Peace-building Learning Tool
Welcome!

This tool has two main purposes:

1) To **educate** communities about **peace-building**

2) To **explain** the important **role** of youth and women as key drivers for sustainable peace

3) To **explain** the **role** of **local government** and peace-building in their communities

Together we will discuss **basic skills** for successfully resolving conflicts within your communities.

We will also discuss ways to avoid conflict in the future and promote **peaceful co-existence**.

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Agenda Day 1

PROMOTING PEACE BUILDING
Agenda Day 1

Highlights:

• What is conflict?
• Types of conflict
• Causes of conflict in your boma, payam, county, and state in the Republic of South Sudan
• What is peace-building?
• Why is peace important?
• Local government’s role in peace-building
• The role of women and youth in peace-building
Group Exercise 1

Causes of Conflict in Your Community
Group Exercise 1

Participants are divided into groups of 4-6 (each group should include women and youth).

Each group will work together to:

1. Define conflict
2. List types of conflict:
   - Domestic/family
   - Ethnic (tribal)
   - Political
   - Financial/economic
   - Resource-driven (land, water, cattle)
   - Religious (faith-based)
3. Discuss how conflict can be harmful to communities

Groups present their results.
What is a Conflict?
What is Conflict?

- **Conflict** is a disagreement between individuals, groups, or communities that can lead to violence or peaceful solutions.
- Conflict in communities is **common**. Individuals, groups and communities often have **different ideas** or **priorities**.
- Sometimes **disagreement** or differences in **opinion** can be **useful**.
- In some situations, differences in opinion or in approach can create **better solutions** to problems.
- Conflict can be **harmful** when differences of opinion or different approaches lead to **violence**.
Causes of Conflict in South Sudan
Causes of Conflict in South Sudan

Among some people, violence is the normal way to solve disputes and disagreements.

Common causes of violence:

• Family feuds/bullying/domestic fighting
• Poverty
• Ethnic (tribal) rivalries
• Political disagreements
• Financial/economic disagreement, e.g. cattle theft
• Arguments over the use of land and/or water access
• Differences in religious beliefs
• Border disputes (among communities)

It is important to end bloodshed and tribal conflict that harm and damage individuals, communities and future generations.
What is Peace-building?
What is Peace-building?

Peace-building is the process of addressing violent conflicts (or potentially violent conflicts) in a non-violent and respectful way. The goal of peace-building is to reduce or eliminate the reasons for violence among people or groups.

Peace-building happens when disagreeing individuals, groups, or communities come to realize their shared needs or goals and commit to solving them through positive dialogue and reconciliation rather than violence.

Peace-building occurs when vulnerable groups like women, youth, elderly and the disabled are included in dialogue and reconciliation.

Peace-building helps enemies find ways to solve differences using dialogue instead of violence.
Why is Peace-building Important?
Why is Peace-building Important?

• Without respecting law and order and appreciating your neighbors and communities, there will be no security and stability in your bomas, payams, counties, or states.

• Without active engagement of all members of the community including the vulnerable (youth, women, the disabled and elderly) there will be no sustainable peace and peaceful coexistence.

• Without stability and peace, basic government services such as health, water, agriculture, and education cannot be delivered.

• Violence destroys basic human rights and makes a community unstable.

• Violence does not lead to prosperity and happiness; it leads to more violence, injury, and death.
How to Build Peace and Peaceful Coexistence?
How to Build Peace and Peaceful Coexistence?

Peace-building is a **shared responsibility** among all community members.

Successful peace-building and coexistence includes:

• **Acknowledging and addressing issues and concerns** that cause conflict.

• Bringing together opponents, enemies, and rivals to discuss **shared needs and concerns**.

• Promoting **relationship building and dialogue to build trust** and **confidence** among individuals, families, and communities.

• Acknowledge and validate youths role and women contribution in community peace building and provide **conducive environment** for them to discuss **shared needs**, and **concerns or grievances**

• Creating a supportive, lasting **environment for peace**.
Local Government is Responsible for Peace-building
Local Government is Responsible for Peace-building

In the *Transitional Constitution*, Article 36 (2) requires all levels of government including traditional authorities to:

- **Promote** and **work** toward peace
- Promote **harmony, unity** and **peaceful co-existence**
- Create a **culture of peace**, cooperation, understanding, tolerance and respect among all the people of South Sudan
- **Safeguard** the security and well-being of the people
Local Government is Responsible for Peace-building
Local Government is Responsible for Peace-building

In Section 12 of the *Local Government Act*, all local government authority representatives including traditional/customary councils should:

- Promote peace, reconciliation and peaceful co-existence among **various communities** including **ethnic groups**
- Create and promote **safe** and **healthy environments**
- Promote **dialogue** among communities
- Encourage and support **women** and **youth**
- Promote the **rule-of-law** in the community
Local Government is Responsible for Peace-building
Local Government is Responsible for Peace-building

*Section 100 (1, 2, 4) of the Local Government Act* states that in each county, **Regional Customary Law Courts** shall be the courts to resolve:

- Minor public disorder cases
- Customary land disputes
- Children’s rights and childcare disputes
- Women’s rights issues
- Major customary disputes
Local Government is Responsible for Peace-building
Local Government is Responsible for Peace-building

In addition to the Customary Law Courts, the role of peace-building is given to the Council of Traditional Leaders in Section 121 of the Local Government Act.

The Council of Traditional Leaders is required to:

- Intervene to solve inter-tribal disputes by using customary and traditional conflict resolution means.
- Promote peace-building and conflict solving through open dialogue, meetings, and group discussion.
- Organize regular community meetings so stakeholders can voice concerns and address issues.
Group Exercise 2

Causes of Conflict in Your Community
Group Exercise 2

Participants are divided into groups of 4-6 (each group should include women and youth).

Each group will work together and share its experiences with **Customary Courts** and **Traditional Authorities** in the areas of:
- Tribal/ethnic disputes
- Cultural and traditional feuds
- Public disorder (fights)
- Women’s rights
- Child welfare
- Family quarrels

Groups present their results.
Summary Day 1
Summary Day 1

Peace-building is the process of solving conflict in a non-violent and respectful way.

• Creates a support mechanism and lasting environment for peace
• Brings together disagreeing parties or enemies
• Prevents conflict before it starts
• Reduces or eliminates violence
• Helps a community heal and move forward
• Is a shared responsibility among all community members

There is no one solution to peace, but there are many ways available in every conflict situation if the parties are open and willing to communicate and compromise.
Agenda Day 2

PROMOTING PEACE BUILDING
Agenda Day 2

Highlights:

• Leadership qualities for peace-building
• Peace-building tools:
  • Community dialogue
  • Conflict mapping
  • Peace-building committees
• Putting peace-building and promoting peaceful coexistence into action in the Republic of South Sudan
• Citizen roles and responsibilities in peace-building
Leadership Qualities for Peace-building
Leadership Qualities for Peace-building

Peace-building is a **shared responsibility** among all community members.

**Local government** plays a leading role in peace-building and promoting peaceful co-existence.

Peace-building is **difficult** - local government leaders should:

*•* Lead by example with **integrity, objectivity, and fairness**

*•* Encourage **community dialogue** and **listen** to the input of the community

*•* Practice **inclusiveness** and **gender sensitivity** involve key actors especially the vulnerable groups (youth, women, disable and elderly)

*•* Denounce **violence** and **acts of revenge**

*•* Practice **accountable** and **transparent** decision-making

*•* Promote the values of **equality, human rights, and civic participation**
Community Dialogue
Community Dialogue

One important tool for peace-building is **community dialogue**.

Community dialogue is the process of engaging community members in an open and inclusive discussion to address disagreements or conflicts that arise among groups, individuals, and neighbors.

Community dialogue promotes peaceful coexistence with the support of local government, religious organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), and other local groups.
Community Dialogue - Goals
Community Dialogue - Goals

Community dialogue has many uses in promoting peace and peaceful coexistence in the community.

Community dialogue:

• Addresses the challenges of **resource sharing**, e.g. water and land
• Promotes the values of **equality**, **human rights**, and **participation**
• Encourages participation in community activities across inter-marriage and **ethnic/tribal groups**.
• Organizes a system to assist with **integrating refugees, displaced people**, and **returnees**.
• Educates communities on the **negative impact** of cattle raiding, kidnapping (women), bullying, and large dowries.
Conflict Mapping
Conflict Mapping

Conflict mapping is the process of:

• Identifying current or potential areas of conflict.
• Identifying institutions (local government, traditional authorities, religious leaders, and CSOs) or respected elders who might be able to help peacefully overcome conflict.
• Listing what peace-building tools and local mechanisms are available to solve conflict.
• Understanding the local and national laws that may be used to solve issues or conflict more peacefully.

In communities where frequent conflict occurs, conflict mapping can be a very useful tool.
Peace Committees
Peace Committees

• Peace committees are a **useful tool** in addressing conflict and have worked well in South Sudan.

• Peace committees are made-up of representatives from **all major groups** in a community including religious, youth, and women’s groups, local government and civil society organizations.

• Peace committee members hold meetings and have **open discussions** regarding an issue, disagreement or conflict to solve a problem and come up with **potential solutions**.

• Peace committees then make **recommendations** on how to solve the ongoing issue or potential conflict.
Group Exercise 3

Causes of Conflict in Your Community
Group Exercise 3

Participants are divided into groups of 4-6 (each group should include women and youth).

Using **cattle raiding** as an example, each group will explore ways to solve conflict in their communities using peace-building tools:

- Community dialogue
- Conflict mapping
- Peace committees

Each group will apply one of the peace-building tools to better understand how to avoid conflict and promote peaceful coexistence.

Groups present their results.
Putting Peace-building into Action
Putting Peace-building into Action

• There are many local peace-building initiatives in South Sudan including peace committees, religious organizations, and community safety councils.

• Successful peace-building took place in 2009 among Lakes, Unity, and Warrap States where joint border courts were established to prevent conflict and violence from cattle raiding.

• A recent example of peace-building was the Jonglei Communities Conference for Peace, Reconciliation, and Tolerance held in Bor in 2012 to address ethnic tension and village raiding.

• The Bor Conference used a community dialogue approach to address growing unrest and violence in the state.
Jonglei Communities Conference for Peace, Reconciliation, and Tolerance
Jonglei Communities Conference for Peace, Reconciliation, and Tolerance

The conference identified leading causes of conflict and recommendations for peace-building including:

• Create an environment of **law and order**
• **Police** for kidnapping, livestock theft, and illegal trafficking
• Community counseling to **overcome** the legacy of trauma
• Reintegrate **Internally Displaced People** (IDPs)
• Expedite **border demarcation** between payams, counties, and states
• Empower **traditional leaders** to promote peaceful coexistence
Peace-building Highlights
Peacebuilding Highlights

• Peace-building is the **process** of solving violent conflict (or potentially violent conflict) in a non-violent way.

• Peace-building happens when disagreeing individuals, groups, or communities come to realize their **shared needs** or **goals** and commit to reaching them through communication rather than violence.

• Peace-building can take **different forms**, depending on the situation.

• Peace-building is a **shared responsibility** among all community members.

• For peace-building and democracy to succeed in South Sudan, citizens and local government officials need to invest in a culture of **peaceful coexistence, tolerance, healing, and reconciliation**.
Closing Summary

We understand the **importance** of peace-building and we are now better equipped to make it work in our communities.

It is our responsibility as citizens and local government officials to **promote peace**, seek ways to **avoid conflict**, and **promote healing** and **reconciliation**.

The involvement of our citizens through civil society organizations and local government in peace-building and overcoming the legacy of civil war is critical to **building democracy** in the new Republic of South Sudan.

**Remember**: *There is no effective local government (and basic services) without promoting peace-building, peaceful coexistence, and unity for all of the people of South Sudan.*