

April – July, 2025– CPS Program – EIRENE and MACCO Report

Project title overall: Civil Peace Service

Organisation name: MAYANK Anti-Corruption Coalition (MACCO)

Specific Project title of the organisation: Men and Women together promoting social and gender transformation in their refugee and host communities towards Peaceful co-existence.

Reporting Period: 1st quarter April – July 2025

Impact 2:

List of all planned activities based on activity plan for 2025	Indicator does it refer to	How many participants (men, woman, children)	Location/date	Who (co)led the activity, who else was present in the organisation/facilitation of the activity	Any direct feedback from the participants such as quotes or statement worth mentioning
Capacity building for 48 women, youth and male advocates in land administration and environmental management	Process Indicator 1: Local based structures (women, youth, elderly people, men) in the refugee and host communities are skilled in sustainable	Men 32 Women 15 Children 0	1. OPM hall, Imvepi refugee settlement, Odupi Sub County Terego district from 10 th to 11 th June 2025 2. Youth Centre, Ofua III, Uriama Sub County Terego	The overall activity planning and implementation processes were led by the Project Officer, Neima Wadio meanwhile the Executive Director (ED) Enzama Ernest	“ The training has opened my eyes and mind, I will report the case of Wetland destruction which is currently taking place in Yelulu” said Andama Stephen, Peace Advocate, Yelulu village, Zone 2, “ I wish to thank MACCO for winning a project which is aimed at addressing the real issues on ground affecting both refugees and the host communities, I pledge my commitment and support to the team to

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	management and equitable distribution of natural resources, peace building and conflict management		district 13 th to 14 th June 2025 3. Ariwa Sub County H/Qs from 23 rd to 24 th June 2025	led the training sessions as a facilitator based on the pre-designed training manual. Presentation slides developed by the ED aided the training.	ensure the project achieves its objectives Ayume John Peter Chairperson RWC III, Imvepi refugee settlement
Stakeholder engagement meeting to disseminate study findings and introduce the <i>Men and Women together promoting social and gender transformation in refugee and host communities for peaceful co-existence in Uganda project</i>		Men 16 Women 5 Children 0	OPM Hall, Imvepi refugee settlement, Odupi Sub County, Terego district 25 th June 2025	The overall activity planning and implementation processes were led by the Project Officer Neima Wadio meanwhile the Executive Director (ED) Enzama Ernest led the power point presentation on the findings of the reference study, project over view and the discussion sessions to obtain feedback from the stake holders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I wish to confirm the findings of the reference study as a true reflection of what happens in Yumbe and recommend that in future, voices of the respondents during such studies to be captured for authenticity of the study findings “said Ijosiga Brian Sulai, Assistant CAO, Yumbe district. • “Officials from the land office and local council courts, Lugbara Kari, elders, land lords and RWCs should be involved as front liners in the implementation of the project for sustainability of the intervention” Remarked Natural Resource Officer (Kawawa Serbeet) Yumbe DLG. • “Referrals from Peace Advocates to technical partners, protection partners and psychosocial support partners be catered for under the CPS project for better results”, remarked Olema Annet, Principal Assistant CAO Terego district • RWC III Vice chairperson, Lakop Winnie acknowledged that conflicts still occur among the host communities and refugees where the latter are beaten by nationals when found collecting fire wood, similarly food categorization has increased cases of

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					<p>conflicts and fights in the households which needs the attention of the partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter-youth fights organized in the settlements due to bitterness over lack of educational and employment opportunities equally needs the attention of partners and leaders
<p>Awareness raising on access and user rights to natural resources including land, forest resources and minerals; and the relevant laws</p>	<p>Process indicator 3: Local based structures (women, youth, elderly, men) in the refugee and host communities are engaging in proper natural resource governance and management</p>	<p>Men 204 Women 162 Children 0</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Karunga trading centre, Ariwa Sub County Yumbe district on 23/7/2025 2. Edrayo Trading Centre Uriama Sub County, Terego district on 25/7/2025 3. Ngongitali ECS Chapel D2 food distribution centre Odupi Sub County, Terego district on 29/7/2025 	<p>The overall activity planning and implementation processes were led by the Project Officer Neima Wadio meanwhile the Executive Director (ED) Enzama Ernest led the awareness session and the Psychosocial Counselor Barbra Consolate Birungi took record of the proceedings of the activity while identifying issues that needed follow-ups with psychosocial support.</p> <p>for producing report</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Community members deeply appreciated the eye-opening messages and all needed a copy of the hand book on the laws, access and user rights b) “I pray, if only resources can allow, MACCO should train all the RWC 1s and LC 1s” appealed Anguyo Henry Thomas, the RWC 3 Chairman Bidibidi Zone 5 settlement Yumbe district. c) “Police do not handle land matters, it is LCs. Police get involved when blood spills out. We handle the criminal part. We have been conducting community dialogues with limitations. We shall start running integrated programs with MACCO” said Odraru Faiza, Ag OC Ariwa representing the police. d) “Land matters cap community issues in Ariwa. This engagement focuses on daily real-life issues the community is grappling with” remarked Kale John, the LC 3 Chairman Ariwa Sub County e) The project has come timely as communities enter cultivation season where many cases over land will occur, remarked Ismail Mulikiriza, the Protection Officer, OPM Imvepi refugee settlement, Terego district

Choose 2-3 significant activities, which contribute to achieving impact 2 and describe them in detail:

Activity 4.1.1: Capacity building for 48 women, youth and male advocates in land administration and environmental management

MACCO, in the month of June 2025, trained forty-seven (47) women, youth and male advocates designated as Peace Advocates in land administration and environmental management across the three project sub counties of Odupi, Uriama in Terego district and Ariwa in Yumbe district. The participants included both refugees and nationals as tabled below:

Category	Female	Male	Total
Refugees	5	12	17
Nationals	10	20	30
Total	15	32	47

During the selection process, the Community Development Officers of the three project sub counties were consulted and engaged for identification of the participants. This ensured involvement of the local authorities and subsequent ownership over the selection outcomes. MACCO is now working with the 48 Peace

Advocates as community resource persons. This has eased community level mobilization and raised commitment from both the peace advocates and community members. The trainings have also significantly enhanced the capacity of the Peace Advocates in laws and user rights to land and other natural resources. The peace advocates have effectively led awareness sessions and mediated 40 cases and resolved 33 disputes related to land, other natural resources and GBV using the knowledge gained.

Training Outcomes

1. Increased knowledge and mindset change; the participants gained deeper understanding of the relevant laws; and aspects of land administration and environmental management. They now effectively take part and often lead in community engagements and conflict resolution spaces related to land and other natural resources. The Peace Advocates have conducted four (4) community level awareness sessions and reached out to 227 community members (refugees: 49 and national 178; Females 73 and males 153) as follows:
 - Duku Dickson in Imvepi refugee settlement, Odupi Sub-County Terego district conducted one awareness session at Bright ECD during Parents and Teachers Association general meeting and reached out to 52 community members (RM 12, RF 37, NF, 2, NM 1)
 - Ajidra Muzamil in Rigbonga and Awinga Parishes, Uriama Sub-County, Terego district conducted two awareness sessions and reached out to 94 community members in Kiranga village (F 29, M 17) and Ochinga village (F 27, M 21).
 - Yasin Ramadan and group in Ejoni Parish conducted one awareness session at Maraju Parish and reached out to 81 community members (Male 23, Female 58)
2. The 48 Peace Advocates are actively involved in monitoring, reporting and referring conflicts cases related to land and natural resources in their localities
3. The peace advocates have developed local strategies for ownership and sustainability of the project interventions including integration of local knowledge and traditional practices through

involvement of leaders of Lugbara Kari (the cultural institution), elders and members of local council courts in the project activities. They have committed to sustain community level activities like awareness sessions and dialogues; and ensure that the activities are inclusive and accessible to all members of the community. This will empower the community members and provide opportunities for reporting addressing complaints in real time.

Best Practices;

- Three WhatsApp platforms (one per sub county) were created and are functional. This aids coordination and sharing updates from the field.
- Three actionable community level plans were developed and are being implemented by the Peace Advocates. This is helping to roll out the basic knowledge on laws and user rights to land and other natural resources.

The trainings were held as follows;

S/N	Sub County /District	Dates	Venue	Peace Advocates trained
1	Odupi in Terego	10-11th June 2025	OPM Hall, Imvepi base camp, Odupi S/C in Terego	16
2	Uriama in Terego	13-14th June 2025	Youth Centre, Ofua III, Uriama S/C in Terego	15
3	Ariwa in Yumbe	22-23rd June 2025	Ariwa S/C H/Qs, Zone 5, Bidibidi Refugee Settlement, Yumbe.	16
	Total			47

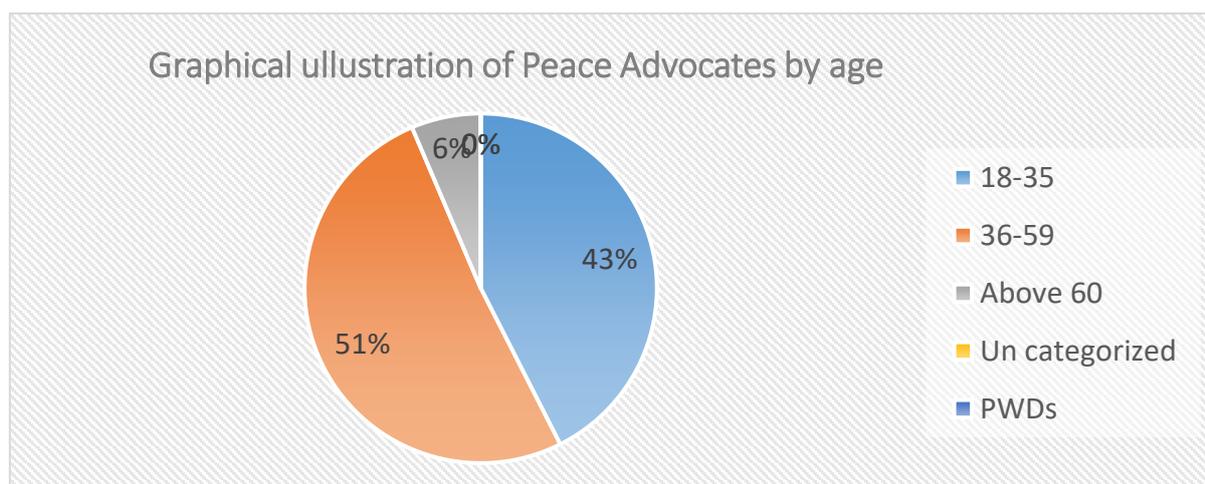
Summary of key advocacy issues raised during the trainings and being followed up by the Peace Advocates and project team

- Advocating for land leasehold agreements to support refugees and nationals in documenting land related transactions to minimize conflicts.
- Identifying and directing sensitizations/awareness to hot spot areas e.g. Cinya. The areas are characterized by high rates of conflict
- Engaging with sub county/district authorities on smuggling of illegal items (forest products e.g. logs and charcoal) in the communities by unknown people at Cinya village, Uriama Sub County, Terego district.
- Advocating for involvement of LCs, RWCs and land lords in the project activities to minimize conflicts.
- Identifying and compiling advocacy issues for higher level engagements with NEMA, NFA and other stakeholders through MACCO.
- Advocating for the functionality of environmental committees in their localities and project areas.
- Installation of recycling bins in offices, trading centres and homes

- Advocating for development and enforcement of by-laws and regulations on land, environmental and natural resource use e.g. bush burning
- Lobbying to participate in planning and budgeting processes to advocate for budget provision/inclusion for environmental management activities.

Summary of overall attendance (L) and Graphical illustration of participants (R) by age, gender and nationality in attendance by age

Age	RM	RF	NM	NF	Total
18-35	7	4	5	4	20
36-59	4	1	13	6	24
Above 60	0	0	3	0	3
PWDs	0	0	0	0	0
Total	11	5	21	10	47



Overall, women and men aged 36-59 from both refugee and host communities constituted half (51%) of the total number of the Peace Advocates. Youth aged 18-35 followed with a representation of 43% of the total number of Peace Advocates trained. The young group of Peace Advocates will advocate for participation and inclusion of the young people in decision process, ownership, access, use of land and use of natural resources. The youth pledged to work closely with the 51% of adult men and women and 6% elderly men from both refugee and host communities to champion land rights, advocacy on reduction of SGBV and other conflicts related to land and natural resource.

Activity Photos: Group photo (L) and session facilitation by Executive Director MACCO (R) during Peace Advocates training at Ariwa and Odupi Sub counties respectively.



Photos below: Action planning and presentation session by Peace Advocates during the trainings at Ariwa (L) and Odupi sub county (R) respectively



What changes did you observe during the training?

There was a growing realization of the negative practices existing in the community. This is denoted by the submission of Andama Stephen, Peace Advocate, Yelulu village, Zone 2 saying “The training has opened my eyes and mind, I will report the case of Wetland destruction which is currently taking place in Yelulu”. Juma Innocent a Peace Advocate from Uriama Sub County recalled how trucks come and load forest produce in the settlement (Cinya village) illegally and take them to town which is against the law. Local authorities immediately appreciated the importance of community empowerment in mitigating resource driven conflicts as the the RWC III Chairperson, Imvepi refugee settlement (Ayume John Peter) said “ I wish to thank MACCO for winning a project which is aimed at addressing the real issues on ground affecting both refugees and the host communities, I therefore pledge my commitment and support to ensure the project achieves its objectives”.

What changes did the participants report?

Mr. Majid Asiku a Peace Advocate from Bidibidi Zone 5, Ariwa Sub County, Yumbe district reported that “... I have been able to successfully resolve cases of conflicts within my community. Notably a land related assault and threatening murder case in Okuyo Parish between Adebo Mohamed and Acema Ronald from Mgangi and Ayago villages respectively. Through negotiation and mediation with the help of local authorities (LC1s, Parish chief, LC 2, land lords, opinion and religious leaders of the two villages) the case was resolved, the two families reconciled and the said land was redemarcated amicably”,

What changes do you hope will happen after the activity?

- Change in the way local council courts, area land committees, elders among others are resolving conflicts in the desired way
- Zero tolerance to violence in the community
- Conflicts are addressed constructively and non-violently
- Conflict is sanctioned and civil conflict management is becoming the norm
- Violence no longer has a place as a means of conflict resolution

What was the most important success for this activity? What did it manage to achieve?

The ability of Peace advocates to detect and resolve conflicts peacefully and sustainably. Peace Advocates across the three project Sub Counties of Ariwa, Uriama and Odupi were able to detect, report, resolve and refer a number of resource driven conflicts as below

Summary of cases/incidences received mediated, resolved, pending and referred

Type of conflicts	Mediated	Referred	Pending	Concluded	PSA rendered
Land conflicts	24	20	5	19	24
Deforestation and bush burning	8	5	2	7	8
Farm destruction by stray animals	7	5	2	7	7
GBV cases related to land conflicts	1	0	1	0	1
	40	30	10	33	40

4.1.2. Awareness raising for 450 individuals on user rights to natural resources including land, forest resources and minerals; and the relevant laws.

Summary of the key issues raised

- Boarder dispute between Naranga and Amia villages over ownership of Zone 3 settlement in terms of service provision involving the community and the local authorities in the two villages
- Non-formal ways of acquiring land for use by the refugees from the host community members
- Rampant land conflict cases between refugee and the host community and among the host community themselves during hiring processes (one piece of land rented out to more than one tenant)
- Conflicts between refugees and host community over use of natural resources like firewood, water sources etc
- Lack of support offered to land lords who offered land for resettling the refugees by UNHCR and OPM
- Massive destruction/cutting and transportation of forest produce to Arua town by unknown people at Cinya (Uriama) and Zone 3 (Odupi).
- Rampant case of destruction of crops by stray animals from host and Balalu cattle keepers
- Inter youth fights organized in the settlements due to lack of educational and employment opportunities
- High transport charges levied by LCs, elders and the land committee during land acquisition processes
- Food categorization leading to increased cases of conflicts/violence and fights at house hold level
- Cinya (Ofua I & II) in Uriama and Ombechi in Ariwa are hot spot areas for all criminal activities including drug abuse, theft of all categories especially by youth.

MACCO in the reporting period conducted three (3) awareness raising sessions on access and user rights to natural resources including land, forest resources and minerals; and the relevant laws in the three project Sub-Counties of Ariwa, Uriama and Odupi. The awareness sessions were conducted on 23rd, 25th and 29th July 2025 respectively. A total of 376 (RM 41, RF 36, NM 172, NF 127) out of targeted 450 participants in the category of women, men, youth, elderly and PWDs from both refugees and host communities and local authorities attended the awareness sessions.

Achievements

The awareness message reached out to 376 community members out of the 450 targeted individuals, representing 84% performance. The participants involved 77 refugees and 299

nationals.

The community members (refugees and host community members) raised a number of issues (Summary in the table on the left) relating to natural resources causing conflicts among the refugee and host communities. The issues highlight challenges affecting peaceful coexistence especially in relation to acquisition of land for use. In the responses, the leaders guided giving strategies for amicable resolution and sustainable use of natural resources. Key among the guidance offered was call to signing formal agreements in land transactions. The issues raised in turn constituted agenda for community dialogues.

Sampled responses from the local authorities to the issues raised

- The local leaders (RWCs and LCs) tasked communities to formalize all land acquisition processes in their localities. They called to enter in to written agreements witnessed by LC 1s and RWCs. The written and signed agreements will act as reference documents in case of any disputes.
- Local leaders were tasked to enforce the existing by-laws and ordinances on stray animals
- OPM will meet all the RWCs and LCs to harmonize the issue of high transport charges levied on communities during land acquisition processes.

There was good representation of local authorities during the sessions from both local governments. Among the officers who attended were: Protection Officer OPM Imvepi refugee settlement, LC 3 Chairpersons Ariwa and Uriama, RWC 3 Chairpersons, Ariwa, Odupi and Uriama, Ag OC Police Ariwa and Assistant OC Police Imvepi. The leaders responded to all the key issues raised by the communities. Therefore, the sensitization meetings offered a platform for the communities to raise their issues to the leaders and the issues were effectively responded to by the leaders.

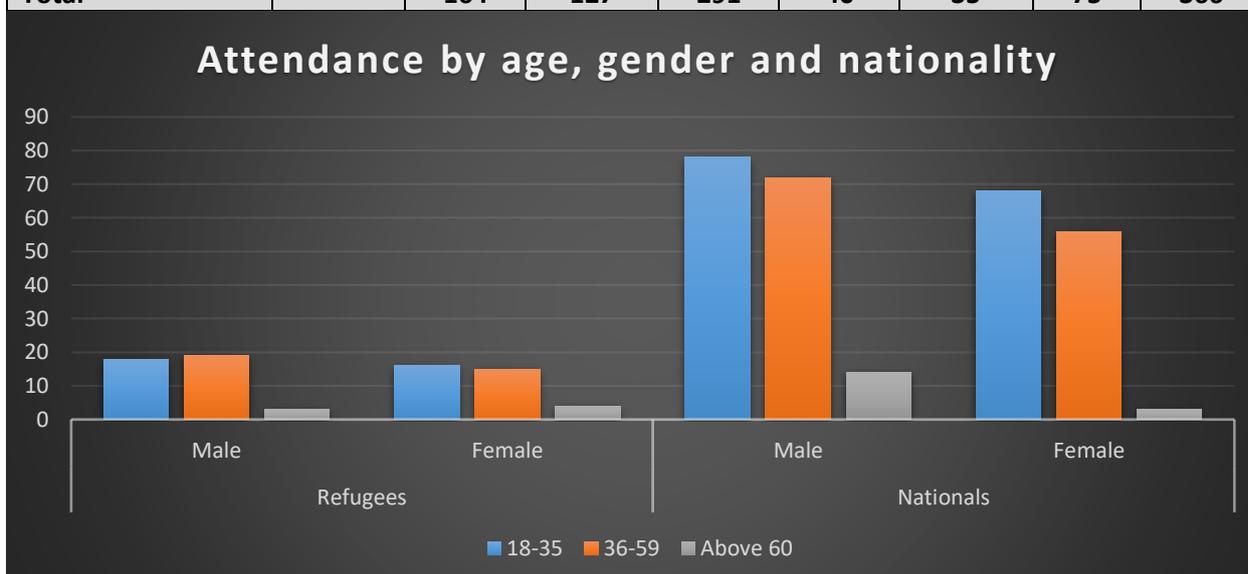
A total of 300 copies of Hand book and 1000 postas on user rights and procedures for accessing land, forest resources, wetlands and mineral resources were distributed. The materials act as reference materials for community level awareness creation by the Peace Advocates and local authorities to increase community knowledge on user rights, relevant laws and procedures for access to land, forest, water, wetland and mineral resources

Seventy-seven (75) out of three hundred seventy-six (366) participants were refugees representing 20% attendance meanwhile 291 were nationals representing 80% attendance across the three project sub counties (Ariwa, Odupi and Uriama). Poor mobilization contributed to low attendance of the activity by the refugee community and overall attendance of the activity. There is need for deliberate effort to increase the number of refugees participating in the project activities.

LOCATION	TARGET	NATIONAL			REFUGEE		TOTAL	Overall
		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE		
Ariwa sub-county	150	88	41	129	12	12	24	153
Uriama sub-county	150	56	38	94	3	1	4	98
Odupi sub-county	150	20	48	68	25	22	47	115
Total	450	164	127	291	40	35	75	366

Attendance by age, gender and nationality

Age		Nationals			Refugees			Total
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
18-35		78	68	146	18	16	34	180
36-59		72	56	128	19	15	34	162
Above 60		14	3	17	3	4	7	24
PWDs		3	1	4	2	0	2	6
Total		164	127	291	40	35	75	366



Activity photos: Chairman RWC 3, Zone 5 Ariwa and Chairman LC 3 Uriama giving remarks during the awareness raising sessions at Karunga and Edrayo villages respectively.



What changes did you observe during the sensitization?

- Increased knowledge about the law on natural resources and environment
- Realization of cases of conflict with law that community members had lived with as normal practice. One participant and an occupant of protected zone along Nyara river in Uriama expressed fears over use of protected areas along river basins (30 meters for small streams

like Nyara river and 100 meters for major rivers like Enyau saying our gardens are along Nyara river, and all along, we have lived on it, please advise us.

- Growing appreciation for awareness sessions and willingness to participate in the awareness sessions; they raised issues freely and expressed relief as the leaders responded. Community appreciation for the awareness sessions was demonstrated by repeated requests that similar awareness session should be taken to China village, in Ofua I, Uriama

What changes did the participants report?

The communities reported that they can now freely open up, report and present issues that affect them to the Peace Advocates. They now know and identify with the Peace Advocates. They call the Peace Advocates to participate in resolving cases in their localities and thus are aware of and recognize the importance of non-violent ways of resolving conflicts. Community recognition of non-violent approach to conflict management and the role of peace advocates is demonstrated by overwhelming report of conflicts to the Peace Advocates. A total of 154 cases were received by the Peace Advocates in a span of two months.

What changes do you hope will happen after the sensitization?

- Increased awareness of access and user rights to natural resources (land, forest resources and minerals); and the relevant laws in relation to land ownership, land use regulations, and dispute resolution mechanisms.
- Greater community participation in land and natural resource governance spaces.
- Reduced land and resource driven disputes, and better benefit sharing.
- Peaceful co-existence among the refugees and the host community

What was the most important success for this sensitization? What did it manage to achieve?

Increased knowledge and awareness among the community members about access and user rights to natural resources as evidenced by the growing realization of access rights and limitations for protected zones; and knowledge as well as appreciation for the referral pathways demonstrated by numbers of cases reported to the Peace Advocates and the leaders.

Activity 4.5.2: Facilitate community-based peace initiatives

MACCO in the reporting period held three monthly review meetings (1 per sub county) with the 48 community-based Peace Advocates (RM 12, RF 5, NM 21, NF 10) across the three project sub counties to assess implementation progress and track impact of their engagements with the community over the month. In the monthly review meetings, the project team discussed and documented key achievements made by

the Peace Advocates and the project in general; and provided technical guidance and support on complex issues/challenges encountered by the peace advocates.

Key outcomes

Peace Advocates are actively sensitizing communities and raising awareness at community level. They are also actively participating in community engagement forums and resolving conflicts

related to land and other disputes in their communities. The Peace Advocates are now actively involved in monitoring, reporting and referring cases of conflict related to land and natural resources in their localities

Sampled Peace Advocates and the cases mediated/resolved

- Andama Stephen Peace Advocate from zone 2 (Odupi) mediated and resolved 3 resource driven conflicts
 - a) Boarder conflict case between two individuals Mikaya Kasu and Wani Moses in village 9, zone 3, Imvepi refugee settlement;
 - b) Conflict related to multiple hire of one piece of land by Edemi Alimurua (From Aligo village) to two refugees (Sebit Bida and Kiden Suzan) at 40,000 and 60,000 shs respectively. Sebit was denied the right to use the land. The case was reported to the Peace Advocates who then involved the local leaders (LCs and RWCs) in resolving the matter. A new plot was allocated for Sebit and the three families reconciled and;
 - c) A land grabbing case involving Atiku Kennedy and Male John from Yelulu village was amicably resolved with involvement of Peace Advocates, local leaders and church leaders;
- Land conflict between Adebo Mohamed and Acema Ronald from Mgangi and Ayago villages respectively in Okuyo Parish was successfully resolved through negotiation and mediation led by Asiku Majid a Peace Advocate with high involvement of local authorities (LC1s, Parish chief, LC 2, land lords; and opinion and religious leaders of the two villages), The two families reconciled and the said land was demarcated amicably
- A case of theft of teachers' food crops by the watchman of Ombechi P/S was amicably mediated and resolved by Celina Lingo (Peace Advocate) with the help of school administration and the Peace Advocates. Disciplinary actions were taken against the watchman. Meanwhile, a case of theft of mortar for motorized irrigation in Ariwa 2 was reported to RWC1 and later referred to police pending investigation and further management
- Case of destruction of crops by stray animals in Ariwa 2 is awaiting a meeting to be organized by the RWC 1 with involvement of the Peace Advocates (Daniel Hassan)
- Ajidra Muzamil a peace Advocate (from Rigbonga amicably calmed chaos arising from election violence among the youth in Ariwa
- a. Sampled awareness sessions conducted by Peace Advocates**
- Duku Dickson, a Peace Advocate from Odupi, Imvepi settlement conducted awareness session at Bright ECD during; Parents Teachers Association general meeting on access and user rights and procedures for accessing land, forest resources, wetlands and minerals; and the relevant laws. The session reached out to 52 community members (RM 12, RF 37, NF, 2, NM 1)
- Ajidra Muzamil and Peace Advocates from Rigbonga and Awinga parishes conducted two awareness sessions in their own communities and this reached out to 94 community members in Kiranga (F 29, M 17) and Ochinga (F 27, M 21) villages.
- Yasin Ramandan and Peace Advocates Ejoni Parish conducted awareness sessions at Maraju Parish on access and user rights to land and natural resources that reached out to 81 community members (Male 23, Female 58)

Summary of cases/incidences received mediated, resolved, pending and referred by the Peace advocates

S/No	Type of conflicts	Mediated	Referred	Pending	Concluded	Psycho social aid rendered
1	Land conflicts	24	20	5	19	24
2	Deforestation and bush burning	8	5	2	7	8
3	Farm destruction by stray animals	7	5	2	7	7
4	GBV cases related to land conflicts	1	0	1	0	1
Total		40	30	10	33	40

Activity photos (Left, - right): Ariwa, and Uriama: Peace Advocates and MACCO staff during technical support and review meetings



Photo: Odupi respectively: Peace Advocates and MACCO staff during technical support and review meetings



What changes did you observe during the support to community-based peace advocates?

The Peace advocates are enthusiastic about the peace work but, one peace advocate from Cinya in Ofua was not responsive to calls. It was evident from their submissions that there was increased involvement and collaboration with the local leaders (LC1s, Parish chief, LC 2, land lords, opinion and religious leaders) in resolving conflict cases related to land and natural resources. This aligns well with the recommendation derived by the District Natural Resource Officer Yumbe during the Project launch held on 25th June 2025. In his own words “I wish to recommended that officials from the land office and local council courts, Lugbara Kari, elders and RWCs be involved as front liners in the implementation of the project to strengthen their capacity in the relevant laws to facilitate them the in-handling land related issues/conflicts within their jurisdiction and locality “**Kawawa Serbeet**, Natural Resource Officer Yumbe district local government. In addition, their highlight growing need for including women and youth in peace and reconciliation processes. This is aimed at ensuring their meaningful participation in decision-making and addressing gender-related issues in peace building initiatives.

What changes did the participants report?

The reports of Peace Advocates indicated yet growing cases of land-related conflicts, particularly between refugees. and host communities. Most of the cases arise from informal rental agreements often based on words of mouth without documentation. Other cases relate to frequent rent increases, confiscation of crops, and tenants refusing to vacate after the agreed-upon term. The communities urged MACCO to work with the local authorities to obtain land lease documents (agreement forms) to support refugees and nationals in obtaining land for use to minimize conflicts.

There is increased visibility and presence/relevance of the Peace Advocates within the communities. “Communities now know us the Peace Advocates and they call us to participate in resolving cases”, remarked Asiku Majid, a Peace Advocate from Ariwa sub county, Yumbe district

What changes do you hope will happen after the activity?

- Peace Advocates provide timely and context-specific information about resource-related tensions and potential conflicts due to their presence within the communities where the cases are experienced.
- Peace Advocates conduct context specific and tailored awareness sessions on access and user rights to land and natural resources in their localities, empower local communities, give them voice in identifying and addressing resource-related conflicts to foster a sense of ownership and responsibility for conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts.
- Authorities and other stakeholders proactively address issues before they escalate into violence.
- The service delivery providers and duty bearers are more conflict sensitive in their actions
- Peaceful coexistence among the refugees and the host community and stable environment where communities can thrive and develop.

What was the most important success for this activity? What did it manage to achieve?

- Timely identification and reporting of conflicts related to resource competition by the Peace Advocates due to their proximity and deep understanding of the local content.
- The high level of coordination and cooperation among the Peace Advocates and the local leaders (LC1s, Parish chief, LC 2, land lords, opinion and religious leaders) in resolving conflict cases related to land and natural resources in their localities.

what changes do you hope will happen?

- Greater community participation in land and natural resource governance spaces.
- Reduced land and resource driven disputes, and better benefit sharing.
- Peaceful co-existence among the refugees and the host community

1. Please describe if you encountered any challenges in the implementation of any activity and what conclusions you made for the future?

- Cultural diversity and language differences. There are several ethnic groups using different languages in the settlements in addition to the lugbara people among the host communities. Invepi refugee settlement hosts the Kakwa among the South Sudanese refugees and the Lugbara people among the host communities. Meanwhile, Bidibidi refugee settlement host other ethnic groups like Dinga, Kuku and Nuer. Therefore, several languages and services of interpreters were used in order to enable every cultural group get the message. Three languages (English, Lugbara and Kakwa) were used in Village 16, Invep refugee settlement. Meanwhile, in Zone 5, Bidibidi refugee settlement, Arabic had to be used due to the presence of other tribal groups among the refugees.

2. Please mention any area your team needs support from the coordination office or other partner organisations?

- Purchase of Quickbooks accounting package and staff training

3. Is there anything in terms of lessons learned what worked very well or what did not work at all that you would like to share with Coordination office and other partner organisations/teams?

- Collaboration with the office of Community Development Officers of the three project sub counties helped in the identification of competent and resourceful community-based Peace Advocates.
- Active involvement of the local authorities (Local council 1- 3 and RWC 1-3 Chairpersons) in the awareness raising sessions was key for addressing the land related issues raised. The Sub-County leaders clarified on issues of local practice like varying transport charges for land inspection according to distances travelled, and application for land registration being free of costs save for reproduction costs for photocopying the forms.
- Collaboration with keystone holders e.g. OPM, Sub County leadership offered opportunity for sharing resources e.g. Conference halls at OPM and Ariwa Sub County utilized at reduced costs basically to cover utility costs like water.

4. Mention 1-3 success stories from the reporting period (please include a picture if possible)

A Community Based Peace Advocate helps two families to transform conflicts into harmony in Bidibidi settlement, Zone 5 (Ariwa Sub County)

Mr. Asiku Majid is among the 16 Peace Advocates in Ariwa Sub County supporting community level mobilization and engagements in the EIRENE CPS project in Ariwa Sub-County, covering Zone 5 of Bidibidi refugee settlement in Yumbe district. He hails from Ikafe parish, Ariwa Sub County Yumbe district. Asiku was trained under the project in Land administration and natural resource governance and environmental management in June 2025.

Asiku stood out as one self-confessed beneficiary of the training that he “gained deeper understanding of the laws and aspects of land administration, natural resource governance and environmental management”. He now effectively takes part and often leads community engagements and conflict resolution spaces in his community as he recounts: “I have been able to successfully resolve cases of conflicts within my community. In what turned out to be the most successful case, I was informed of an assault and threatening murder case in Okuyo parish between Adebo Mohamed from Mgangi Village and Acema Ronald from Ayago village. Through negotiation and mediation with the help of local authorities (LC1s, Parish chief, LC 2, land lords, opinion leaders of the two villages) the case was resolved, the two families reconciled and the said land was redemarcated amicably”.

5. Is there any change in the overall context of the country or the specific target groups that is worth mentioning?

Political activities have intensified with upcoming general elections. Primary elections are going on within the parties. A lot of attention has shifted to political campaigns. A number

of questions are treated with political sensitivity. In Ariwa, Yumbe district, one community member raised a derogatory question on land acquisition against the Area Member of Parliament saying “he has bought a whole village. There is impending threat of evicting all the people. How can the people be helped? - asked the community member during the community sensitization meeting.

6. When revising the overall activity plan for 2025, are there any activities for the next period of reporting that need to be added or amended?

There is need to make a budget provision for:

- Visibility materials
- Purchase of Accounting package (Quickbooks) and staff training
- Bank charges

7. Have there been any joint activities with any of the other organisations (ACFODE, JESE, ICSS, MACCO) or any of the other CPS implementing organisations (GIZ; AGIAMONDO)

There was no joint activity with any partner organization because all activities were conducted at community level. None of the partner organizations works within the same location with MACCO.

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