

Overview of Generations For Peace Sport For Peace For Youth Programme in Juba, South Sudan

In partnership with Inti Raymi Fund (IRF), GFP trained 20 programme volunteers and continues to mentor and support them. The trained volunteers have run a series of ongoing GFP Sport For Peace in Juba's Area 107 with their youth from Hai Referendum and Mangateen. The programme is now on a Pre-Participatory Evaluation pause. The Programme has been addressing existing inter-tribal conflict, aiming to improve the relationship among and between youth from the Dinka and Nuer tribes by providing a common ground for them to interact and build greater trust. The outcome and impact evidence to be collected in the participatory evaluation will show the extent of changes in communication with each other, interactions with each other better and the changes in exchanges between parents, siblings on issues the community is faced with. 180 female and male students (age 12-16) directly benefitted as participants and approximately 2,500 members of their wider community.

Sport For Peace Training

The Training of twenty selected Delegates was successfully conducted over five days comprising of 35 hours of interactive sessions and learning in January 2016. Trainees were introduced to the conflict transformation theory; conflict analysis; facilitation in conflict contexts; Sport For Peace programme design and implementation; participatory monitoring and evaluation; volunteers mobilisation and management; and 3X3 Basketball and other sport-based games.

After the training, the volunteers conducted several visits to the local leaders and stakeholders and held meetings to introduce the programme. The local leaders showed considerable interest in the programme and readiness to support the team in selecting the participants and implementation of the ongoing activities. Two Advocacy for Peace Events in 107 Area in Juba were conducted on 27 and 28 February 2016 where more than 800 members of both communities, Dinka and Nuer, were engaged in the ADPEs with the potential reach to more than 1000 members. The programme reached out to

the wider community as well as begun creating a connection with the local community to build GFP credibility, attract their interest to partake in the programme and commence the selection of participants.

The Paramount Chief, Jama Ngoun Deng of the Nuer community is cheering up in Support for Generations for Peace South Sudan Sports for Peace Programme.

The ongoing weekly sessions with 180 participants commenced in March. The participants were divided into smaller groups of 30 to ensure that every participant receives enough attention by the team and gets the chance to participate in the activities as well as share their reflection at the end of each session.

“Generations for peace has changed my life forever!” said this young handsome boy. “My brother was killed during the 2013 crisis that erupted in South Sudan, since then I decided to take revenge and wanted to become a warlord such that I kill those who took my brother's life! But thanks to Generations for Peace Sport For Peace programme in South Sudan. This program has brought us together with the very children of people who killed my brother. To my surprise, I found another boy playing with me in my team from the other tribe who killed my brother, to my surprise this boy told me that he lost his brother too during the same tribal war that took my brother's life. Since then we decided to become peace builders. I have now changed my plans and would like to become a medical Doctor to treat people who are hurting and my friend said he would like to become an engineer to build bridges that will connect people. Thanks to Generations for Peace organisation for introducing this amazing programme that has changed our lives for peace forever.

The advocacy for Peace Event (ADPE) held in December 2016, aimed to commemorate the UNSC Resolution # 2250 was also meant to highlight the significant achievements of the programme through weekly sessions that were still ongoing. Also, the event created an opportunity for volunteers and participants to share the accomplishments of the programme with the local community leaders of both Dinka and Nuer and the community members.

The event was hosted in Area 107 to establish a significant presence in within all the communities in 107 and build strong links with the local grassroots community and to the larger South Sudanese public through wide media coverage.

The event attended by 21 volunteers, more than 140 programme participants from both Dinka and Nuer was widely attended by the community leaders, Church and Muslim leaders, youth leaders, school teachers and members of the community who included parents, relatives and friends of the programme participants. Among the attendance was Lt. General Agustino Maduot Parek, President of Juba Basketball Association and representative of the Government, was the Guest of Honour along with the Paramount Chief of the community of 107. The programme participants shared songs for peace, performed dramas with powerful messages and told touching stories during the event.

In this role play, some children acted as rebel soldiers, others as South Sudan Government soldiers. The message was, “Why do brothers kill their own brothers? Why destroy human life and property throwing the whole country of South Sudan into abyss, misery and abject poverty with no schools, no hospital and no food? WHY??”

A plea to South Sudan people to forgive each other and usher in a process of forgiveness, truth, healing and reconciliation as the only and only viable means for peace and prosperity in South Sudan.

After the successful ADPE event in December and after a long vacation, the activities resumed in February 2017. The main observation during the sessions was children’s enthusiasm to meet their colleagues in the other community to play and have fun together. However, due to the long absence because of the severe arms conflict that erupted in Juba, the July 8 and 9 Juba armed conflict, the attendance of the participants was modest during the first session. 80% of the participants of Hai referendum residential area and 50 % of the participants from Hai Mangateen attended the first session to resume the programme.

“Many of us could not imagine that just in one year, participants from Dinka and Nuer Tribal group could work together in a harmonious manner.” We have also observed that a good number of members of the Dinka and Nuer local community, who living near 107, are now coming to watch their children play. For example, when I asked one of the Nuer Young men who was curiously watching the participants play, about how he feels watching these kids play together for peace? He said that it wouldn’t have been in my wildest dream to think that Nuer and Dinka children in 107 can really play together in such a peaceful manner, given the conflict that erupted in 2013 and 2016 that has ripped- apart the social fabric between Dinka and Nuer tribes in 107. He concluded with a broad smile “thanks to the GFP/SSD who has made this dream possible”. He said, of course there are some skeptics from both tribe who would want to spoil this process of reconciliation, healing and peaceful coexistence that started to happen in our communities-but all need to work for peace as it is the only viable solution to the problems of South Sudan.” Paul Wel, GFP Pioneer.

Quotes

“In many ways, I feel that joining the GFP program has completely changed the way of my thinking as well as my perception about Dinka people. While I was in Bentiu, where we used to live, the area was heavily shelled during the conflict of 2013. As my father told that those who are shelling us are Dinkas from the Government and that their intention is to kill all the Nuers. So I thought that Dinkas were my enemy number one. As a result of me joining the GFP/SSD programme I was instructed that Dinkas are not my enemies. They are equally the victims of this war. However, with time that I spent in GFP programme I came to know many children from Dinka and they are now my best friends. Thanks to GFP that has brought us together with Dinka kids who are very excellent people.” Madit Kai Ponk

“As of now, my relations with Nuer participants has really improved a lot. I can say that there is now a mutual trust between me and the Nuer participants. I am now able to confidently talk with the Nuers in the programme without fear or hatred. I also hope my mother will also change

her false perception about them. I am happy to receive a lot of support now, my teachers and friends tell me that I am a good speaker. They say that I am an eloquent English speaker and have been at the top of my class.” (Athieng Phillip Makuac)

“We the participants have now realised that we are brothers and sisters since there is a great respect and sense of common togetherness” (Overall Participants’ feedback during sessions)

The objectives can certainly be achieved with continued activities of this program. Through this sport for peace ongoing activities 80% of both participant from Mangateen and Hai Referendum107 areas have realised similarity and fully changed from violent behavior to the desirable and good behavior of peace and cooperation.

These children from Nuer and Dinka communities in Mangateen and Hai Referendum in 107, the area much affected by the conflict in 2013 and 2016 are telling the leaders of South Sudan, “Please make peace as your priority. We are tired of war, no more war”

Generations for Peace in partnership with Inti Raymi Fund will turn 107 area to be a model for peace and reconciliation in South Sudan.