



Sauti Moja Marsabit : Widows of Conflict; Women for Peace

Transformed women
transforming communities

Peace-Making using a Community Livestock Bank Approach

The Peace CLB was set up to provide livestock to vulnerable women with young children. These widows are from communities in conflict.

This pilot project used livestock banking combined with peace activities as a catalyst for peace-making.



*The peace project outline recommended by the
Peace Building & Development Institute of American University*

1. Analyze the Operating Environment

Conduct learning and discovery interviews to inform the process.

2. Identify & Select Target groups

Selection and identification of target group.

3. Key intervention(s)

What is the overall strategy for achieving the project goal?

4. Activities (Formal / Informal)

What are the key activities proposed under the key intervention?

5. Results – Indicator(s) of Peace

What is primary evidence that peace was achieved? What is the end state?

Peace Project Planning



Investigate and Learn:

- history of conflict from different perspectives
- key problems that need to be addressed
- underlying cause of these problems
- how these problems contribute to the conflict

1. Analyze Operating Environment

Discovery Meetings

- Stated who we are and our interest in peace building between the Borana and Rendille
- Indicated that we value learning from their past peace building initiatives.
 - What peace activities are taking place?
 - What were the best practices and challenges?
- Assessed interest in future sharing on peace initiatives.





Selected Rendille and Borana widowed mothers living in extreme poverty, and had lost both their husbands and livestock at the hands of the other tribe.

2. Identify and Select Target Groups

10 Rendille



10 Borana



**Widows of Conflict live within
5 km of each other.**

Beneficiary Criteria



The usual criteria for becoming a CLB member was retained.

For the Peace CLB, widows must have lost their husband or child, as well as livestock, home, and/or farm due to the conflict.

The picture shows Leyai IDP camp.

- What is Peace?
- When was there peace? What is different now?
- How important is peace to you? What is more important than peace? Why?
- Is peace good for your children, and why?
- What has this conflict cost you? How have you and your children suffered?
- Can women make peace? What could you do to help make a peaceful community for you and your children?
- Are you willing to become a leader among women to help make peace? Are you willing to travel to other tribal areas with other like-minded women to represent your tribe in peace activities?

Interviewed candidates for participation in peace initiative.

The responses not only identified widows willing to engage in peace, but fed into the development of the process. We learned what factors might divide and what factors might unite the widows.



Livestock banking is the catalyst and the women are the agents of peace.

3. Implementation of Key Intervention - Community Livestock Bank (CLB)



- Peace Initiation Day
- Peace Meetings
- Family Health Training
- Animal Husbandry Training
- Peace Ambassadors

4. a) Engage in Peace Building Activities – Formal (planned activities)

Peace Initiation Day



Peace Initiation Day brought together the 20 Borana and Rendille widows with community elders, as well as political and religious leaders for a ceremony to mark the beginning of this landmark Peace CLB.

Rendille widow

Borana widow



Speakers represented the whole community.

**Representative of
District Commissioner**

Muslim religious leader



**Speakers confirmed the peace initiative
would be supported by the whole
community.**

Young peace activist

Advocate for women



Speakers brought a variety of perspectives.



Created the language of peace through process of:

- Forgiveness
- Repentances
- Confession
- Reconciliation
- Creating resiliency
- Building trust

This achieves positive interaction with a vision to create lasting relationships.

Peace Meetings



Addressed health and well-being:

- Child Health
- Family Planning
- STD Prevention
- HIV/AIDS Prevention
- One-on-one counseling
- Medical support as needed

Family Health Training



Livelihood support:

- Livestock management
- Vet Med distribution and training in application
- Continued monitoring of livestock health
- Providing additional support as needed during times of drought

Animal Husbandry Training



- Giving personal testimonies
- Performing dramas
- Dancing and singing songs
- Speaking and performing at local schools, chiefs' meetings, women's meetings
- Speaking and performing at churches and mosques
- Developing further symbols of peace such as sharing of milk

Ambassadors for Peace

Performing songs and dances of peace for students.



Feeding one another as a symbol of peace.



Peace Ambassadors Present



- Peace Gardens
- Visiting during times of illness or births
- Exchanging Gifts
- Attending naming ceremonies

4. b) Peace Building Activities – Informal (unplanned activities)



Showing the strength of relationship by visiting during times of child birth or illness.



Exchanging gifts demonstrates that they care and think about one another.



Primary indicator of peace:

Pass-on of livestock to the other tribe

Picture shows a Borana widow holding her kid that will be passed-on to a Rendille widow.

5. Results – Indicator of Peace



Members of the CLB select the new of beneficiaries for livestock to be passed-on. These new women receive female offspring that women give to pay off their original loans.

Pictured here is a young widow preparing to pay off her loan to a selected widow.

Beneficiaries Selected for Pass-on



When an adequate number of offspring were ready for pass-on to new beneficiaries, a community event was held to celebrate this act of reconciliation.

Time to Pass-on for Peace



Thank you

Sauti Moja Community, Canadian Food Grains Bank,
and Evangelical Relief and Development Organization