

DM&E of a Locally-Driven, Community-Based Peacebuilding Initiative: The Purdue Peace Project

*Dr. Stacey L. Connaughton
Associate Head & Associate Professor
Director of the Purdue Peace Project
The Brian Lamb School of Communication
Purdue University, USA*



The Purdue Peace Project

The mission of the Purdue Peace Project is to convene groups of local citizens in fragile states where clearly identified situations threaten to lead to political violence, and encourage and assist these citizens in their efforts to bring about peaceful solutions. In promoting locally-driven and inclusive approaches to peacebuilding, we seek to reduce the likelihood of political violence and contribute to lasting peace. In doing so, we also seek to add to the body of knowledge in this field by documenting and disseminating our work to practitioners and scholars alike.



Our Guiding Principles

- Local citizens can design, lead, and implement peacebuilding activities
- All individuals can contribute to peace
- Dialogue can lead to effective action toward preventing violence
- Knowledge resides within local citizens
- Peacebuilding efforts stand the best chance of being effective if they originate from individuals local to the conflict



Theory of Change

- We test the following theory of change:

If we convene a representative and inclusive group of local citizens, and facilitate an opportunity for them to engage in dialogue, they will identify and implement an effective set of strategies to prevent political violence.



Theory of Change - Operationalization

1. Scan the environment in West Africa to identify issues that could trigger political violence
2. Determine whether an issue is one that could be worked on with the PPP model, given our scope and resources
3. Work with local citizens to identify individuals who should be part of the dialogue and subsequent actions.



Ghana –
Local Peace Committee



Theory of Change - Operationalization

4. Approach those relevant parties to see if they are interested in engaging in dialogue with other parties around the issue at hand
5. Create the dialogic space in which representatives from all relevant parties can enter into genuine dialogue with one another



Liberia – Pen-Pen Drivers Project



Theory of Change - Operationalization

Ghana – The Berekum Peace Committee’s Activities to Help Resolve a Chieftancy Dispute



6. Facilitate the implementation of strategies that they co-create to prevent political violence via modest financial contribution
7. Collect data at multiple points in time to assess the impact(s) of these efforts and to evaluate our locally-driven peacebuilding approach

7



Examples of Locally Driven Peacebuilding



Delta State, Nigeria

- Land Dispute
- University-Community Tensions



Monrovia, Liberia

- Pen-Pen Drivers/Community Tension
- Ebola Prevention
- Natural Resources Management



Berekum, Ghana

- Chieftancy Dispute



Our Approach to M & E

Key aspects of our approach:

- To develop thoughtful design at the start
- To assess perceptual, behavioral, or other kinds of changes over time
- To engage in triangulation (drawing on multiple data sources to make claims)
- To conduct rigorous analyses of our data

Project Selection

- Our M&E begins with project selection
- Projects selected based on pre-determined criteria
- The most important criterion is whether our work with local citizens can reduce the likelihood of political violence.
- We gather data from multiple sources to determine whether that criterion is met.
- The PPP Director travels multiple times to the communities to meet with local citizens



Monitoring

- Our local collaborators and research assistants monitor our work's progress through:
 - Observation of activities
 - Interviews with or field notes from local citizens from multiple stakeholder groups
 - Data are recorded, transcribed, and analyzed (e.g., thematic analysis,

Challenges (violence, refusals from homes to talk with you, lack of response, abandoned home (s):

There is not much challenge in the GSA Road community, most homes are still playing to the preventive rule, but there are little challenges with people that lack understanding about the existence of the Ebola virus.

Recommendation (s): Citizens that are living in zinc and mat houses in the GSA Road community, are appealing to the Non Governmental Organization (NGO) and the Government of Liberia for Ebola buckets, Chlorine, soap, and the distribution of food items. The Ebola outbreak have caused them more hardship.

Observation: We observed most of the homes visited are taking all the precautions and playing by the rule, while few persons are still in the state of denial.

WOMSUD - Liberia & Pen - Pen Peace Network Ebola Awareness Initiative
Supporting the Fight Against the deadly Ebola virus
Jan. 7 - Jan. 27, 2015

With support from PURDUE PEACE PROJECT @ THE PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Page 2

Monitoring Our Work's Progress

- Engage in weekly Skype calls with our in country directors and our local collaborators
- Gather media stories about our work and analyze the nature of the media discourse
- Discuss our work's progress and challenges during weekly team meetings at Purdue
- Conduct member checks (validity) with local citizens
- Discuss our work's progress and challenges with PPP's consultant, Jessica Berns

Assessing Our Work's Impact

- We collect data at multiple points in time before, during, and after a project
- The data consist of:
 - Secondary data (e.g., media coverage, reports)
 - Focus groups
 - One-on-one interviews (informant, “on the street”, semi-structured)
 - Surveys
 - Observations (local peace committees)
 - Reflective journaling (those at Purdue and local citizens)
- We aim to be systematic with our sampling techniques

Assessing Our Work's Impact

- The way we assess impact depends on the nature of the project, but in general we look for:
 - Changes in perceptions and behaviors *among individuals* over time
 - Changes to the nature of media coverage of the issue and about our local peace committee over time
 - Other kinds of outcomes changes (e.g., the Berekum chieftancy dispute being resolved; local peace committees being asked to serve on regional or national task forces; local peace committees helping to prevent violence in neighboring communities)
- All of our claims about our work's (in)effectiveness are based on empirical data, collected over time
- We also consider what other organizations are working in an area when making claims about our work's impact.
- We collect post-project data @ 3 months, 6 months 12 months, and 18 months after a project's completion.

Malaria and infectious diseases - global development professionals network

From soldiers to peacebuilders: can Liberia's taxi drivers help stop Ebola?

As the virus spreads, pen-pen motorcycle taxi drivers have been co-opted to appease public frustrations over weak governance

Nat Walker in Monrovia, Stacey Connaughton and Kai Kuang in Lafayette

Wednesday 15 October 2014 12.02 EDT



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Motorcycle taxi drivers are a good means of disseminating information during the Ebola crisis in Liberia Photograph: HANDOUT/REUTERS

The Liberian government responded slowly to the Ebola crisis, asking the international community to do what some have argued it should have done itself. Now, there are indicators that the government is dependent on the goodwill of

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The Best Weapon Against Ebola in West Africa Is Winning Public Trust

By John Tozzi | October 30, 2014



Photograph by Zoom DossoAFP via Getty Images

A health worker outside UNICEF tents at an Ebola treatment center run by Doctors Without Borders in Monrovia, Liberia on Oct. 21

(Corrects the spelling of Elair Glencorse's name.)

The fight against Ebola is taking place on two well-known fronts: on the ground in West Africa, where governments and aid groups are racing to build treatment centers; and inside the lab, where scientists are trying to create vaccines and therapies to halt transmission. A third battleground, harder to track but no less important, focuses on efforts to win trust and change the behavior of the people most at

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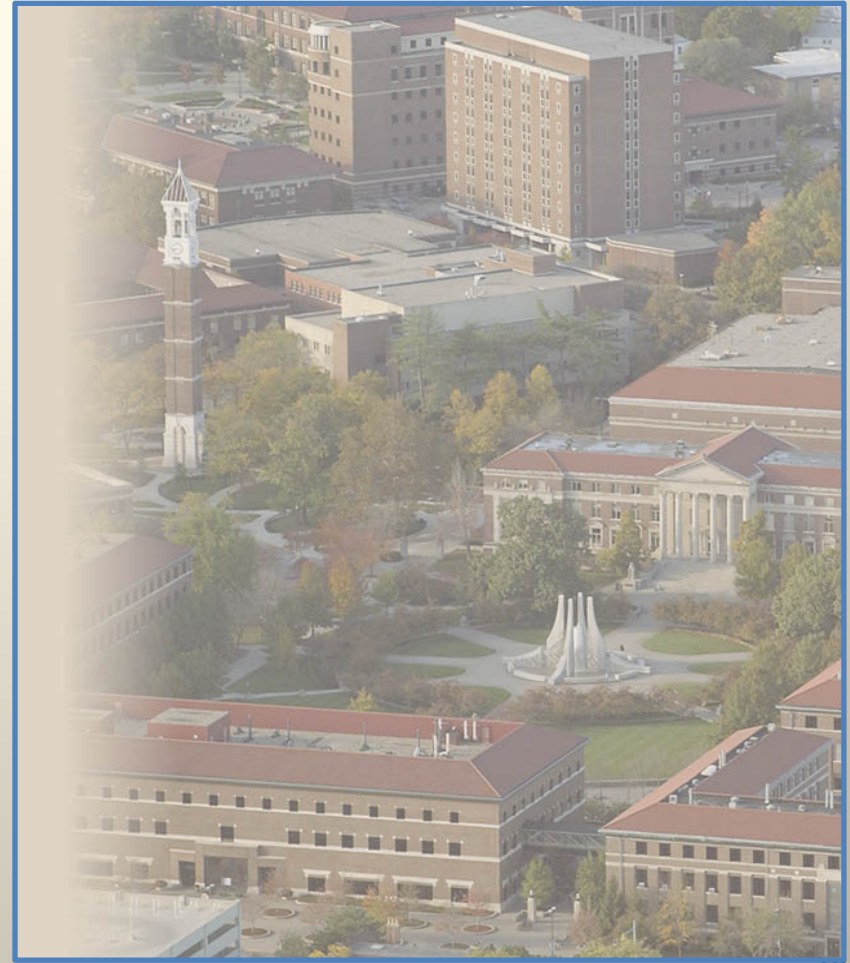
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A Locally Driven Peacebuilding Approach

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