

Upper West Region Inter-ethnic Conflict Fact Sheet

Context

The Lambussie and Nandom districts in the Upper West Region of Ghana are not only separated by administrative boundaries, but also by inter-ethnic tensions. These two communities are made up of Sisaalas and Dagaras (respectively), two ethnic groups that speak different languages, and their history is fraught with tension and bad blood.

Indicators of Potentially Violent Conflict

Such tensions have given way to disputes over land boundaries and land ownership between individuals of the two communities and ethnic groups, leading to a loss of lives and property, contributing to food insecurity and a lack of development in the two districts, and resulting in a lack of inter-community and inter-ethnic relations.

Locally Defined Strategies and/or Activities

The Nandom Youth for Peace and Development (NYPAD), a local peace committee that emerged through the support and encouragement of the PPP, convened two actor meetings: one in Lambussie with Sisaalas, and another in Nandom with Dagaras. More than 150 people from the two communities were involved in the meetings, including chiefs, elders, land custodians, queen mothers, women, assembly members, and youth. The focus of the day-long meetings was to identify the causes of conflict between the two districts as well as strategies to resolve these conflicts and ensure sustained peace.

Impact

As a result of the two actor meetings, community members agreed to respect each other and engage in peaceful relations. To date, community members have attended each other's local festivals (in Lambussie and Nandom), and participated in and supported friendly football matches between the youth of the two districts. Reports from monitoring visits in May 2016 indicate that these efforts have contributed to increased and improved relations between the ethnic groups and specifically between leaders and the youth of the two districts.