

Community Empowerment and Peace building in the Far North Region of Cameroon



The Far North region of Cameroon has been affected by the Boko Haram crisis with massive displacement of persons such as Nigerian refugees and Cameroonian internally displaced persons (IDPs). The region is also one of the poorest in the country. The reasons for joining and/or associating with Boko Haram and becoming violent extremist are rather complex and no one single cause can account for radicalisation. Poverty and inequality are causes, but low capacity of the state, weak state presence, limited economic opportunity, demographic pressure, limited rule of law and access to justice, human right issues and alleged abuse of authority by security forces have also been linked as causes for joining extremist movements. The massive arrival and continuing displacement of persons in the region have also negatively impacted pacific coexistence among communities, due to limited existence and distribution of basic services and natural resources. The overall objective of the UNDP project is to contribute to the early recovery, resilience and social cohesion of target local communities, and prevention of violent extremism through a socio-economic approach.

Output 1.1	Reinforced youths' capacity to sustainably generate income
Key activities	Income generating activities through UNDP 3x6 approach for 300 youths Rehabilitation of community infrastructure
Output 1.2	Improved agricultural capacity
Key activities	Training and input distribution of agriculture (rice production) for 280 youth
Output 2.1	Enhanced peaceful coexistence among communities
Key activities	Rehabilitation of youth centres and sports infrastructure Sessions on peacebuilding, social cohesion, non-violence and religious tolerance Reinforcement of regional platform for social cohesion and prevention of conflict and violent extremism Capacity building of Qur'anic schools
Output 2.2	Improved resolution skills of communities for land conflict and other potential conflict issues involving IDPs/returnees/refugees and local communities
Key activities	Creation of database of conflicts/tensions over natural resources and land Elaboration of a plan on natural resources management and land sharing among communities Outreach sessions on conflict prevention related to natural resources and land at community level



General information on the project

Budget: 1.5 million USD (1M by Government of Japan, 0.5M by UNDP Funding Window)

Period: March 2017– March 2018 Intervention zone: Logone et Chari and Mayo-Sava in the Far North region

Implementing partners: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), University of Maroua, civil society



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