

The Purdue Peace Project Post



Pen-Pen Peace Network and WOMSUD team, August 2014

Ebola Prevention Campaign

In August 2014, the Pen-Pen Peace Network (PPPN), a local peace committee that was established in 2013 through a collaboration between PPP, local Liberians, and the Women's Movement for Sustainable Development-Liberia, shifted their efforts to helping to contain Ebola. Since that time, the PPPN has been working on a campaign that aims at raising awareness about Ebola in Liberia and motivating behavioral changes. They have set up sanitation sites, and are disseminating prevention messages via radio dramas and a citizen-to-citizen, door-to-door interpersonal communication campaign. So far, the nearly 20 Pen-Pen Peace Network committee members and local volunteers have visited over 2,100 houses and spoken to more than 10,500 Liberian citizens. Their work has been featured on the BBC World Radio, Bloomberg Businessweek, The Guardian, and other media outlets. More details can be found on the PPP website at <http://www.cla.purdue.edu/ppp/>

Promoting Peace Through Local Action

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Quarterly Newsletter
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Ebola Prevention Campaign Photos

September and October 2014



Marketers listen to Ebola prevention messages



SKD Boulevard site—Young girl sanitizing her hands at one of the stations



Pen-pen drivers discuss Ebola prevention



Team members on their way to set up barrows and tables at sanitation sites



Barrows purchased for hand washing sites in Monrovia

Berekum, Ghana

After the judgment on the 13-year long chieftaincy dispute in Berekum was delivered by the Brong Ahafo Regional House of Chiefs in September 2013, everyone thought that the work of the Berekum Peace Committee (BPC), which had been instrumental in helping move the case forward and maintaining peace while it did, was over. The BPC, however, did not agree. The BPC, a committee comprised of citizens and local leaders of Berekum, had been working toward a peaceful resolution of the dispute since 2012. They, along with the Purdue Peace Project team which continues to support and encourage their work, realized that a lot of work still needed to be done to ensure a peaceful transition for the new chief and for there to be acceptance of the verdict. The BPC continues to actively work as peacebuilders and to formulate strategies to keep Berekum and surrounding communities violence-free.

Nandom, Ghana

The farming season in the Upper West Region of Ghana usually means two things - no school and plenty of rain. In June 2014, however, the Dagara-Sissala Peace Committee (DASIPEC) in the Nandom Traditional Area, added another dimension to the farming season - football! The DASIPEC, with support and encouragement from the Purdue Peace Project, organized a six month-long football (soccer) tournament with 16 community-based teams competing for the Dagara-Sissala Peace Trophy, and the prestige of being the best football team in Nandom! The football tournament not only helped youth from various, previously disputing communities to come together in peace and play Ghana's most popular sport, but also provided other members of disputant communities a forum to chat, interact, and watch their teams compete. The football tournament is slated to close with a flourish, with the final match happening during the annual Kakube festival, and is expected to draw crowds in the hundreds to witness it.

Port Harcourt, Nigeria

All is set for the launch of a media peace campaign by the Community Peace Development Initiative (COPEDI) in Port Harcourt, Rivers State Nigeria. The campaign slogan Shun Violence, Let's Embrace Peace (SUVLEP) is intended to increase students' awareness of host communities' culture, increase public awareness about the activities of COPEDI, and foster viable relationship between security agencies on campus and the host communities, a synergy that the local peace committee believes will help to reduce the likelihood of violent outbreak. The campaign is the outcome of a three day co-construction meeting between members of COPEDI, the Purdue Peace Project, and its local collaborator, Health Matters Inc. in August, 2014. In line with PPP's local leadership model, the campaign will be driven by COPEDI members who will be featured on selected local radio programs to discuss violence prevention. COPEDI is comprised of local citizens and leaders committed to peace-building in their communities.



COPEDI and HMI, Inc. - August 2014



Delta Communities in Nigeria Fine-Tune Strategies to Resolve Land Dispute



Members of the OOPC, the local peace committee in Delta State, Nigeria, August 2014

In continuation of the relative peace reached by the disputing parties in Delta, community representatives from Asaba visited rival communities in Ibusa in August. To return the peace gesture, community representatives from Ibusa also visited the Asaba community, an open exchange interaction geared towards reaching final resolution of the long standing land dispute between the two communities. At the interactive forums both communities brainstormed strategies to end the dispute, including facilitating boundary demarcation. Commenting on the significance of the interaction, a community representative from Asaba said, “The fact that we came together to talk about how to end the dispute is a sign of success.” Reinforcing the relative success achieved in their effort to jointly resolve their disagreement, another community representative from Asaba added, “Now my mind is strong. If I visit Ibusa I will not be looking back,” alluding to the relative peace reached by representatives from both communities. Speaking about their excitement for the final resolution of the dispute, a representative from Ibusa rhetorically asked, “Is there anybody that will carry land to the grave?” Unanimously representatives from both communities echoed no. Hence they restated their commitment to amicably resolve their differences and appealed to PPP to encourage and assist with their effort.



Beering Hall of Liberal Arts and Education, Purdue University , West Lafayette, Indiana, USA

PPP Video Project

Professor Doug Osman of the Brian Lamb School of Communication is currently working on a feature-length documentary that showcases the locally-driven work of the Pen-Pen Peace Network (PPPN) in Liberia. He was in Liberia in May 2014 with Purdue undergraduate, Chris Jones, and PPP Director, Stacey Connaughton, working with PPPN on the production.



Professor Doug Osman

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Comments, Questions, or Suggestions about the Newsletter?

Please contact the Editor, Cassie McCormick, at
ppp@purdue.edu

Promoting Peace Through Local Action

PPP Welcomes a New Research Associate



Liliya Yakova, Graduate Research Assistant, is a doctoral student in Organizational Communication at the Brian Lamb School of Communication. Her research interests are in the areas of organizing for social change and social justice with an emphasis on hunger and poverty relief, marginalization, meaningful work and volunteerism for social change.

She received her bachelor's degree in Political Science from the American University in Bulgaria and her master's degree in International Affairs from Marquette University, Wisconsin.

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Beering Hall, Room 2114
100 N. University Street
West Lafayette, IN 47907, USA
(765) 494-9107
ppp@purdue.edu
<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/ppp/>