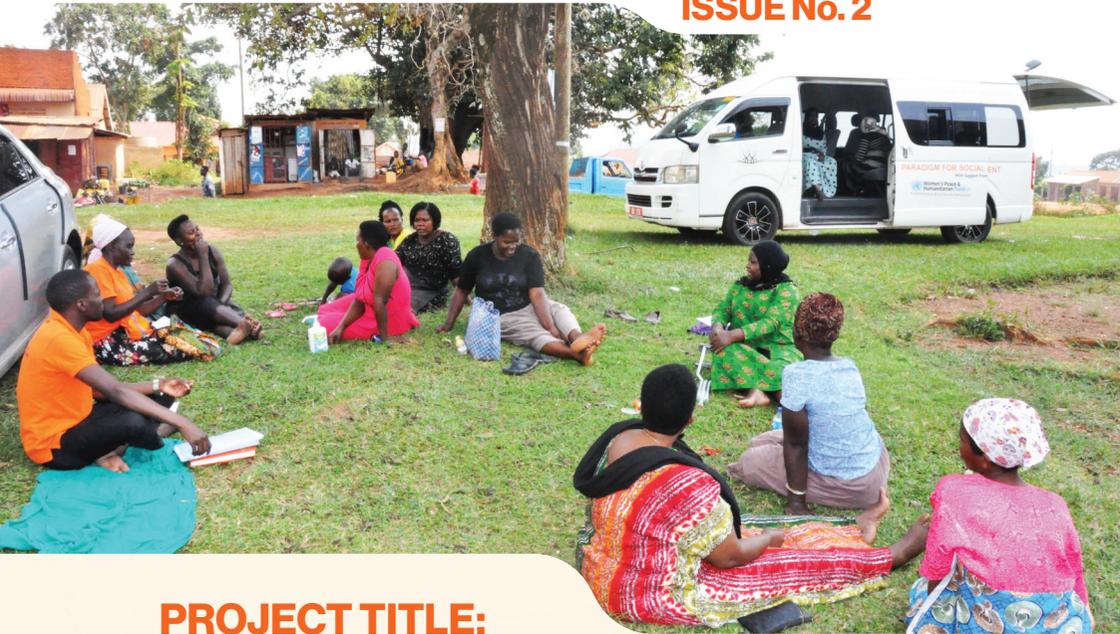




PSD SUCCESS STORIES

ISSUE No.2



PROJECT TITLE:
**EMPOWERING WOMEN TO PROMOTE
PEACEFUL AND EQUAL SOCIETIES IN
WAKISO DISTRICT**

With Support From



**Women's Peace &
Humanitarian Fund** 

A United Nations & Civil Society Partnership



Word from the Executive Director

Despite the historical exclusion of women from negotiating tables and security apparatuses, the evidence of women's contributions to conflict prevention and resolution is growing. Several empirical analyses confirm that women offer unique, substantive, and measurable contributions to securing and keeping peace. Evidence shows that security efforts are more successful and sustainable when women contribute to prevention and early warning, peacemaking, peacekeeping, and post-conflict resolution and rebuilding.



Research suggests that women can improve the efficacy of conflict prevention and early warning strategies. Women's central roles in many families and communities afford them a unique vantage point to recognize unusual patterns of behavior and signs of impending conflict.



To this end, including women at the peace table can increase the likelihood of reaching an agreement because women are often viewed as honest brokers by negotiating parties. Women's inclusion in peace talks not only advances the likelihood of achieving a resolution but also contributes to the sustainability of an agreement, partly because women are more likely to raise social issues in negotiations that help societies reconcile and recover.

The UN Security Council launched its landmark Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), with the aim of protecting women during conflict and strengthening their peacebuilding agency. The UNSCR 1325 has many goals, but focuses on mainly two points: addressing the problems women face as victims or survivors of war, and promoting women as agents of peace.

The UNSCR 1325 is an attempt to illuminate the often invisible, informal, and unrecognized role that women and girls play in preventing and resolving conflict, from peace activism to day-

to-day interfamily and intercommunity mediation and reconciliation. It is an attempt to seize the opportunity and empower women at the moment in which crises and transitions have thrust them into new, unconventional roles, to bring women's voices forward, and to reap the benefits of inclusiveness and diversity in settings and processes that are almost exclusively male dominated.

Since 2000, tremendous progress has been made in supporting women's inclusion and leadership in peace negotiations and post-war peacebuilding efforts, recognizing their diverse aspirations for conflict transformation – as mothers, caretakers, victims, politicians, experts, activists, or combatants. Many UN member states have developed comprehensive National Action Plans to implement the WPS objectives, notably by enhancing women's participation in formal peace processes and promoting gender-inclusive outcomes.



Today, more attention has been directed towards protecting women and girls than towards promoting their role in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and post-conflict recovery and peace-building. This is because when women are explicitly included in the peace building and post-conflict recovery, the consequences for human development are more immediate: more children in school, children better fed, houses repaired, and healthier families

Priority is rarely given to developing women's individual and collective capacity to address these conflicts and to build stable, peaceful and democratic institutions in the Horn of Africa. Women generally remain absent from policy dialogue with government on critical issues for peace and security that have fundamental gender dimensions and implications for sustainable stability.

In conclusion, despite Uganda having an enabling legal and policy framework with programmes and institutional mechanisms in place to support the implementation of its laws and policies, there are still wide gender inequalities in all aspects of national development; reflected through negative cultural norms and religious values, unequal power relations between men and women, barriers to accessing land ownership, unequal marriage relations, and unequal access to education which undermine women's ability to participate effectively in leadership and decision-making processes.



Asanda Zurah,
Executive Director

All conflicts are inclined to peaceful resolution



Women in a meeting discussing resolution of conflicts in Kyengera Town council

A number of conflicts result in the community with differing nature and the conflicting parties always try to settle their differences in the best way possible they think so. However, this is not always the case, as some parties, despite the interventions, fail to settle their differences. Arguments and misunderstandings are common in the home and the

community where the causes vary. This was not different for a cohabiting couple in Nabweru division who had twins of tender years and were doing well financially and living peacefully. However, sometime in June 2021, a fire broke out and destroyed their house leaving them homeless and without any properties.

The devastated couple agreed that Nalongo temporarily stays with some of her relatives as Ssalongo gets back to his feet. The couple further agreed that the man will continue providing for his family at the relative's place where Nalongo will be staying. After 3 months, Nalongo had not heard from Ssalongo despite the various attempts to locate him and request for maintenance. The children were always sick and Nalongo's relative was financially constrained and could not sustain the family. Nalongo decided to look for the father of her children and she was surprised when she found out that Ssalongo had remarried and was doing just fine.

Nalongo reported the matter to the local chairperson but despite the numerous invites to a meeting, Ssalongo didn't attend any. Nalongo heard about a member of the WPG in her area sensitizing a community group about GBV prevention and thus approached her after the awareness session. Nalongo narrated her ordeal which by this time she was being housed by a good Samaritan as her relative had kicked her out of the home. The WPG member first approached Ssalongo and had a meeting with him prior to the mediation. This was intended to get better acquainted with the facts of both parties and also to understand the best course of action that will resolve the conflict.

In conflict resolution, mediation and dialogue are always the first attempts in resolving a conflict to temporarily bring the parties to a cease fire but does not remove the root cause of the conflict. Therefore, the WPG member agreed with the parties on the date and place of mediation and invited them for a mediation.

During the mediation, the parties agreed that Ssalongo rents for Nalongo and his children before end of the month and gives her some startup capital for her business so that she can take care of herself and the children.

After the month, the WPG member followed up on the matter and found out that Ssalongo had not honored the terms as it was agreed. The matter was referred to Police at the Child Family and Protection Unit where the parties were invited to a reconciliation meeting. In the meeting, the Police officer ordered Ssalongo to fulfill the terms that had been agreed upon during the mediation with the WPG member. It was later reported by the WPG member that Ssalongo had rented a place for Nalongo who was now operating a food stall and was doing well.

Annotation

Conflicts are part of our daily life and it is human and normal for people to have misunderstanding and arguments because of the differences in interests, values, power status, beliefs



among others. Parties handle such misunderstandings differently, some decide to keep to themselves, others seek for intervention or advice from another or others who may be relatives or community leaders while others confront the other party. Inadequate resources and neglect to provide has been one of the root causes of family conflicts in the community.

Virtually every conflict situation has two key elements requiring careful attention: 1) the issue, and 2) the relationship.

Avoiding conflicts is not a lasting solution



Busiro North PCs and WPGs in the quarterly meeting sharing their experience in resolution of conflicts

Due to COVID 19 pandemic, the household incomes reduced following the job losses and closure of small businesses, many people returned to farming and other jobs to survive the crisis. With high rates of unemployment and inequality, conflicts

increased in the home and the community. Therefore, when schools reopened in January 2022, many parents were not financially prepared to pay for the school fees and requirements. Fathers had abandoned their families and some children had been deported to the villages to live with the grandparents.

Conflicts relating to failure or refusal to pay school fees and buy school requirements were rampant during the period. In Nabweru division, Namuga and Gilbert had been a couple for 4 years and had one child. The couple was renting and both had jobs that contributed to their income. Namugga was working in a restaurant while Gilbert was doing some odd jobs but he was earning enough to sustain the home.

In 2021, Gilbert lost his job and it was only Namuga contributing to the family income. The couple often had discussions regarding education of their child. However, with Gilbert's current situation, any discussion regarding school of their daughter sparked off arguments in the home. When

schools officially opened, Gilbert had refused to pay or commit to pay for their child's school fees. Namuga got her child into school and paid all the dues. Unfortunately, instead of Gilbert being grateful, he constantly started fights with Namuga claiming that she was earning a lot of money and was not spending on him yet he used to provide for the family when he had the money.

Namuga and Gilbert constantly fought and later Namuga accused Gilbert of stealing money from her. Namuga, fed up with the situation, left the home and rented a house for herself and the daughter. However, this did not resolve the conflict between the parties as Gilbert continuously attacked and assaulted Namuga at her home and workplace. The Police intervened in the matter and Gilbert stopped harassing Namuga. Namuga heard a radio program by the Peace Coordinator sensitizing on the rights and responsibilities of children. She then approached the Peace Coordinator and requested for her intervention. The Peace Coordinator notified the WPG member who invited both parties to a mediation and

during the mediation, it was agreed that both parties share responsibility of the child. Each party's contribution was also agreed on. The parties were to share the child's school fees commencing second term.

Annotation

Many probation officers, Child Family and Protection Unit Officers and other community leaders received a number of cases regarding men failing/refusing to pay school fees for their children. Some went ahead to dissembling their families. Hundreds of learners were reported to be stuck in homes with no fees or even money to buy school requirements. Peace Coordinators and WPGs received cases where women claimed that their husbands abandoned the family during the lockdown and failed to send any support for the children to return to school. Some parents had disagreements relating to change in schools as women wanted to transfer their children to private schools and men wanted government schools.

Some men claimed that they lost jobs during the prolonged lockdown and they were unable to pay fees for children while others neglected their families over domestic violence. PSD resorted to sensitization of the community members to ensure that they return all children to school.

“Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding.” — Albert Einstein



Vendors selling their goods alongside a busy road

The roadside markets and stalls have become a hub of employment for many residents in Gombe division. Many have stalls where they sell different commodities; some produce from their gardens like green vegetables, matooke, maize, chicken and food stuff to road users. In Matugga, a conflict broke out between Nagawa and Musisi regarding food stalls

alongside the road. Nagawa and Musisi both have stalls along the road where they sell different commodities. Nagawa sells Chips and Musisi sells popcorn. One afternoon, as the WPG member was passing by, she overheard them arguing over the spot where they put their tables to sell their commodities.

She approached them and found out that Musisi had put his table in Nagawa's spot which had sparked off the argument. It was also found out that these two constantly fight over space for their tables and this was not the first time. The WPG member had a dialogue with both parties and they agreed to involve her in resolving their conflict.

Together with other people who sell along the road side, they discussed on what to do. The WPG member sensitized them on the repercussions of their conflict had they fought, and also the fact that they'd lose their business. It was agreed that Musisi goes back to his spot and make peace with Nagawa. The WPG member followed up in the evening and saw that Musisi went back to his spot.

Annotation

Peace building includes any activity that is aimed at resolving any injustice using nonviolent ways. It seeks to address the underlying causes of conflict, helping people to resolve their differences peacefully and laying the foundations to prevent any or future violence. Peace building looks at understanding and dealing with why people are fighting in the first place, and finding ways of moving things forward. Simply stopping fighting is not the same as transforming conflict and putting a permanent end to violence. Patience and persistent work to find creative solutions to conflict is needed to build sustainable peace.

Conflicts within the family are critical and often damaging when not addressed



Children are a blessing but a number of conflicts have ensued relating to children; may be their custody, maintenance, disciplining or paternity.

Max and Samatha were in a relationship and later decided to stay together as a couple. After a few months, Samatha found out that she was having a baby. Samatha excitedly informed Max about the pregnancy. He then asked whether she was

going to keep the baby because he claimed not to be ready to be a father and Max insisted and he didn't have a stable income to take care of both Samatha and their unborn child. This sparked off constant arguments and conflicts in the home.

Samatha who was not getting any financial or moral support from Max after some weeks terminated the pregnancy. However, she did not inform Max about this fact. Max and Samatha's relationship had broken down and Samatha was having an affair with another man. In her extra affairs, Samatha conceived and the man responsible for the pregnancy committed to take care of her and the child. Samatha was still staying with Max in the same home. Max thought that Samatha did not terminate the pregnancy and had resolved to take care of her and their unborn child. On this premise, Samatha did not leave Max's home even knowing that Max was being misled. Max paid all the expenses incurred in maintenance of the pregnancy and child birth.

It was later found out during the mediation that Samatha was getting money from both Max and the child's father. So, when

Samatha gave birth, just a few months after, the biological father wanted Samatha to stay with him and their child. Samatha informed Max that the child was not his and she wanted to end their relationship. She then left his house and went to live with the father of the child. Max approached the WPG member to intervene in the matter.

The WPG first had a dialogue with Samatha who narrated her story and informed them that the child was not Max's. Max was informed of this matter and Samatha also agreed to inform Max about the fact that she had terminated his pregnancy and a meeting was held where Samatha told Max the truth and apologized to him. At first, Max was bitter and demanded compensation for the monies spent on maintaining Samatha during her pregnancy and after birth. A number of meetings were held and later Max painfully accepted the truth, forgave Samatha and parted ways. In resolution of this conflict, the WPG involved the chairperson, area councilor and Health worker who intervened in the matter.

Annotation

Conflict resolution is a process of managing a conflict and negotiating a solution. Negotiation is a communication process for enabling disputing parties to achieve an outcome with respect to their differences. In conflict resolution, there is need to identify the positions of all parties through listening to each party's position and summarize it to their satisfaction. This helps the disputing parties to clarify their often-confused positions. It is also important that before mediating the parties the mediator advises both parties to seek for forgiveness if they are in wrong to avoid escalating anger of the aggrieved party while defending oneself.

In resolving WPGs, first investigate the conflict where they obtain information from the disputing parties themselves, community leaders and the people that know about the conflict. Some conflicts are resolved after various meetings and mediations are held with the conflicting parties.

Keeping your family together is an extraordinary feat - especially in the face of great conflict. - DeVon Franklin



Carol and Henry, a cohabiting couple in Kakiri had been in a relationship for more than a year. They were staying together but had no child. Henry continuously blamed Carol for her failure to give him a child. This issue sparked off arguments and disagreements in their home blaming each other for

barrenness and impotence. The two continuously fought and a number of cases had been reported at the office of the area chairperson and Police.

One time Carol and Henry fought and Carol got injured. When she was at a health facility, she met one of the members of the WPG who is a VHT and informed her about her situation. The WPG member involved the whole group who agreed to involve the Woman councilor, LCI chairperson in presence of some family members to resolve the conflict.

In the meeting, the family members and those that had attended the meeting gave their experience in regard to when they had their first child. The conflicting parties had been previously advised to seek medical intervention which they did and none had a problem. They were thus advised to be patient. Unfortunately, Henry informed the WPGs that when they went back home, Carol packed her belongings and left the home.

A few months passed when Carol had left, Henry found another woman whom he legally married. Carol later on came

back to Henry's home to harvest matooke which she had planted during her stay with Henry. Henry's wife denied Carol access to the house and garden. She pleaded with Henry to allow her harvest the matooke but he also refused to let her in his home.

Carol then reported to the WPG member that she had been denied access to her banana plantation. The WPG member advised Carol to go back to her home as she finds more about the matter. The WPG member found out that Carol had abused Henry's wife and the two had a heated argument and almost fought. It was the neighbors that had intervened and prevented the two from fighting. She also found out that Carol had planted the banana plantation before she separated with Henry.

The WPG met with Henry and his wife who insisted that they will not allow Carol to harvest the matooke. However, they agreed to resolve the matter through mediation and the LCI chairperson and church leaders were invited to attend. In the meeting, Henry agreed to compensate Carol a sum of shs.

100,000/= because he had the workers who cleared the garden and planted the bananas. It was further agreed that Carol was to stay away from Henry's home and garden. Carol was paid the money which she accepted and when the WPG followed up on the parties, Henry informed her that they had not had any issues with Carol since the mediation.

Annotation

Humans are imperfect communicators and this imperfection generates conflict. It is even harder for individuals to communicate about complex matters, particularly under emotionally difficult circumstances. Conflict often escalates because people assume that they have communicated accurately when they have not. Many factors contribute to communication problems: culture, gender, age, class, environment among others. When communicating, people rely on inaccurate or incomplete perceptions, formed stereotypes, and conclusions drawn from former interactions or experiences.

In attempting to negotiate or mediate a conflict, space must be created for the disputants to communicate more effectively and clarify previous failures in communication. Parties in conflict – ideally aided by the mediator, must endeavor to listen more carefully, and consequently understand each other.

There's a lot of conflict and darkness inside everybody's family.



Violence at home has forced many children run to the streets (photo by Abubaker Lubowa)

Conny a resident of Kakiri in Wakiso district is a mother to Jeff aged 16 years. Conny had separated with Jeff's father when Jeff was still an infant and Conny had custody of her son. She was maintaining her child with little support from the father. Jeff's father fell ill and was unable to support Conny and Jeff

financially. Conny was struggling to raise Jeff on her own and she contacted her sister Joan to allow her send her son to stay with her, which Joan accepted.

Joan's husband is a bricklayer who makes a comfortable living out of laying bricks. Conny wanted Jeff to learn how to lay bricks so that he could support himself. Joan and her husband welcomed Jeff to their home and promised to send him to a day school so that he could lay bricks after school. Jeff started schooling and, in the evenings, as well as over the weekends, he would lay bricks.

Unfortunately, before schools were closed during the first lockdown, Jeff was sent back home from school for defaulting to pay fees. His aunt Joan and uncle had not paid school fees for him as promised. While he was staying at home, Jeff did all the house chores and continued with bricklaying but was not paid any money for the bricks. Jeff later ran away from his aunt's home into the streets. Joan and the husband did not bother to look for Jeff nor did they inform Conny that Jeff was

no longer staying with them. A friend of Jeff who worked with him when bricklaying saw him on the streets and he was concerned about his well-being. When he reported to Jeff's aunt and uncle where he had seen Jeff, they told him it was none of his business and that he should not interfere. Jeff's friend knew Conny and he decided to inform her about her son.

Conny went to her sister's home and inquired about the whereabouts of her son. Joan informed her that Jeff had refused to attend school and he had run away from their home. Conny reported the matter at the local chairperson's and it's when she found out that Jeff had been sent away from school for defaulting school fees and had run away from home because of the way he was being treated.

Conny confronted Joan regarding this matter and this sparked off an argument between the two. These two fought and Conny was advised to leave Joan's home and first locate his son. Conny with Jeff's friend located Jeff and took him back home. However, Conny wanted Joan and her husband to compensate

Jeff for the bricks laid. Conny called Joan and demanded compensation for the bricks laid but she claimed that Jeff was learning how to do the work at a free cost. This angered Conny and reported the matter to the LC1 chairperson's office. The Chairperson requested the WPG to intervene in the matter and resolve the conflict.

The Kakiri WPG invited Joan, Joan's husband, Jeff and Conny for a mediation. Since the conflicting parties stay in different villages, they agreed to meet in a neutral place and each party was to bear his/her own transport costs. During the mediation, it was agreed that Jeff is paid a sum of shs. 600,000/= for the bricks he had laid. The WPG followed up on the matter and found out that Jeff was paid the amount as agreed during the mediation.

Annotation

Conflicts may occur as a result of an emotional reaction to a situation or interaction that signals a disagreement of some kind. What people do to express their feelings, articulate their

perceptions, and get their needs met in a way that has a potential of interfering with someone else's ability to get his or her needs met. Conflict therefore is a belief or understanding that one's own needs, interests, wants or values are incompatible with another's. Needs, interests, wants or values are in most cases the causes of conflict in the community.

Conflict resolution is met to find shared values, especially those that support collaborative efforts and provide ways for people to address values directly and express beliefs affirmatively. The conflict resolution process can also create a space for the parties to accept the structural elements that are unlikely to be changed so they can address the conflict more constructively

Women are more affected when conflicts breakout and not involved in peaceful resolution.



Conflicting parties attending a meeting to resolve conflicts

In Masuuliita Sub County, there is a couple that has been cohabiting for 19 years. Nalubulwa and Matovu have six children and their eldest is a boy of 14 years and the youngest a girl aged 5 years. The couple had been having financial constraints and the situation was worsened by the lockdown imposed by the government after the outbreak of COVID

pandemic. A year before the pandemic, Nalubulwa was solely providing for the family.

During the pandemic, Nalubulwa continued maintaining the home with income from her retail shop but with little and sometimes no financial support from Matovu. However, when schools opened, Matovu refused to pay school fees for their children yet one was in Primary Seven. The couple had agreed that Matovu will be responsible for paying school fees and Nalubulwa will provide the family with other basic needs especially food and clothing. Matovu was paying the school fees as agreed but eventually stopped. Nalubulwa heard the Peace Coordinator sensitizing about children rights and responsibilities and approached her for intervention.

The Peace Coordinator met with Matovu first who informed her that they had a good relationship and were doing well until when Matovu was fired from his well-paying job. Nalubulwa had a shop and was not doing bad financially. When Matovu got another job, it was not well paying as his first job and was

unable to meet all the family needs. He requested his wife that the children change schools from the expensive private school to relatively cheap schools which he could afford but Nalubulwa refused.

Matovu stated that Nalubulwa started denying him food and frequently insulted him for reasons he wasn't even aware of. The children connived with their mother against him and thus stopped paying their school fees. He said that whenever he told them to do anything for him, they would report to their mother and they would be advised not to do whatever he instructed them to do.

The Peace Coordinator requested Nalubulwa for her permission to invite the woman councilor and the LCI chairperson to intervene in their conflict which she agreed to. Mediation was conducted where the couple narrated their sides of the story. Both parties were able to discover what had hurt the other and influenced the conflict between the two. The children had also taken sides and the home was run by two

different parties. Each party stated everything that he/she was not comfortable with and also suggested what he/she expected from the other. The Peace Coordinator talked to the couple about how the conflict had affected them and the impact it has on their family, specifically on the well-being of their children. The couple was advised to compromise and put their differences aside for a peaceful home. Both parties agreed to put the children in schools they will afford and Matovu agreed to pay school fees for all his children.

It was agreed that another meeting is held at the couple's home with their children present. The meeting was intended to resolve any issues between the children and their parents. After the mediation, the Peace Coordinator followed up and found out that Matovu had sold two of his goats and paid school fees for the children.

Annotation

Where there are interpersonal conflicts, each conflicting party thinks that the other is in wrong yet none admits to be wrong.

Conflicts occur when as a result of an emotional reaction to a situation or interaction that signals a disagreement of some kind. What parties do to express their feelings, articulate their perceptions, and get their needs met in a way that has the potential of interfering with someone else's ability to get his or her needs met sometimes leads to conflicts.

The above conflict clearly indicates that conflict may manifest itself in actions taken to express feelings, articulate perceptions, and get needs met in a way that has the potential of interfering with someone else's ability to get his/her needs met. This conflict behavior may be destructive or violent or may be conciliatory, constructive, and friendly. Whether the nature of the action is positive or negative, the purpose of the conflict behavior is either to express the conflict or to get one's needs met.

Conflict is inevitable but violence is optional



When conflict root causes are not resolved, people tend to take justice into their hands ((Artwork courtesy of Vincent Kyabayinze).

Jane is a widow with 4 children all minors residing in Masuuliita Sub County, Wakiso district. During the lockdown, motorcycles

were the available means of transport at the time and Jane who had saved some money decided to purchase a motorcycle. Peter a resident in her village expressed interest to ride the motorcycle. Jane hired Peter to ride the motorcycle and had to pay a daily fee.

Peter did his work effectively and fulfilled all the terms agreed upon. After several months with Peter as his employee, a group of community members came to Jane's home dragging her motorcycle and chicken accusing her of stealing chicken with Peter. The mob stormed her house in anguish and were blaming her for conspiring with Peter to steal their chicken in the village. As commotion started building up, Jane's neighbor rushed and called the Peace coordinator to intervene.

The Peace Coordinator notified the LCI chairperson and the defense secretary to intervene in resolution of the conflict. During the mediation, the community members claimed that Jane and the Peter were allies in stealing from them. Jane was informed that Peter was stealing people's chicken in the village

and selling them in other villages. On the fateful day, Peter was spotted by a group of community members stealing a hen, who started chasing after him. On seeing the mob approach, Peter ran away leaving the motorcycle behind and the chicken he had stolen. Some community members knew that Jane owned the motorcycle thus ceasing it and storming her home. Jane stated that she had no idea what Peter was doing let alone stealing chicken from their village.

Jane expressed regret for the troubles caused by Peter and committed to aid them to search for his whereabouts so that he would pay for his crimes. The community members then handed over the motorcycle to its owner after hearing her side of the story. The secretary for defense got information about Peter from Jane and began a search to find him. The commotion was handled and violence was prevented.

Annotation

Sometimes the Peace Coordinator work with the community leaders to reduce the conflict. This allows disputing parties to settle the conflict, that is, agree to eliminate destructive behavior as well as negative attitudes and feelings toward each other. This settlement may not be an agreement that resolves all the differences but one that enables the disputing parties to go forward with an understanding of their differences and mutual respect for one another.

Conflict reduction allows the parties to clarify misunderstandings and facilitate movement from a focus on the past to a focus on the future. The purpose is to enable all parties have a clear and mutual understanding of each other's views. If the difference involves beliefs that are intangible, success is achieved when there is a mutual understanding. If the differences are tangible (needs), success is achieved when the parties agree to negotiate and arrive at a mutually satisfying solution

Family conflicts are normal and healthy but their peaceful resolution is what matters most.



WPG member engaged the religious and local leaders in resolution of conflicts in her community

In Kambe, Kakiri sub-county, two brothers and two sisters constructed a family house in the village which was mostly used for family reunions and meetings. All four siblings had families and were not living in the village and had no one to stay and maintain the home. They agreed to contract a person

to caretake their house and garden. Through referrals, they met Mary whom they decided with the terms of the engagement which were later reduced down in writing in the presence of the LCI chairperson. Mary was contracted to caretake for a period of two years which period would be terminated or renewed.

Eight months passed and Mary started selling the household properties claiming that her employers had not paid her for the past six months. When the employers found out, they served her with a month's notice terminating her services. Mary decided to report to the Police who summoned the family members for a reconciliation meeting. The LCI chairperson was invited together with the Peace coordinator to take part in the reconciliation meeting.

It was agreed in the meeting that Mary be paid her arrears totaling to Ugx 1,000,000 before she vacates the house. It was further agreed that the money shall be paid within two weeks from the date of the mediation. Another date was agreed on for

the second meeting where the employers were to pay Mary her money.

In the second meeting, Mary was paid the sum of one million shillings, she acknowledged receipt and signed her termination letter. Mary was given 1 week to vacate the premises which she did and handed the house keys to the chairperson.

Annotation

When people or groups are in conflict, they are dealing with different and sometimes contradictory which make people in conflict appear to behave irrationally. Stopping the behavioral aspect of conflict does not necessarily mean the conflict is resolved. Dealing with all dimensions of the conflict will bring more lasting solutions. Conflict resolution usually requires finding a mutually acceptable solution that meets the interests of both parties.

Nooriat reconciles a couple through mediation



Conflicts affect children's wellbeing and social interactions at school, home and in the community

Towards the end of February, Nooriat, a Peace Coordinator from Kyengera Town Council noticed for three consecutive days that in the neighborhood where she passes to go home, the lady whom she usually meets and chats with on the veranda was not there. She also noticed that the children whom she usually saw her with, were sitting on the neighbor's

veranda at 5pm and their house was closed. This lady had three children whom she always found her bathing in the evening.

Nooriat approached the children the next day and asked them where their parents were, especially the mother whom she knew. The children told her that their father had gone to work, and their mother had left them. They also told her that they stay with the neighbor until their father comes back in the night. She approached the neighbour who also informed her (Nooriat) that and the children's mother had left, and she takes care of them until the father comes back from work.

Nooriat followed up on the matter with the children's father and found out that the woman had left because she suspected her husband of cheating. He had tried to reach out to her but in vain as she had refused to pick his calls. Nooriat called the lady who informed her about her suspicions that indicate that the husband was cheating on her.

Nooriat requested the lady to meet her over the weekend and resolve the matter, which she agreed to. A mediation was held and both parties expressed themselves, the man apologized and requested his wife to come back home to his children. The gentleman called and informed Nooriat that his wife was back home, he was grateful for her kindness and help of bringing back harmony to his family.

Annotation

Conflicts frequently arise due to actions by a conflicting party as a result of a particular problem between the disputing parties. During mediation, a dialogue is conducted and the parties begin to explore the interests underlying the contrary positions. During this interaction, the real problem can be identified and addressed. The dialogue also presents prospects of the disputing parties making adjustments in their positions. The pressure to explore new ideas and feelings can challenge an individual to move from rigidity to flexibility.



Conflict resolution helps the disputing parties to clarify their initially confused positions

Moses helps a woman get a share from their matrimonial home

G.B.Y - OMUKYALA OBUTABA NA BWANAAMIRI
KU BINTU BYEBAKOZE NE BBA

GROUP I

Abaami Obutesigo bakyalababae

LEVEL OF CONFLICT	INDICATORS OF CONFLICT	POSSIBLE PREVENTIVE ACTIONS
1 POTENTIAL RISK	Omwami atandika okukukuta ne bwanandiko ebikwata ku bintu byebakoze nga tabukade mukyala egi endagano bwa ebyajya	1) Buli kintu okukubona kintu okuwereka amanga ganywe mwambi 2) Family enna okubera ne lawyer nga buli kubagala Jateraka Originals Zakyo.
2 IMPENDING RISK	Abaami okutandika okulaga nti jalina okuyaza abwamba/medde ku buli kintu ekiri awaka.	Community esomesebwe obulungi, nebuli obuli mu rukera awamu Omwami nomukyala.
3 ON-GOING RISK	Abaami basinga ebintu mu bank nga bakyalababae tebamanyi	Government okusasa ebintu eiraga nti banna balina okuyaza abwamba/medde ku bintu byebakoze bombi.

Analysis on the issue of sharing property between couples in cohabiting or marital relationship

Nakayiira and Kasule residents of Kyengerera Town Council have been married for over 25 years and have 13 children with the youngest aged 8 years. Sometime in 2020, the couple had misunderstandings and separated. Kasule abandoned the children and Nakayiira had not heard from him for over a year.

Kasule did not provide for the family and Nakayiira was surprised to find out that Kasule had plans of selling the plot on which their matrimonial home is situated and had actually got the first deposit of the purchase price. She approached the Peace Coordinator for his intervention. Nakayiira had worked with Kasule for all the years where they bought the land and constructed the home together. She added that this was the only piece of land they had and if Kasule sold it, their 13 children would not have a permanent place to call home.

The Peace Coordinator informed the community elders and the Police, who allowed to access the house because they knew that she was Kasule's wife. They advised her to stay until her husband came back. While Nakayiira was at the home, a one Kakeeto who claimed to be the new owner of the land informed her that he had bought the land and, in the agreement, Kasule had 1 month to vacate the land. The Police and the community leaders tasked Kakeeto to trace Kasule's whereabouts because he sold the property without his wife's consent. After two days, Kakeeto located Kasule and took him to the Police.

The Peace Coordinator, Nakayiira, and her relatives went to meet them to find a way of resolving the conflict peacefully.

During the meeting, it was found out that Kasule and Nakayiira had separated due to unreconcilable differences and both stated that they could not stay together any more. After the negotiation, it was agreed by both parties that they had been married for a long time and were not together anymore, hence it would be better that they sell the property and divide. Kasule promised to compensate his wife 12 million shillings within three weeks after the buyer has made the final payment. Then the family vacates the premises and leave it for the new owners. Nakayiira agreed to this settlement. The agreement was reduced into writing and the Peace Coordinator followed after three weeks and found out that Kasule had given Nakayiira 5 million shillings as he waits for Kakeeto to pay all the money.

Annotation

Conflict resolution as a communication process for managing a conflict and negotiating a solution, usually requires finding a mutually acceptable solution that meets the interests of both parties. If all parties can see their interests satisfied, movement towards resolution is substantially increased. Managing the conflict involves enabling the disputing parties to understand their differences and similarities.

Conflict is an inevitable and all-pervasive element in our society and in the world. Although conflicts may end up in destruction and even death, conflicts may also result in increased effectiveness, enhanced relationships and further goal attainment.

Women peace group member prevents a conflict from escalating



Women Peace Group member engaging the community members in resolution of conflicts peacefully

A conflict was identified in Kagoma between Nazziwa aged 42 years and David aged 54 years. The couple had been cohabiting for the last 15 years and were blessed with two children. Unfortunately, one passed on and they now have a

daughter. David operates a food stall in the market which business he has been engaged in for the past 10 years. David has no specific time he leaves his work back home but sometimes he could be home before 9pm.

However, Nazziwa started complaining whenever David came back home after 9:00pm and sometimes locked him out of the house. After a few months, Nazziwa informed David that she will not open for him when he comes home after 9:00pm. David came back home for two consecutive nights after 9pm and Nazziwa refused to open for him. David resolved to sleep in the market whenever it clocked 9pm and he had not reached home.

David provided for his family with basic needs but a week had passed where he could come back home early, but Nazziwa did not keep food for him. David went to Kawanda Police station when he got to know from his friends that Nazziwa had reported a matter at Kawanda Police station accusing him of abandoning her and her daughter. The Police officer advised

David to have a family meeting to try and resolve the matter before they intervened. David approached the WPG member and informed her of his problem, asking for her intervention.

The WPG agreed to meet the couple and held a meeting. In the meeting, Nazziwa informed the WPG member that she was no longer interested in the relationship but was afraid that if she leaves, she will not get a share from the property they had acquired while staying together. She had therefore concocted a plan to do all that possible to cause David desert the home. She believed that if David deserted the home, she will be in control of all the property they had acquired. She insisted that she was afraid that David would give the property to his other children instead of her and their daughter. David informed the meeting that he was ready and willing to separate with Nazziwa as they had not even shared the same bed in a year and believed that their relationship broke long time ago; as was a matter of time before they separate.

With guidance from the WPG member, it was agreed that the issue at hand was division of property the conflicting parties had acquired during their relationship. The conflicting parties had agreed that indeed they wanted to separate and were given an opportunity to first discuss the two of them on how they should divide the property they had acquired. The parties agreed that David compensates Nazziwa for her contribution to the home but failed to agree on the amount. Each party had sold a plot of land and benefited singularly without sharing with the other.

A second meeting was held to enable the WPG member investigate the value of the home so that she can better guide on the amount of compensation. In agreement of both parties, Nazziwa was given a temporary stay in the home until the matter was concluded. In the second meeting, it was agreed that David gives Nazziwa 7million on the 31 st day of January. He gave her 5million cash and had an unsettled balance of 2million which he agreed to pay in April 2022. It was further agreed that Nazziwa leaves the home after David has paid the

full amount. Nazziwa was to have custody of their daughter and both parents had the responsibility to provide for her.

Annotation

Conflict is an inevitable and all-pervasive element in our society and in the world. Although conflicts may end up in destruction and even death, conflicts may also result in increased effectiveness, enhanced relationships, and further goal attainment

Intra-group conflict fosters a sense of group unity as parties reconcile differences.



Conflicting parties after resolution of a conflict

The WPG resolved an intra-group conflict in Masuliita where members of a SACCO had misunderstandings with the leaders. The EMYOOGA program that was recently introduced by the government required members of the community to form and register groups, associations, SACCOs among others. Among the requirements for registering such a group was electing an executive committee that had the leadership and

managerial role of the group. With this information, local leaders and some community members in Masuliita registered a SACCO with the aim of benefitting from the government program.

In the process of registration, the group elected some members as their leaders during a meeting they held where all members were in attendance. The executive had 9 members including a chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary and treasurer. After registration of the SACCO, the group had another sitting to discuss their next steps. During the meeting, the chairperson informed the members that the group had been registered and four signatories to their bank account had also been registered. The signatories were the chairperson, Vice-chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer, which was per the guidelines of the EMYOOGA program. This angered the other members of the executive who thought that the chairperson, his vice, treasurer and secretary did that out of greed and personal interests. They then started making allegations that the chairperson was not trustworthy which brought about

divisions in the group and sparking an intra-group conflict. They wanted all Executive members to be signatories to the account.

The WPG member was called by one of the members to come and intervene in the matter. The WPG member came to the meeting with the CDO who took the SACCO members through the guidelines of the EMYOOGA program. The session was informative as they acquired knowledge that it was not out of greed but a requirement as per the guidelines. The leaders were advised to keep records of the SACCO and share them with the members during meetings.

It was resolved that the Executive of the SACCO keep records of all the activities of the SACCO and share them with the members during meetings for transparency. The bank signatories remain as before because the group members had elected them and entrusted them with the power to lead and manage the SACCO. The group members always report to the

CDO whenever there is an issue realized to avoid conflict amongst themselves.

Annotation

Conflicts often involve groups and may have positive consequences for all group members that are party to the dispute. Such conflicts may increase trust because as members experience disagreements with one another in group setting, trust is low, resulting in defending behaviors on the part of group members since the disputing parties perceive the possibility of their failing and being hurt. As individuals share their thoughts and feelings with one another in the group, trust builds, freeing energy previously spent in defending. Intra-group conflicts also foster a sense of group unity and identity as disputing parties reconcile individual differences. Without conflict, groups become stagnant and uncreative.

However, if conflicts are not resolved peacefully, the number of conflicting parties may increase, making it even more difficulty



to de-escalate the conflict which may result into break down of the whole group.

Peace Coordinator through dialogue effectively resolves a family conflict



Discussion with leaders on development of local responses to conflicts in Masuliita Sub County

In Bbika, Masuliita Sub County, a family of 5 decided to sell a portion of their family land in order to solve some of their personal financial issues. They identified a buyer and agreed that he pays 12,000,000 Uganda shillings for the land. It was

further agreed that the payments will be made in four instalments. The first instalment was paid in presence of all the family members and the money was equally distributed amongst themselves. Unfortunately, the second and third payments, only one family member (Sharon) was present and all the siblings had agreed that she represents them because she stayed near to the land. However, Sharon received the money but did not inform the others about the fact.

The other siblings tried to follow up on these installments and found out from the buyer that Sharon had received the installments. This angered the siblings and approached Sharon demanding that she gives them their share. Sharon claimed to have spent the money. The siblings decided to receive the last instalment and distributed the money amongst themselves without giving a penny to Sharon.

Sharon disagreed with the siblings' decision claiming that the money was meant to resolve their financial problems and except her, the rest were doing fairly well, so she was entitled

to receive more money than the rest. The siblings argued, insulted one another, quarreled and Sharon threatened to report the matter at Police. Sharon further stated that she would not allow the new owner to take possession of the land until she received a share from the last payment. One of the family members approached the Peace coordinator and requested for her intervention.

The Peace coordinator informed the area chairperson and the church leader of the area of the conflict at hand and they went to approach the family. Mediation was conducted where all the family members blamed Sharon for being selfish. During the mediation, the chairperson informed them that any kibanja transactions of land sold should involve at least one member of the local council to avoid conflicts in the future. The church leader urged the family to desist from having conflicts among them because they need each other's support in order to prosper and asked them to forgive each other.

After long discussions, Sharon apologized to her family members and accepted the decision that had been taken not to give her a share of the fourth instalment. Peace was restored in the family after the mediation.

Annotation

It is normal for people to disagree with each other from time to time. Usually, the first angry impulse of the conflicting party is to push the point that she/he is right and win the argument at any cost. Finding a peaceful resolution can be difficult, if not impossible, when both parties stubbornly stick to their guns. It helps if everyone decides to try listening to each other and negotiate instead. A conflicting party must first try to understand the hurt he/she caused. It doesn't matter if it was unintentional or what reasons were. It's the time to turn off the defense and focus on understanding the other person's pain or anger.

Conflict resolution is successful if each conflicting party listens to the other without interrupting and clearly explains how

he/she feels. In negotiation, the parties brainstorm possible solutions, accept the need for compromise and choose the fairest solution.

Conflicts if not resolved peacefully, can be an expensive luxury



Notice to the public, a way of protecting land against fraudulent dealings

In Buwanika, Kakiri sub county, a land conflict emerged between two brothers (Muwonge and Musoke). The brothers were given neighboring plots by their father. These two decided to construct their homes and each left a piece for gardening. Muwonge permanently resided on the land with his wife and children but Musoke the younger brother worked outside the village and often times was not at home.

However, Musoke noticed that Muwonge had encroached on his piece of land by 10 feet. He approached his brother and informed him about this fact. Muwonge didn't agree and insisted that he had not trespassed onto his land. Musoke suggested that they measure the land boundaries and also inform their father about this since he is the one who gifted them with the land. Unfortunately, Muwonge adamantly refused to agree to any of Musoke's suggestions.

Musoke tried to resolve the matter and even involved Muwonge's wife to have a talk with him but in vain. Muwonge started hiding from Musoke and whenever he had that his brother was at home, he absented himself and limited any interactions with his brother. In addition, Muwonge refused his wife and children from visiting his brother or even greeting him.

The situation angered Musoke who one day picked up a panga and went to attack his elder brother because he had refused to give him audience. Muwonge's wife saw him coming and rushed to stop him. She managed to calm him down and he

went back to his house. Immediately after that, she rushed to the area chairperson to report the incident. The Peace coordinator was invited to take part in resolving the conflict.

The Peace Coordinator on getting information about the conflict, advised the chairperson to involve the Police in the mediation. During the mediation, the Peace Coordinator advised Muwonge to always use dialogue to solve conflicts because his brother tried to have a dialogue with him but ignored him. The Police officer advised that they should desist from taking the law in their hands. He added that there are many offices where you can report any kind of conflicts right from the local level to the district level including the Police.

The mediators visited the land in dispute and measured the boundaries and it was realized that Muwonge had trespassed onto Musoke's land. Muwonge accepted his fault and made amends with his brother. A mediation agreement was signed and clearly stipulated the boundaries of the land. Each brother also agreed to plant trees marking their boundaries so as to

prevent any future disputes. Peace was restored between the two brothers. The Peace Coordinator was asked to monitor the brothers.

Annotation

Sometimes conflict can occur when people misunderstand each other and jump to the wrong conclusion. Issues of conflict that are not resolved peacefully can lead to arguments and resentment. Ongoing conflict can be stressful and damaging to relationships. Some people find it difficult to manage their feelings and become intentionally hurt, aggressive or even violent.

Communicating in a positive way can help reduce conflict so that family members can reach a peaceful resolution. This usually means that everyone agrees to a compromise or agree to disagree.

Josephine becomes an engine of socio-economic growth and development for her community



Constructed bore hole that provides clean water to the community.

There is a water well commonly referred to as “Bisala” in the village of Namakokome-Buwambo, Gombe Division, which has not only benefited the village, but also the neighborhoods like Kigoogwa and Migadde. The water well was named “Bisala” after the late caretaker who monitored its hygiene. A few

months ago, the community members started noticing a bad smell from the water collected from the spring, and one of them notified the area Chairperson, who contacted VAD (Voluntary Action for Development) an international water development charity organization working to bring sustainable safe water, and requested for help. They responded positively by reaching out to the community members, reconstructed the water well, cleaned, and attached three water pipes to it.

After sometime, the spring developed the bad smell again, then community members mobilized themselves to clean it in two days. Within a month, the water developed the bad odor again, when they cleaned again, they discovered used sanitary towels, dead animals and rubbish had been discarded into the spring.

Josephine decided to contact VAD again, and requested for their help. They constructed a borehole near the Chairperson's residence for the community members to fetch water. After a few weeks, the water started having a rusty colour, and

community members could not use it as it was not safe and clean. She discussed with her colleagues at the health centre on possible ways of helping the community, and one of them told her of an organization called A ROCHA Uganda conservation which offers free lessons to community members on water sanitation through workshops, as well as teaching them how to build a Bio sand Water filter.

Josephine contacted the organization and requested her to mobilize 30 community members to go to Gayaza for the workshop and she was part of the first team. The training went for three days and they practically built a water filter with guidance from the experts. All the community member who attended the workshop were constructed for, a water filter in their respective homes by the Organization, on condition that one was a resident of the area and not a tenant. More community members have picked interest and requested Josephine to register them for the next workshops.

The Peace Coordinator has so far registered 160 homesteads to benefit from the workshops, and 30 have been trained. The first 30 participants were given free water filters and equipped with the skill of building one. They are happy to have access to clean water for domestic use.

Annotation

Lederach (1997) and Nwolise (2005), Porter (2007) define peacebuilding to involve all processes that build positive relationships, heal wounds, reconcile antagonistic differences, restore esteem, respect rights, meet basic needs, enhance equality, instill feelings of security, empower moral agency after identifying and addressing the structural causes of the violence.

Women play a big role in the sustainability of any community. Unfortunately, for so many years their importance has been overlooked. However, that has been changing due to the empowerment of women in the community as part of the community development process. Women also play a big role

in fighting for the rights of the members of their family and the entire community as a whole. Although in the past women were viewed as weak, they have come a long way in proving their strength in different ways and on different platforms. Their participation on the forefront when it comes to fighting for equality in terms of pay and opportunities leads to community development. When women participate in peace processes, the resulting agreement is more durable and better implemented¹.

¹ Krause, Krause, and Branfors

To avoid violent conflicts; we need to ask not to assume.



Discussion with the women council leaders on resolution of conflicts in their communities

Two brothers Ndaula and Kalanzi, residents of Maganjo in Nabweru division had a family conflict resulting from greed and ignorance. Sarah a Peace Coordinator in the area and a neighbor to these two learnt of this conflict and intervened to resolve the matter.

In 2019, the brothers had saved up some money and decided to jointly purchase a piece of land in the nearby village. Each wanted to have a piece of land for farming to sustain their homes in foodstuffs. Ndaula remained in custody of the purchase agreement of this plot. Before purchase of this land, Ndaula and Kalanzi had constructed residential houses on the land that had been gifted to them by their father. These two were staying on the land with their families.

At the end of 2021, Ndaula commenced renovating his home including fixing modern appliances to the house. The brothers were living happily until one of the neighbors informed Kalanzi that Ndaula must have acquired a bank loan and used their land as security. Kalanzi says that his brother was not doing well and out of the blue, now had money to renovate his house. He did not stop at renovating the house but also took his children to private boarding schools. Kalanzi at first, distanced himself from Ndaula to the extent that he no longer greeted him and forbid his children and wife from going to his home.

Ndaula didn't seem to notice or mind his brother's change in conduct which angered Kalanzi further and confronted him accusing him of obtaining a bank loan over the piece of land they acquired together and he was planning to sell it and repay the loan. Kalanzi demanded that Ndaula presents the land agreement but he refused. Their conflict nearly turned violent, before Sarah intervened.

Sarah informed the Chairperson about the conflict between the two brothers. The leaders continuously engaged the two brothers to agree and have a mediation to resolve the conflict, and they accepted after several attempts. A meeting was held, and it was realised that these brothers have been influenced by people who spread false rumours, causing them to go against each other. Some community members who had been present when the two brothers were buying the land where also invited to attend the mediation. In the meeting Ndaula, was requested to produce the original land sale agreement.

Ndaula presented the agreement and it was proposed that the Peace Coordinator keeps it, and only give them photocopies. The parties after agreed that the area chairperson keeps the agreement. The brothers reconciled and they are now peaceful.

Annotation

Although conflict cannot be avoided entirely, violence is normally frowned upon. There is a growing effort to resort to peaceful conflict resolution method in building sustainable peace. The central objective of conflict resolution is simply to identify the main cause of conflict and put a total end to it so that sustainable peace can be achieved.

Ajayi and Buhari (2014) state that adjudication and arbitration as methods of conflict resolution in traditional African societies are also used. More so, Bukari (2013) add-ons alternative dispute resolution, collaboration and conciliation to the conflict resolution and peacebuilding attempts in Africa. These conflict resolution techniques in Africa ensure sustainable peace

because they take into account the cultural needs of the people and go deep to underline the structural causes of the conflict before providing a holistic solution.

Mistrust between couples leads to conflict.



Peace coordinators during a meeting in Wakiso Town Council

Susan a resident in Wakiso sub county is married to Dennis with two children aged 2 and 4 years, boy and girl. Susan had conflicts in her home with her husband resulting from her belief that her husband was having an affair with a one Jackie. Susan approached Sylvia a Peace Coordinator in her area and stated

that they have been happily married with Dennis with no worrying issues until a one named Jackie came into their lives. Susan stated that Jackie seemed to be of unsound mind yet Dennis continuously came to her help whenever she needed. Dennis also used to take her to Butabika hospital for her routine visits and checkups. This angered Susan and continuously fought about the matter.

Susan stated that she had confronted Dennis about the matter but he claimed that Jackie is a longtime family friend . Susan wanted Dennis to desist from closely working with Jackie because she used to come to her home and caused all kinds of anarchy claiming that she is Dennis' wife and wants Jackie to leave their home. Susan was afraid of her safety, her children and property yet Dennis did not do anything to save the situation. Susan resolved to leave the home with her children but when Dennis got to know about her intention, he hid her purse which had her money, some essential things that he knew Susan will need and also took her phone.

Susan looked for Dennis but his phones were switched off and when she came back home, found out that Dennis had taken the children to his mother. Susan immediately went to the Peace Coordinator and sought for her intervention.

Sylvia contacted Dennis and requested to have a discussion with him regarding the matter. Dennis preferred meeting Sylvia in person, and a meeting was scheduled the next day together with the Area Woman Chairperson. Dennis affirmed that he wasn't involved with Jackie, with reasons that she was mentally disabled, and only took her for medication because of the relationship he has with her family. He further explained that he took away the children for their mental safety because Susan refused to pick one of them from school, and she had started getting back home late in the night, leaving the younger one alone. He further explained that he took Susan's money and phone because he loved his wife and didn't want her to leave him.

Sylvia held a mediation with both parties Dennis and Susan where it was agreed that the root cause of their conflict in the home is Jackie who storms Susan's home and causes chaos. Dennis stated that the only time he spends with Jackie is when he takes her to hospital and sometimes runs errands for him. It was agreed that Dennis minimizes his interaction with Jackie because this is giving Jackie an opportunity to spend time with him and think they have a relationship. Denis requested his wife to forgive him and pick the children from his mother where he had taken them. Sylvia advised the parties to always sit and address the issues that affect them because a number of conflicts happen due poor communication between the parties. Susan reconciled with her husband and their family is now peaceful.

Annotation

Essentially, conflict resolution seeks to provide a one-time closure to conflict through joint-problem solving and human centered approach. Accordingly, the successful resolution of

any conflict should be based on a human centered approach, comprising of the improvement of security and good relations among people as well as the improvement of human well-being and rural development (Bukari, 2013). Principally, there is no right or wrong conflict resolution style and each conflict participant is capable of choosing the approach deem fit in a given situation. For that reason, the appropriate method may depend largely on the source, origin, nature, manifestation and the outcome of the clash. Decisively, the application of negotiation, mediation, reconciliation, advocacy, joint problem solving, community conferencing and the like are part of the African conflict resolution components used by the local peace committees to guarantee most of the positive conflict tenacities in countless war-prone states in Africa.

Aisha through mediation builds a positive relationship between neighbours



Construction of perimeter wall

In Nabweru division, a conflict occurred between two neighbors a one Gokyalya and Ssempe. Gokyalya constructed her residential home and due to the rampant thefts in her village, she decided to construct a perimeter wall fencing off her home. She had started construction of the wall and was half way, one

of the builders called and informed her that a man came and demolished the wall claiming that she (Gokyalya) had trespassed into his land.

Gokyalya immediately rushed home to see what had happened. She found out that her neighbor, a one Ssempe had demolished the wall fence near his plot, claiming it had been constructed in his plot. This created chaos and constant arguments between the two neighbors. The WPG member in the area found out about the conflict and approached both parties. She tried to settle the disputes between the two but failed. She then involved the local council defence person and the area chairperson for their intervention.

The parties were invited to the meeting, they were also requested to invite the previous owners who had sold to them the plot and copy of their land purchase agreements. Unfortunately, the previous owners did not attend the meeting but the conflicting parties brought their agreements. The parties in the meeting failed to agree each claiming that the

other was trespassing each other's plot. The WPG member then advised that they visit the land and open boundaries according to the measurements in their purchase agreements.

At the land, it was found out that Gokyalya had constructed the perimeter wall on her plot and also left 3ft of her plot. It was further discovered that Ssempe's neighbor on the opposite side had trespassed onto his land. Ssempe had misinterpreted the measurements of his plot where he thought that the measurements on the eastern side were for the western side near Gokyalya's plot. Ssempe was remorseful for having falsely accused Gokyalya of trespassing on his plot to the extent of demolishing her perimeter wall. He apologized to Gokyalya and committed to compensate her for the demolished perimeter wall. At first Gokyalya wanted Ssempe to cater for reconstruction of the perimeter wall including paying the builders. However, Ssempe claimed that he was not doing well financially and requested that he buys the cement to reconstruct the wall. Gokyalya agreed and Ssempe paid for the

cement two days after the mediation. The conflict between Gokyalya and Ssempe was resolved.

Annotation

Conflict is a universal phenomenon of the human society that cannot be prevented completely. Conflict cannot be avoided in social life, but it can only be contained. More so, conflict is neither good nor bad. It can occur at any given time and in any place, originating between two individuals or groups when there is a disagreement or difference in values, attitudes, needs or expectations. In addition, conflict usually occurs primarily because of a clash of interests in the relationship between parties, groups or states, either because they are pursuing opposing or incompatible goals.

As disputing parties experience conflict and engage in dialogue with others of differing needs and beliefs, they are confronted with the prospect of making adjustments in their positions. The pressure to explore new ideas and feelings can challenge an individual to move from rigidity to flexibility, with consequent

internal change. As dialogue is conducted and the parties begin to explore the interests underlying the contrary positions, the real problem can be identified and addressed.

Communication from the Project Coordinator



In a bid to appreciate the roles women have played and still play in post-conflict peacebuilding, the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women,

Peace and Security was designed in 2000. It recognised the relevance of women's experiences in conflict. Advancing women's rights in conflict resolution and peace processes is

among the objectives of the Council. This is because women are remarkable and play a comprehensive role in conflict resolution and peace building. First, they work as activists and advocates for peace; second, they work as peacekeepers and relief aid workers; third, they serve as mediators; fourth, they work as policymakers, and last, they become educators and lead participants in socio-economic development.

Inter-communal disputes over land and resources can take a considerable toll in terms of lives, economic productivity, and access to basic services like healthcare and education. In such inter-communal conflicts around the world, local leaders are relied upon to help mediate and resolve disputes. In more remote areas, the government may not be present and local leaders are often trusted more than other actors due to their knowledge of and connections with communities.

Understanding the effect of mediation interventions is important for reducing violence and building trust among groups. To that end, PSD therefore trained Peace Coordinators and Women

Peace Group members to resolve conflicts through mediation, negotiation and dialogue, sensitize the community on conflict resolution, conflict early warning and response and advocate for involvement of women in conflict resolution, peacebuilding and decision-making processes. In the monitoring and evaluation visits conducted, the PCs, WPGs and local leaders reported a sharper decrease of violence in their communities were leaders.



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