

SOUTH SUDAN
ETHNIC RECONCILIATION
COMMISSION for HARMONIZATION

SSERCH



Objectives

- SSERCH is a track II, inclusive, and locally-based informal consultation and mediation project.
- Main objective: to persuade ethnic groups to prevent violent conflict by adopting peaceful dialogue as the only path to sustainable peace, safety, national cohesion and prosperity

Pre-project Risk Assessment

- Establishing Baseline Data in target communities and neighbouring communities
 - Incidents of inter-ethnic violence
 - Number of ethnic disputes resolved peacefully
 - Number of violent conflicts and casualties
 - Number of national and foreign personnel operating in a military capacity
 - Foreign investment

Project Description

- Beneficiaries
 - Ethnic groups in South Sudan
- Time frame
 - 3 years
- Location
 - This project will be implemented in Warrap (capital: Kuajok), Unity (capital: Bentiu), and Lakes (capital: Rumbek) where ethnic tensions are latent.

Project Description

- DFAIT will spearhead the SSERCH project.
 - DFAIT already supports multiple projects in South Sudan as a key agency in the South Sudan Task Force.
 - This project aligns DFAIT's strategic outcome to conduct diplomacy and advocacy to advise Canadian interests and values, including the promotion of peace, freedom, democratic governance, human rights and the rule of law.
- Two agencies will implement the project:
 - The Canadian International Institute of Applied Negotiation (CIIAN)
 - Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping (UCP)
- Implementing agencies will partner with local organizations.

Benefits to Stakeholders

- Benefits to Canada
 - Increasing the impact of current Canadian projects and investments
 - Strengthening political relations
 - Developing greater economic opportunities for trade and investment
- International Community
 - Peacefully settling ethnic disputes will contribute to national and regional peace and security.
 - Decreasing the likelihood of violent conflict will allow the international community to shift their focus and investments to economic and social development.

Benefits to Stakeholders

- Neighbouring States
 - Increased regional peace and security, particularly along borders
 - More stable environment for trade
- Government of South Sudan
 - Increased public confidence
 - National cohesion
- Ethnic groups
 - Established processes for peaceful resolution of disputes

Implementation Plan

- **Phase 1:** Design inter-ethnic reconciliation workshops
- Engage individuals and groups through informal consultation, particularly the leaders of ethnic groups, women and youth
 - Identify Causes/Triggers of Conflicts
 - Define Consequences of Violent Conflicts
 - Identify positive/negative/cyclical impact of conflict
 - Establish areas of common agreement and disagreement
 - Develop a framework for the reconciliation workshops

Implementation Plan

- **Phase 2:** Holding inter-ethnic reconciliation workshops (involving tribal chiefs, women, youth)
 - Discuss the findings from phase 1
 - Highlight multiple common benefits of interethnic collaboration
 - Develop solutions to the conflicts mapped in phase 1
 - Operationalize project goals by planning reconciliation activities

Implementation Plan

Implementing Agency (IA)	Project Phase and year	IA Role Percent	Comments
CIIAN	1	90 %	
UCP	1	10%	UCP will provide support but mainly learn the ropes of conflict prevention
CIIAN	2	50%	In preparation for hand over
UCP	2	50%	In preparation for take over
CIIAN	3	25%	Retaining Oversight Role
UCP	3	75%	Preparing for complete takeover of project by end year 3

Project Monitoring

- Measurement indicators
 - Number of ethnic groups engaged in the SSERCH process
 - Total number of ethnic disputes
 - Number of ethnic disputes resolved peacefully
 - Number of violent conflicts and casualties
 - Number of national and foreign personnel operating in a military capacity
 - Foreign investment

Evaluation and Performance

- Establish control and treatment groups (statistically equated) for evaluation
- **Short-term (end of 3 years) Goals**
 - Significant decrease in incidents of inter-ethnic violent conflict
 - Increased economic activity
- **Long-term Goals**
 - Indigenous capacity to spearhead the SSERCH project
 - Increased levels of inter-ethnic commerce



SSERCH Follow-on Activities

- Train officers to monitor ethnic relations
- Communicate with local organizations on the progress to date of the SSERCH project
- Establish a national inter-ethnic institute for reconciliation and harmonization