

The Civil Peace Service in Ethiopia

Improving Land and Resource Management through Dialogue

The challenge

The current Ethiopian population of more than 100 million people is composed of 80 different ethnic groups. The different ethnic groups vary in culture, language and religion. Different lifestyles and livelihoods result in diverse use of land and resources. Population growth has put pressure on available land and resources, resulting in the need to intensify rural land productivity and increase the efficiency of the use of natural resources. These factors, in combination with the inconsistency of the formal and informal land laws, climate change, ethnic differences along regional and administrative units and demarcation have made land and resource conflicts a common challenge in Ethiopia.

Project name	Promoting dialogue on trust-based land and resource management in the Oromia Region, Ethiopia
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Oromia, Ethiopia
Lead executing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Partners	Ministry of Peace Oromia Bureau of Administration and Security Oromia Pastoralist Association Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus
Duration	01.2018 – 12.2021
Budget	EUR 3.55 million

Our goals

The programme aims to promote trust-based relationships between different communities, traditional authorities, government institutions and NGO's. The aim is to create a basis

for non-violent conflict resolution and the processing of land and resource based conflicts through dialogue.

Dialogue processes enable stakeholders to develop solutions that are both mutually acceptable and workable for all the parties involved. The stakeholders retain control of the dialogue outcomes and are generated through the dialogue process. CPS, with the help of its partners, aims to:

1. Create inclusive and participative dialogue structures
2. Develop methods of conflict sensitive land and resource management through dialogue.
3. Generate good practice of trust-based, non-violent conflict transformation of land and resource conflicts.

Special attention is given to involving women and youth and address their specific needs to ensure dialogue structures are genuinely inclusive. Good Practice will be documented through monitoring and evaluation with the longer-term aim of replicating this in other regions.

Our approach

Oromia is Ethiopia's largest federal region. It borders seven out of eight Ethiopian regions and has an international border with Kenya and South Sudan. Its central geographic location within Ethiopia makes it ideal for the development of good practice that can be adapted for other regions of the country in the future.

Land and natural resources are almost the only source of livelihood in rural Ethiopia. As a result, **land and resource-based conflicts** have devastating effects on the individual and community levels and are at our focus in Ethiopia.

Dialogue is a process that deepens mutual understanding and builds trust by enabling diverse stakeholders to engage in meaningful exchange on difficult issues. Dialogue can result





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in action to address the causes of conflict and generate joint conflict prevention strategies.

The programme focusses on **three conflict settings**. The interventions have been selected and designed in view of the available CPS resources and to maximise their positive and transferable impact.

CPS works with national and international peace experts to support partner organisations in the process of **capacity building**; a CPS core competency.

CPS plans and implements its programme in cooperation with local partner organisations. These organisations are respected and trusted by communities. They provide entry points for CPS to the local context, and ensure the sustainability of joint efforts.

Our 3 conflict settings

Guji and Koore in Gelana, Suro Barguda and Amaro Woreda:

There is an ongoing conflict on land and water access between the Guji and the Koore communities. The situation is complicated by questions on the demarcation of administrative boundaries between Oromia and SNNP regions. This brings up questions on legitimate areas for human settlement and ownership. The conflict has been going on for decades, with an increase in intensity over the last years, leading to road closures, cattle rustling, killings and IDP's.

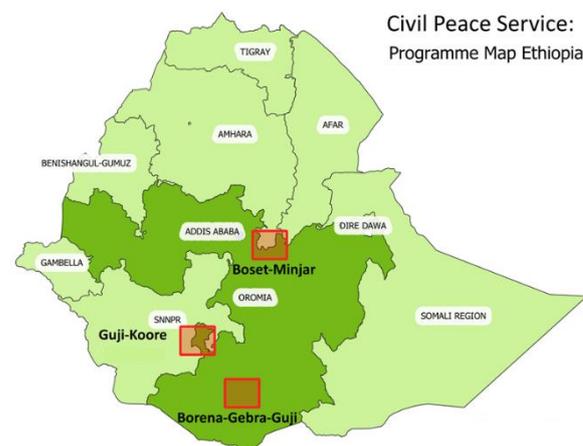
Boset-Fentale Woredas and Minjar Shenkora Woreda:

North-east of Adama, communities living in the border zones between the Oromia and Amhara regions are in conflict around access, use and ownership of agricultural land, grazing land, forest and waterpoints. Questions related to administrative boundary demarcation between the two regions contributes to ongoing conflict with competing claims and counterclaims between communities.

The Borena, Guji and Gebra Clans: These pastoralist communities of the Borena Zone, located in the south of Ethiopia and on the Northern Kenyan border, have strong socio-cultural, economic and historical ties with each other. However, inter- and intra-clan conflicts take place due to competition over access to and use of pasture (grass) and water points.

Our impact

1. Through establishing a participatory and inclusive conflict analysis, CPS, its partner organisations and target groups develop a common understanding of conflict issues. This is a precondition for a successful and non-violent transformation of the identified conflicts.
2. CPS partner organisations and members of target groups are trained in non-violent conflict transformation and facilitation of dialogue processes. People and communities in CPS's intervention areas benefit from these measures by being enabled to deal with conflicts in a non-violent way.
3. Members of CPS, partner organisations and target groups are trained as AVP facilitators (Alternatives to Violence project) and function as multipliers in their respective contexts and communities.
4. Inclusive and participatory dialogue mechanisms are in place. Joint peace committees are established on both community and inter-community level. These structures, which consist of up to 100 community members, are used to address common conflict issues, to prevent arising conflicts from escalating and to find non-violent solutions.
5. The role of women in the peace building process has been strengthened and women peace fora have been established in all three CPS intervention areas.



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Programme Map Ethiopia

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