Nandom Imam Conflict
Fact Sheet

Context
The Islamic community of the Nandom district in the Upper West Region of Ghana is comprised of seven ethnic groups, of which the Moshi form the majority. The generally cordial relations between the ethnic groups were threatened as the PPP learned of a dispute over who should be named vice Imam. Traditionally, if the chief Imam comes from one ethnic group, the assistant, or vice Imam, is expected to be chosen from another ethnic group. However, the Moshi chief Imam's appointment of his own son as vice Imam was seen by the other groups as a breach of tradition.

Indicators of Potentially Violent Conflict
Fighting and gunshots erupted in the local mosque in July 2015. The tensions between the Islamic ethnic groups heightened to the extent that police protection was required at the mosque for Friday prayers.

Locally Defined Strategies and/or Activities
Within days of this happening, the Nandom Youth for Peace and Development (NYPAD), a group of local youth engaged in peacebuilding efforts that emerged from another PPP initiative in the Nandom area, convened a meeting with representatives of the ethnic groups to identify ways forward.

A peace committee emerged from this actor meeting, comprised of members of various ethnic groups. This peace committee led delegations to visit the Chief Imam, as well as the individual who the seven minority ethnic groups wanted as vice Imam to encourage a resolution.

Impact
Following these and other community meetings, the Nandom paramount chief decided to step in and appoint an individual from Wa, the regional capital, to act as vice Imam. Reports indicate that the appointment has been generally accepted by the various ethnic groups. In follow up research conducted by the PPP with various individuals within Nandom's Islamic community, participants noted that the opportunity to voice their concerns and displeasure at the actor meeting had almost a cathartic effect on them, and enabled them to accept the Nandom chief's decision without violence.