy, risk management plan)
- Training additional Conflict Monitors throughout Uganda
- Delivering trainings to grantees on monitoring and evaluating to better record the impact of their activities in peace building
- Developing Codes of Conduct and a set of election protocols for journalists
- Conducting a full desk review of existing materials on oil and other natural resource development and piloting the distribution of oil development awareness materials
- Holding trainings and information sessions with local government officials about their responsibilities in promoting transparency in the oil and gas sector
- Convening public-private roundtables and discussions in communities affected by oil activity in order to promote dialogue involving citizens, oil companies and government officials
- Reviewing the successes and challenges of traditional mechanisms of reconciliation and trauma healing
- Assessing the use of Score Cards to identify any gaps and need and selecting a CSO to implement the Score Card activity
- Holding a Quarterly Forum to discuss findings from the Score Cards in addition to featuring insights on live radio programs
- Awarding trauma healing grants and delivering trainings on trauma healing techniques
- Supporting solidarity events-with performances by local artists, students, and community leaders to reinforce peace messaging

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Monitoring and Evaluation

Data collection—Data collection activities accounted for a significant portion of the M&E Team's time and effort this year. Given that Grantees were held responsible for collecting and reporting data on the impact and outcomes of their activities- the M&E Team need to focus on reviewing and mentoring them in order to ensure the quality of their reporting . Grantees demonstrated a greater understanding of M&E tools and a better use of them to track results over time. Data was regularly entered into the M&E database and hard copy forms were filed and organized by SAFE staff. Overall, a higher volume of data was collected in Year 2 because the data collection systems were clear and streamlined.

Reporting— SAFE fully complied with USAID requirements on M&E reports and submitted a set of four quarterly and one annual report into the online performance reporting system. SAFE's performance indicators are reported routinely through USAID's online database and have been reduced from 21 last year to 17 in order to reflect the indicators in the current PMP dated September 2014.

Trainings— One of the goals of this year was to improve the operating capacity of grantees-especially in monitoring and evaluation. Grantees were trained on the use and development of data collection tools, data collection methods and data quality, reporting and proposal development. Special focus was placed on streamlining grantees' work plans and using data collection tools including the capacity building tracking form, an output and outcome monitoring table, and paralegal and peace clubs data collection tools. Grantees were able to ask questions and receive immediate answers to critical M&E issues. As a

result, SAFE grantees are more engaged in supporting M&E activities and are comfortable with using the M&E reporting templates and tools.

SAFE also participated in USAID's M&E capacity building training on the Performance Reporting System (PRS) in March. This training equipped implementing partners with skills in developing and managing PMPs and performance reporting. The SAFE COP and the M&E Specialist represented SAFE at the training.

Human Resources— Two new staff members were recruited to contribute to the grants and M&E teams in Year 2. The two staff are able for ensuring data quality and grants compliance.

Grantee Portfolio

To improve their overall efficiency and effectiveness, the grants team developed a new data collection tool '*Pre-Award Assessment Tool*' to enable them to adequately assess the capacity of grantees before award. The tool supported the team with appraising the capacity of prospective grantees in financial management, internal control, and human resource management. The tool helps the Grants Evaluation committee make better decisions before forwarding proposals to AID for approval. In subsequent calls for grants, all grantees will be pre-assessed using this tool.

In response to the influx of South Sudan Refugees into Uganda, SAFE awarded APS Grants covering two Districts of Arua and Adjumani resettlement Camps. These short term grants are intended to reduce existing tension and prospects for violence in areas where refugees are settled. The two organizations who received award are already implementing activities and their achievements will be finalized and reported in the process of implementation.

In Year 2, SAFE awarded grants to twenty organizations (8 supporting access to justice and 12 supporting peace and reconciliation) in Gulu, Lira, Amuru, Nebbi, Moroto, Soroti, Tororo, Kibaale, Jinja, and Masaka .

Communication and Awareness

Success stories— In an effort identify and draft grantees' success stories, SAFE developed and circulated a template for submission of success stories and photographs. SAFE grantees have embraced the template and some have already started submitting success stories using it. So far over ten stories and accompanying photos have been drafted and publicized through SAFE communication platforms.

Capacity Building— In its continued effort to build the communication capacity of its grantees, SAFE has incorporated communication and branding support training in its orientation program for all grantees. The topics of communications training cover branding and marking; success story writing and photography. SAFE anticipates that the training will result in submission of more success stories and photographs that showcase USAID work in addressing conflicts in Uganda. SAFE also continues to provide support to grantees on USAID branding and marking guidelines and requirements. More grantees are now aware of the USAID guidelines and there is a noticeable improvement in terms of grantee compliance.

New Logo—In compliance with guidance provided by USAID's Communication Office, SAFE adopted a new logo and letterhead.

Website—During Year 2, SAFE designed and published a new website layout which not only contains more information but is also expected to act as a one-stop point for all SAFE program related information. The website has been instrumental in providing information about grants applications and general information about the Program. During SAFE's second call for grant applications (April – May

2014), the RFA and all relevant documents were made available electronically through the site. Completed application forms were then submitted through the SAFE grants email. Website updates are on-going. The website can be found at <http://www.safeprogram.ug>. SAFE also has a Twitter account (@usaidSAFE) and a Facebook account (www.facebook.com/usaidSAFE).

Interns—In June, SAFE recruited two interns from Makerere University School of Computing and Information Sciences. The interns Brian Matovu and Catherine Nakayenga (both third year students) helped edit and update SAFE's communication e-platforms. Within their first five days of work, the interns had reactivated the SAFE twitter account and established a Facebook page for the program. Brian Matovu has also helped with redesigning the website.

Quarterly Magazine —SAFE published first issue its quarterly magazine in July 2014 to further advertise success stories and project updates. The 16-page full color magazine was mostly circulated as an electronic newsletter; a limited number (100) of hard copies, however, was also produced and circulated to district-based partners. The magazine offers an opportunity for SAFE and its partners to highlight achievements, lessons learnt and best practices and to share these with different stakeholders for shared learning and adaptation. SAFE is already in the process of producing the second volume of its quarterly magazine which will be circulated at the end of October 2014.

CROSS-CUTTING PRINCIPLES

Gender

SAFE has continued to adopt a gender sensitive approach. There has been a remarkable increase in the ratio of women participating in the project activities during year 2. For example out of the 368 clients who received legal aid services in Quarter 4, 159 are women and 209 are male accounting for 43.2:56.7 ratio of women to men. There is a wide gap in the ratios but it is impressive because the society's across which the grantees operate are patrilineal hence most of the land cases are reported by men. (This applies to most customary land) The topics covered during all trainings, legal awareness and sensitizations were inclusive of aspects that deal with protection of land rights of women. There was also an impressive increase in the number of women who attended the sensitizations from Quarter 3 to Quarter 4 (ratio of 47.6 to 52.5 women to men in Quarter 3 compared to 43.6 to 56.4 in Quarter 4.

In addition, out of seven hundred and twenty four (724) people that were trained in conflict prevention and transformation, one hundred and eighty seven (187) were women. This is lower than should be, but is a good step, especially because most of the trainees are based at grassroots level where women's participation in peace processes is extremely low, unrecognized/unreported or non-existent

The involvement of both men and women is essential to reinforcing women's land rights. The increased number of women attending sensitization sessions empowers women with knowledge to demand their rights when a violation occurs. There is also gradual appreciation of the role of women in peace building

Youth

During Year 2, SAFE engaged youth in all of its program activities. For example, there was a remarkable increase in the ratio of young people benefiting from community sensitization sessions in Quarters 3 and 4 . Out of the 5360 participants, 2165 were youth.

Youth participants (both male and female) are being directly targeted for planned Conflict Mapping exercises. Out of the 45 expected Focus Group Discussions, ten will involve youth participants exclusively. Each of these focus groups will involve ten female participants, and ten male participants.

Donor and Stakeholder Coordination

All SAFE activities are implemented in a manner that promotes participation, stakeholder dialogue and sustainability. The SAFE staff leverage existing relationships with local stakeholders and donor counterparts to ensure activities are inclusive, avoid duplication and promote sustainability. During Year 2, SAFE has had close coordination and collaboration with several GOU Ministries and donors.

District Meetings— SAFE attended the first quarterly district operational plan (DOP) meeting in Amuru in May. The objectives of the meeting are to align USAID programs with DOPs; eliminate duplication among USAID IPs; improve collaboration and communication with Local Government; strengthen USAID and district coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities with the district; and provide feedback on USAID performance by district. At all meetings SAFE presents program updates.

SAFE has participated in all DOP meetings with the exception of two meetings in Gulu and Lira. SAFE acknowledges the importance of district participation in these kinds of feedback meetings and will remain committed in participating actively to ensure good relation with partners at the district. SAFE also has held meetings with the Gulu District Community Development Officer to introduce the SAFE Gulu based Mobile Coordinator. The officer promised to work with SAFE's Mobile Coordinator to share information on matters regarding community development.

In Quarters 3 and 4, SAFE travelled to every district in which SAFE's components are working to introduce the Program and to promote the Program's grant component.

Meeting with USAID GAPP— The Civil Society Specialist initiated a meeting with the Civil Society and Private Sector Advisors of GAPP. The purpose of the meeting was to understand how GAPP is currently engaging civil society organizations, achievements to-date and how SAFE and GAPP can work together to improve the capacity of civil society organizations.

Grantees meeting: SAFE conducted a quarterly reflection meeting with all grantees in Soroti district. 45 participants attended from grantee organizations. Grantees shared their experiences in terms of achievements, challenges and lessons learned. SAFE was also able to share feedback with grantees and provide tips on how to improve their reporting. SAFE was glad to have the USAID COR attend and his contributions were much appreciated. SAFE will conduct quarterly reflection meetings to enable grantees keep on track as far as implementation is concerned.

USAID portfolio review meeting in Lira and Oyam, August 18-21— The USAID's Democracy Rights and Governance portfolio field review took place from August 18-21, 2014. The Democracy, Rights and Governance team focused on Lira/Oyam for geographic comparison and the need to examine how the activities contribute to cross-cutting results. It was important to observe synergies between GAPP and SAFE and the overall sustainability of activities. The visit was also an opportunity to highlight the work of sub grantees.

Meetings with the Northern Uganda Land Platform (NULP)—The meetings were held in Quarters 2,3, and 4. NULP is a loose coalition that brings together both national and international CSOs and individuals with an interest in land issues across Karamoja, Acholi and Lango sub regions. The NULP meetings are organized and chaired by Trocaire Uganda and are held on a quarterly basis. During Quarter 3, participants discussed a policy brief on the Certificate of Customary Ownership (CCO). Participants also discussed both administrative and technical issues with implementing CCOs. The representatives from the Ministry of Lands- Ms. Naomi Kabenda and Mr. Richard Opio- advised the partners to prepare and submit a paper outlining challenges to the Ministry for comments. Challenges will be reexamined at the forthcoming NULP meeting in October. The meeting in Quarter 4 drew participants from a cross section of NGOs, financial institutions, and mining companies (Post Bank, Rakai Resources Ltd). Stakeholders discussed lessons learned from the issuance of certificates of customary ownership in Kasese district, the simmering contentions in Karamoja related to extraction of minerals. The discussions enabled for comparative appreciation of the challenges experienced by the ALC and DLB in Kasese and the 20 districts where SAFE operates. Findings shared in this meeting have been helpful to SAFE as it drafts strategies to implement AIPs.

Gender Mainstreaming Audit Report Validation— Legal Aid Service Providers Network (LASPNET) organized a one day meeting to discuss the results of a peer review of LASPNET'S report on gender mainstreaming and how to implement the report's recommendations. The forum was used to agree on strategies to incorporate plans to ensure that both men and women equally benefit from programs being implemented by the network. LASPNET is a membership organization composed of legal aid service providers some of whom are SAFE grantees.

Meeting with the Office of the Prime Minister—SAFE attended a meeting at the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) that was jointly initiated by SAFE, IRC and CECORE to consult the OPM on whether there is already an existing peace-building forum that brings together all peace actors to share their experiences. Commissioner Rose Bwenvu represented the OPM along with the Kumakech-Program Officer for Disaster Management. During the meeting it was established that the OPM is currently hosting a National Platform

on Peace building that is government led. Commissioner Bwenvu agreed that CSOs were still free to create a separate peace-building platform that is open to a wider entwork since the one at the OPM is open to only a few pre-selected members. Upon invitation by the OPM, SAFE helped draft a paper on Peace Building and Conflict Prevention (PBCP), and advised on the harmonization of peace activities in preparation for International Peace Day.

PROGRAM CHALLENGES

The program has experienced continued delays in executing the AIPs. These delays were partly due to the Minstry of Land's continued postponing of the MOU signing ceremony. The Ministry was also delayed in providing input to the legal reference and training resources developed by SAFE including the Land Rights Handbook and Trainer's Guide. In trying to mitigate these delays, SAFE disseminated copies of the Handbook for use by grantees. Future revisions will incorporate any input the Ministry may have. SAFE continues to remain in constant contact with staff there. In May, SAFE also met with the Assistant Commissioner for Land Administration at the MLHUD to provide her with program progress and updates. SAFE has also continued to engage with the Ministry's Land Officer and Secretary to Kampala City Authority Land Board for comments to the reference materials.

Data gaps in the baseline assessment impacted the development of the SAFE Program's PMP. These gaps were resolved in the beginning of Year 2 through the use of additional survey instruments.

SAFE also plans to finalize discussions with USAID on creating an emergency fund to award quick impact grants in response to emerging violent conflicts.

ANNEXES

Annex: Success Stories

Rise above hate

Night Acheng was 14 in 1997 when the LRA rebels were led to her home in Baradege, Unyama sub county in Gulu district by a neighbor (Ochan) who was equally an abductee who himself had been forced to join LRA ranks like many other young children. The rebels came to Acheng's home and ordered Night to kill her mother. The rebels sexually abused Night and abducted her. Night lived in captivity for twelve years. Ochan died in an ambush two years later. Night returned home and the family conflict between the two families



Night Acheng sharing experiences with her peers during the leadership and peace building training.

and community members intensified. Night was filled with hatred and vengeance against Ochan's family. In her own words, "I will never rest till one of you dies like my mother." The family of Ochan was isolated and demeaned by the surrounding community. People blamed them for the violence caused to Night's family and did not allow them to participate in any community events. "We referred to them as killers and rapist," Night reported.

Night, now 33, is one of the 30 youth who benefited from AYINET's five day training in leadership and peace building in March 2014, in Gulu district. Participants included 14 females and 16 males. The project hopes to accomplish trainings and community dialogues that will benefit at least 11,581 youth who have grown up in areas affected by war in Northern Uganda. AYINET's

campaign is called "**Youth Leadership for Peace.**"

The AYINET training helped Night understand and returned home as a peacemaker and bridge builder. Night mobilized her community and family members to exercise forgiveness to each other. Night regretted her hatred and negative attitude toward Ochan's family. Representative from Ochan's family equally knelt, and in tears apologized on behalf of Ochan's actions. Since then, peace has prevailed and Night's family and community now live in harmony with Ochan's family. Night formed a group whose members are involved in peace building. They sensitize communities, and train the former abductees on peaceful measures to resolve conflict, the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Night's story is important because it focuses on efforts towards livelihood and other socio-economic and other recovery development



Night listening attentively during the training

programs that are urgently required by the entire Northern Uganda. We hope that the spirit of healing and reconciliation will motivate people to come forward, acknowledge their errors and the suffering it caused and ask for forgiveness.

The story is important as a historical reference point that would emphasize non repeat of these gruesome human brutalities by humans against their own. Night's story helps in overcoming the deeply embedded ethnic distrust within northern Uganda, and her story helps the people of northern Uganda to understand reconciliation as a process, which needs deeper understanding of peace building, leadership, and conflict resolution.

Nobody knows my story – how an informal truth-telling process in Atiak is providing an opportunity for survivors of conflict to speak out

Since 2006, Timothy (not his real name) has kept the truth hidden. In 1997, he was abducted by Lord's Resistance Army rebels and forced to participate in mass killings, as well as witness numerous atrocities. Since he returned he has never registered as a formerly-abducted person for any government or NGO program in his community in Atiak sub-county, Amuru District. During a truth-telling dialogue held in late July in a parish in Atiak, Timothy chose to speak out for the first time. Not speaking out, he says, is the result of the high levels of stigma and discrimination that are still levelled towards the formerly abducted.

“There is corruption involved. Some leaders have diverted money meant for formerly-abducted persons to construct their own houses. They can call for [us] to come for registration but afterwards they start stigmatising you. Worse still, when someone gets married to a returnee, and by chance they happen to argue, you will hear comments like ‘it is the evil spirits that is influencing such a person to be violent,’”

Since the beginning of 2014, the Justice and Reconciliation Project, with the support of USAID SAFE, has implemented a project entitled *Bearing Witness – Dealing with the past to create a better future*, in Atiak sub-county to address challenges like this. Through a combination of story-telling circles and informal truth-telling dialogues, persons ranging from the formerly-abducted, to families of the missing, to massacre survivors, are able to tell their stories for the first time. During the process, participants are encouraged to speak out about their experiences during the conflict either in public or privately where appropriate.

Atiak was chosen because of the lingering effects of both the lengthy conflict in northern Uganda, as well as a massacre in 1995 when 300 civilian men and boys were shot as women and children watched in horror. In the aftermath of the massacre, aid organisations poured in to provide material support for the survivors of the massacre who had their movement restricted in makeshift camps while being forcibly recruited into government forces.¹ Since then, the effect of this massacre and the decades of conflict are still felt in this community. Ongoing trauma, stigma, identity challenges for children born in captivity, and the reintegration of former combatants are all still being reported.

By engaging with communities through informal truth-telling process, people like Timothy, who have experienced trauma, are given an opportunity to begin the process of healing for the first time. It also provides for the preservation of conflict memories. Because the project will conclude with action points being provided to local peace structures, local leaders and the community, the challenges that conflict-affected communities face will find avenues for redress. Timothy summed up his feelings:

“All in all life is more precious than worldly things so if you can find a way of sensitizing people, that would be very good as this is a general problem affecting most people in the community. If possible, you people should start fighting the negative attitudes that people in the community have towards formerly abducted persons because it really sounds bad.”

Moses Maka, 52, is a happy man. But unlike most people, Mr. Maka is not just happy for himself but for his community of Namasingiri village, Kisasi parish, Busedde sub-county, Jinja District where he is the local

council one chairperson. Mr. Maka's happiness stems from the fact that as a result of USAID SAFE supported legal aid clinics and sensitization, land-related conflicts in his area have significantly reduced and that people are now more willing to amicably resolve any land-related disputes using available local mechanisms.

Mr. Maka says his village used to experienced incessant land-related conflicts pitting neighbors, spouses and children and relatives upon the death of parents. Some of these mostly violent conflicts would even result in death.

"In the past we would record an average of five land cases a month, now we receive on average only one or sometimes no land related case at all," said Mr. Maka. "As a local council one chairman I now have less work compared to the past when I used to be on standby for almost 24 hours a day responding to conflicts."

Busedde sub-county, a rural area with a history of land wrangles is one of the two sub-counties in Jinja district that are benefiting from the USAID SAFE supported project, implemented by the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, titled **"Improving Access to Justice in Land Matters for Vulnerable, Poor and Marginalized Persons in Uganda"** with the overall goal of promoting sustainable access to justice



Maka speaking during a focus group interview with the SAFE team

for poor, vulnerable and marginalized persons in Uganda. The objectives are being realized through a number of activities including, trainings for local leaders, legal rights awareness sessions for the public, legal aid camps, legal representation, radio talk shows and help-line assistance. The other areas benefiting from the project are Walukuba-Masese also in Jinja district and the two sub-counties of Kyanamukaka and Buwunga in Masaka district.

Mr. Maka says the USAID supported intervention has saved his community from the costly and time-wasting court processes. "Court cases sometimes take up to five years or more. But with the education we have got now through this project when there is a land wrangle we sit down

as the executive, call the conflicting parties, hear their grievances and if it is a boundary conflict we fix the boundaries in the presence of the Bataka and then reconcile the parties."

Mr Maka's satisfaction is shared by Jane Kezala Nabirye, the local council one chairperson of Nainaibiri village, who says that as a result of USAID SAFE supported free legal aid clinics, people are in her area have started drafting wills.

"The Basoga are generally superstitious. Many of them believe that if you write a will then you shorten your life on earth," said Nabirye. "But ever since we started receiving education about the advantages of making wills and the contents of a will many people are now embracing writing of wills. I have personally witnessed four wills in the last two months"

Ms. Nabirye believes that with proper executed wills people will be able to better plan for their families and minimize property wrangles after their demise.

Another Radio Station Joins Three Others to Increase Reach of "Voices for Peace" in Northern Uganda

It is a few minutes to 7pm on Tuesday evening, two presenters Patrick Achaye and Kevin Aloyo are in the studios of Acholi Broadcasting Services (ABS FM 87.6). The duo adjust their headphones and Patrick Achaye, in elegant Acholi, speaks out: "Dear listeners welcome to *Voices for Peace* radio programme. In today's issue we discuss channels available for peacefully resolving land conflicts in northern Uganda."

Since February 2014, *Voices for Peace*, a conflict sensitive and insightful 20-25 minute radio program produced by the Northern Uganda Media Club (NUMEC) with support from USAID- SAFE has been broadcasting on radio stations in northern Uganda.

The feature format, high quality and analytical program broadcasts twice a month in Luo and English reaching audiences in Gulu, Amuru and Lira districts- the area covered by the project- but also other parts of northern Uganda.

Voices for Peace aims at disseminating information on peace and offers a platform for locals, experts and leaders to discuss peace building within the context of post conflict northern Uganda. which continues to experience conflicts over land and gender based violence, among others.

The program initially aired on three radio stations. But three months into broadcast, NUMEC was contacted by a fourth radio station, ABS FM 87.6, which offered to broadcast the program even when it did not have an official partnership with NUMEC.

Justine Oryema, a veteran journalist, media manager and proprietor of ABS FM explains why his radio picked up interest in *Voices for Peace*.

“The professionalism of the program, the issues addressed and how they are presented is what attracted me to *Voices for Peace*,” said Oryema who has 15 years experience in the media.

Oryema also says *Voices for Peace* tackles issues that interest the kind of audience that his radio targets.

“The recording is done deep in villages and rural people with little access to radio programming have the opportunity to say matters that affect them and that is what we aim to achieve at ABS.”

The coming on board of ABS FM, bringing to four the number of radios broadcasting *Voices for Peace*, means an increase in reach of the messages broadcast to local communities faced with conflicts and emerging conflicts.

A survey conducted by the research firm Ipsos indicates that Mega FM, one of the NUMEC partner radios controls 32% of the audience in the Acholi sub region and reaches 88% of the Acholi sub region. Radio Wa in Lira is also an industry leader in the Lango region while Speak FM in Gulu has a sizeable listenership among women.

Records from the radios that broadcast *Voices for Peace* show that on average six callers call into the program every time it broadcasts.

“The number of call-ins is an indication that the program focuses on issues that affect the lives of the people,” said Jane Acola who presents *Voices for Peace* on Radio Wa.

Preparing episodes of the program involves analyzing conflict trends in Gulu, Lira and Amuru districts. Reporters then travel to the locations where these conflicts are to interview and get the views of locals. Social workers, academics, lawyers, peace builders and transitional justice experts are later interviewed to provide expert opinion and analysis.

Because of the quality of the programming and the fact that *Voices for Peace* focuses on only issues around peace and emerging conflicts, it has interested local leaders. One of them is Douglas Peter Okello, the Gulu District Council Speaker.

“I am an ardent follower of your radio program and I like the way people call in to make their views. The views they make help us as leaders to make decisions,” Okello said.

Listeners also appreciate the radio program. Bongomin from Koro Sub County in Gulu said; “I appreciate what NUMEC and ABS is doing to air out and allow people talk about what is affecting them.”

Voices for Peace integrates other activities like the community dialogue meetings to discuss peace conflict resolution and peace building in their communities.

Northern Uganda remains largely peaceful and radio remains the most predominant means of communication. It is through this mass-reach of radio that *Voices for Peace* hopes to promote a culture of peace in northern Uganda.

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