

# Alliance for Peacebuilding

## PPP records another milestone in land dispute in Delta, Nigeria (Spring 2014)

February 26, 2014

Category: [Featured Media](#), [Peacebuilding Post](#) | Tags: [Africa](#), [Land & Natural Resource Conflicts](#), [Mediation & Negotiation & Dialogue](#), [Reconciliation](#) | Source: [AfP Members & Partners](#)

**In December 2013 the Purdue Peace Project (PPP) successfully brought together two disputing communities in Nigeria to engage in dialogue on steps to amicably resolve a long-standing dispute over a parcel of land located at their border.**



The communities are Obi Ogadi in Asaba and Ogboli in Ibusa, both in Delta State, Nigeria. The contention involves the legal ownership of a piece of land called “*Ani Udo*,” which ironically translates to “land of peace.” The situation has deteriorated since Asaba emerged as the capital of the state, resulting in the appreciation of the land’s value. This appreciation has increased the interest in the land and heightened the likelihood of violent conflict.

The meeting facilitated by PPP was significant, because as one community member named Ben noted, “This is the first time that we are meeting face-to-face since this land dispute started several years ago.” Following the successful dialogue among representatives from the two communities, a local peace committee emerged and named itself the, Obi Ogadi and Ogboli Peace Committee (OOPC). It is comprised of representatives from both communities and is currently driving the peace initiative among them.



PPP adopts a local leadership model that encourages dialogue among local citizens as a viable strategy for preventing political violence in local communities. PPP's community engagement was facilitated by Health Matters, Inc. (HMI), our Nigerian-based local collaborator. HMI's staff members made initial site visits to the communities to learn more about the dispute from local leaders and citizens. PPP then held focus group discussions, helped organize the community meeting previously mentioned, and conducted follow-up in-depth interviews with local citizens, resulting in the formation of the OOPC.

As this example illustrates, PPP's local leadership model is grounded in a participatory framework that fosters space for dialogue among disputing factions, ultimately allowing local citizens to develop and enact local peace building strategies that are relevant to their specific context. In line with our commitment to locally-driven solutions, we hope that the strategies articulated by the local citizens will help to resolve the disagreement in culturally meaningful ways.



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