

Nandom Land Disputes Fact Sheet

Context

The Nandom traditional area in the Upper West Region of Ghana faces considerable disputes over land ownership and rights. The disputes also have an ethnic dimension and are tied to political representation.

Indicators of Potentially Violent Conflict

These disputes have resulted in the destruction of crops and homes, leaving populations vulnerable, as well as actual physical violence, with records of injuries and deaths.

Locally Defined Strategies and/or Activities

A local, inclusive peace committee – the Dagara-Sisaala Peace Committee (DASIPEC) – emerged through the support of the PPP. The DASIPEC's activities have included media and community outreach efforts such as radio programs, a peace walk, a football tournament, school and church visits, film showings, community meetings, and town halls, among others.

Impact

According to data collected by the PPP, the farming seasons of 2014 went off peacefully, with significantly fewer incidents of violence than in previous years. In many situations with the potential of violence, members of the DASIPEC intervened to help resolve the situation by appealing for peace, and advising disputing parties to stay calm and dialogue instead of resorting to violence. Similarly, in 2015, DASIPEC members indicated there were no incidents of violence during the farming season, despite early indications that there might be. Interventions by peace committee members and youth leaders helped head off one of the land conflicts from boiling over early in the 2015 farming season. Additionally, reports indicate that inter-community relations have improved, with members of disputing communities now greeting each other, attending funerals and weddings in the other's communities, and associating freely. Notably, the football matches prompted a group of Nandom youth to form another local peace committee, the Nandom Youth for Peace and Development (NYPAD). NYPAD members have become respected peacebuilders in the Nandom and Lambussie districts and have helped to bridge tensions between Christian and Muslim youth as well as among the Muslim community.