

End of Project Report

Period: 01.12.2019 - 31.12.2019

Project ID: A-05868-06 Project Title: CECI Saving Lives Now and Future Project
In Bidi Bidi Refugee Camp Settlement, Uganda

Donor: Oxfam IBIS



CECI UGANDA

Community Empowerment
for Creative Innovation

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Executive Summary

CECI (Community Empowerment for Creative Innovation) – a refugee youth-led Community Based Organization (CBO) whose main focus is Peacebuilding through recreational activities, education and innovative approaches to transform conflicts into a culture of peace and nonviolence and, boost youth engagement and empowerment at the grassroots level – Implemented in Bidi Bidi Refugee Camp Settlement (Yumbe District) a seven months project under the name CECI Saving lives now & future project, with funding from OxfamIBIS. The project aimed at building and nurturing the culture of peace and nonviolence among refugees and with host communities via training peacebuilders, establishing local peace committees, youth spaces and peace and nonviolence clubs, organizing Peace cultural galas and sports (Football & Netball) tournaments.

Despite the limited project period, the CECI Saving lives now & future project, between November and December, 2019, succeeded in developing the capacities of 50+ influential refugee and host community youth, women, and community leaders as local Peacebuilders (Trainer of Trainees (ToTs)), who in turn established seven (7) local Youth Peace Committees (YPCs) and trained 403+ community members as Peace Ambassadors on Conflict Resolution, Mediation and Peacebuilding to create positive awareness and help the community resolve violent conflicts peacefully; in creating an enabling environment for social cohesion via organizing Peace Cultural gala and Football and Netball tournament that brought together over 250 refugee and host community youth from diverse backgrounds to work towards the cause of peacebuilding. Over 879 and 2000 people were reached indirectly and directly. It's vital to note that the community confessed reduced rate of violence especially in Cluster II as people now know how to mediate and resolve conflicts without violence in the community and at their families.

Notwithstanding the significant change created by the project, it faced some challenges that include: a) short project life span affected the original design of project activities in the proposal and limited the project to only one (1) out of five (5) clusters of Zone 3, Bidi Bidi Camp yet similar programs are desperately needed in other clusters as well. The zone is wide yet unreached. Increment of project period and extension of the project to other clusters of the zone was recommended; b) High hate speeches practiced in schools, public places such as play grounds, water points, etcetera inciting hate, tensions and sometimes violence among refugees and with host communities. Awareness raising programs and trainings to empower both leaders and community members with practical knowledge and skills to mitigate hate speech and misinformation for peacebuilding be initiated across the zone as alternative to preventing predictable violence; c) high stress and trauma cases in the zone leading to violence, suicidal tendencies and sometimes death, yet they lack trauma healing skills. Trauma healing programs to facilitate healing, community reconciliation was recommended.

Background

This End of Project Report gives insight into the successes and challenges faced during the implementation of the #CECI saving lives now & future project being implemented in Zone III (Yoyo), Bidi Bidi Refugee Camp Settlement by CECI UGANDA (Community Empowerment for Creative Innovation) with funding from Oxfam IBIS as well as recommendations. The report consists of the executive summary, which gives an insight of the project and project activities; key measurable achievements; challenges encountered in the due implementation of the project; the recommendations/conclusion.

Purpose of the Project

Targeting mainly youth, women, students and community leaders, the ‘Youth Building Peaceful Coexistence Among Refugees and with Host Communities’ project seeks to build and nurture the culture of peace and non-violence among refugees and with host communities in Zone III of BIDIBIDI refugee settlement through: a) developing the capacities of influential community leaders as peace builders to establish Youth Peace Committees (YPCs) at village level and train fellow community members as peace ambassadors on conflict resolution/prevention and initiate community outreach activities that facilitate peaceful coexistence among refugees and with host communities; b) using cultural and sports events to bring together youth from diverse backgrounds, to promote peace and reconciliation, improve community interrelation, restore mutual trust and build spirit of resilience among and between refugee and host communities; c) forming Peace and Non-violence (Pan) clubs in schools to use participatory theatre as an engagement tool to instill the culture of peace and non-violence and create an informed community of students in higher institutions of learning who are aware of the impact of Hate speech in nation building and knowledgeable of what they can do to contribute to strengthening coexistence among and between refugees and host communities; d) establishing, strengthening Youth Spaces to create an enabling environment for creativity and meaningful engagement, for youth from diverse backgrounds to come and work together, share their experiences and ideas, identify issues of concern to them, develop solutions and put them into action.

In NUMBERS

51

- **Youth, Women & Community Leaders**

- Trained as local Youth Peacebuilders and Trainer of Trainees (ToT) on conflict resolution, mediation & peacebuilding, and supported to train fellow community members as local Peace Ambassadors in their respective local communities

403

- **Community Members**

- Trained as Local Peace Ambassadors by ToTs to create positive awareness about peaceful resolution of conflicts without violence and help the community resolve conflicts peacefully

897

- **People Directly Reached**

- Total number of People directly Reached in Cluster 2, Zone 3 Bidi Bidi Refugee Camp Settlement between November and December, 2019 through trainings, cultural gala, and the soccer and netball tournaments

1500+

- **People Reached directly & indirectly**

- Estimated number of people reached in Bidi Bidi refugee camp settlement between the period of November and December 2019

PROJECT ACTIVITIES PROGRESS TABLE

S/N	ACTIVITY	STATUS			PROJECT TARGET		ACCOMPLISHED	
		Ongoing	Done	Not Done				
1	Inception meeting with stakeholders to a) aware the community about the project and b) task community leaders to identify 50 influential refugee & host community leaders to be trained as Trainer of Trainees (Peacebuilders) on conflict resolution, mediation and peacebuilding		X		5		1 (20%)	
2	Train 50 refugee & host community youth, women, and community leaders as Trainer of Trainees on conflict resolution, mediation and peacebuilding		X		50 (100%)		51 (102%)	
					F	M	F	M
					19 (37%)	31 (63%)	22 (115.8%)	29 (93.5%)
3	Establish & support Youth Peace Committees (YPCs) in every village of the Zone to organize and train fellow community members as Peace Ambassadors		X		22		7 (31.8%)	
4	Train Peace Ambassadors, via YPCs, to create positive awareness and help the community resolve conflicts without violence.		X		660 (100%)		402 (61%)	
					M	F	M	F
					416 (63%)	244 (37%)	238 (57%)	164 (67%)
5	Organize peace cultural gala		X		1		1 (100%)	
6	Organize peace soccer & netball tournament in the zone		X		1		1 (100%)	

7	Conduct community outreaches in schools, influential local groups to create awareness and empower 250 students, teachers, leaders to create awareness on hate speech mitigation and peacebuilding			X	10	0 (0%)
8	Form Peace and Nonviolence (PaN) clubs in every school to use participatory theatre as an engagement tool to instill the culture of peace & nonviolence and create positive awareness			X	Every primary/secondary school	0 (0%)
9	Establish, strengthen youth spaces to keep youth in the zone engaged and busy			X	1	0 (0%)
10	Conduct project review & evaluation meetings with stakeholders		X		3	1 (33.3%)

Measurable Achievements

1. Training of Trainers (ToTs) and Youth Peace Committees Mini-Trainings

Capacity building trainings
For youth, women, community members
and leaders



The capacities of youth, women and community leaders has been developed to steer successful peaceful conflict resolution and reconciliation efforts in the community (especially among the youth). Over 50 refugee and host community influential youth, women, opinion, religious and community leaders were trained as PeaceBuilders/Trainer of Trainees (ToT) on conflict resolution, mediation and peacebuilding and equipped with handouts. The highly interactive training demonstrated with active participation that created a conducive environment that encouraged learning and teamwork in all irrespective of existing differences amplified participants understanding of conflict, conflict management, peace and forgiveness and reconciliation as attested in the words of Sebit Martin, one of the participants “insert text”

Trainer of trainees (ToTs) from diverse backgrounds and villages teamed up and formed local Youth Peace Committees (YPCs), two (2) in each of the 3 villages that form Cluster two (2) and including one (1) from the host community, to create positive awareness and train fellow community members as local Peace Ambassadors as a way to strengthening locally through youth cases the culture of peaceful resolution of conflicts in their respective communities. The local peace committees with support from CECI and community leaders co-organized in every village training workshops and trained in one month 403 community members as local ambassadors of peace with youth below the age of 35 constituting the greatest percentage (91%). Community members involved with the trainings have created Peace Lovers Clubs through which they raise awareness on peaceful resolution of disputes and pass on peace messages to the community through drama plays, group discussions and peer-to-peer education and mentorship. Thus, as attested by the Refugee Welfare Council (RWC) 1 during the project review and evaluation meeting with stakeholders held late December 2019 in NewLife Center, Cluster 2, Bidi Bidi Camp there is now reduced rate of violence in the cluster especially among the youth since there is now Increased community knowledge and understanding of how to go about with issues of conflicts.



Youth showed great in organizing, mobilizing and facilitating events that meet community needs and interests thus challenged the community to believe in youth. “Real youth empowerment is one that involves creation of opportunities that foster youth capacity building development and involvement in organization, planning, mobilization and facilitation of youth centered programs”, as said by the zonal youth chairperson, Mawa Bosco, while giving his closing remarks during the Salaam Peace Committee training in village 5. An idea which we subscribe to and uphold in program implementation.

2. Cultural Gala

The Peace Cultural Gala under the theme Appreciating Diversity Through Culture held in Cluster 2 ground Yoyo (Zone 3), Bidi Bidi Camp on 13th December 2019 brought together 7+ tribes from both refugee and host community to display their cultural dances and attires.

Improved social coexistence and cohesion especially among refugees and with host communities. Members from diverse communities – refugee and host community – alongside community leaders and CECI team came together, planned and organized together the gala from day one, phase one to the actual event collectively.

Over 200 people from 7+ tribes existing in the cluster came together and displayed traditional attires and dances such as Larakaraka, Gutter, Duluka, among others, learned and passed on peace messages to fellow community members through drama plays – that focused on peaceful resolution of conflict –, traditional songs. Community leaders in attendance such as Refugee Welfare Councils (RWCs) 1, 2 & 3 including Local Councils (LCs) 1 volunteered to provide security and took advantage of the gala by communicating messages of peace, love and unity to their respective communities. As a result, the gala started and ended peacefully even when there were no police at guard. All cultural, drama and music groups present performed their shows and received appreciation in form of Soap, refreshments and biscuits. It's significant to note that the event attracted over 1500 viewers most of whom were youth below the age of 35 and children. Refugee communities flashed back home and expressed interest in traditional local entertainment than discos.

Increased knowledge and understanding by participants about what their/others culture is, how it is performed. Participants showed significant attitudinal change as children and youth plus adults and community leaders merrily joined in the traditional dances of different tribes and found it fun and pleasant participating and making new friendships.



3. Soccer and Netball tournament

The soccer and netball tournament, under the theme #Play4Peace, ran for one week in Cluster 2 and Mengo playground, Yoyo, Bidi Bidi camp involving 12 teams (Netball: 6, Football: 6). While one netball and football team were from the host community, the rest were from the refugee community.

All teams received balls and uniforms alongside refreshments provided on game basis.

For the first time ever in the cluster, the #Play4Peace tournament tops the list to end successfully, merrily without stopping on the way or ending in violence.

The tournament facilitated unity and drew attention and interest to local sports games. For instance, the host and refugee communities worked collaboratively, during and after, to accomplish tournament preparations as per their interest thus over 300+ people turned up daily to watch, follow and connect with fellow youth from other clusters. Hence, as said by the RWC3, Bidi Bidi Camp, there's reduced rate of violence in the cluster.

Increased free interaction between refugee and host community youth. A total of twelve (12) teams – both football and netball – consisting of 228 youth from diverse backgrounds and villages were formed and strengthened. All teams received balls and playing uniforms, the winning teams trophies and the officiating officials cards and whistle including a token of appreciation to help them continue the awesome work to build their capacity. Thus, currently youth in these clubs are busy building their talents through practice.

Community members alongside players, club managers, officials and community leaders cooperatively selected officiating officials, developed rules and regulations and formed the governing and officiating officials committees, both committees being diverse and inclusive in nature, who closely worked with RWCs, Lcs, and volunteers to oversee, provide and maintain security and discipline throughout the tournament period. Thus, for the first time ever a tournament ended peacefully without ending on the way or in violence.



Challenges

1. The limited time for implementation of the project affected the original design of project activities in the approved proposal as the six (6) months project intended for the entire zone had to be implemented in lesser than two months in only one cluster yet similar programs are urgently needed in other clusters as well. The zone is wide yet unreached;
2. Rampant cases of stress and trauma, hate speech and misinformation inciting hate, tensions and sometimes violence, exist yet trauma healing, hate speech mitigation skills are lacking;
3. Lack of/limited number of trained referees, umpires within the zone to officiate football/netball matches hence the community, players well as coaches have no trust in them to officiate matches professionally. Thus, several tournaments/matches organized by national or international implementing agencies stopped on the way or ended in violence;
4. Limited number of play grounds such as for football/netball (the available few are not in shape), lack of sports attires like uniforms, balls, playing boots, etcetera is discouraging and preventing youth from keeping themselves busy and denying them the opportunity to develop their talents, spend their leisure time constructively;
5. Lack of/inadequate instruments such as drums, adungus for traditional performances caused a delay in the supposed pace of the program since it was the same drums being used for performances by all groups.

Recommendations

1. More trainings on conflict resolution, mediation and peacebuilding with increased timelines be organized across the zone for awareness raising and to empower refugee and host communities with conflict management, hate speech and misinformation mitigation skills.
2. Community and inter-cultural dialogues and trauma healing programs for both refugee and host communities – with focus on community leaders, youth and women – to create awareness and ease healing, reconciliation and peaceful coexistence need to be conducted to provide a platform where people from diverse backgrounds can come together to learn and appreciate one another’s culture and to cooperatively build sustainable peace.
3. More football and netball tournaments at zonal level, incase resources are available, be organized to keep youth busy and help bridge the existing wide gap characterized by hate speeches, violence among refugee and with host community youth since sports has power to bring people together from diverse backgrounds to work towards the cause of forgiveness, reconciliation and peacebuilding.
4. Empower women and youth with savings, entrepreneurship skills to enable them start income generating activities to support themselves, their families effectively
5. Organize trainings on umpirage and refereeing to skill zealous refugee and host community youth identified within the zone as professional referees and umpires.

Financial Reports

PROJECT EXPENDITURES				
Activity	Amount (UGX)		Amount (Euro)	% age (Euro)
Trainings (ToT, Youth Peace Committees (YPCs))	UGX	10,399,000.00	€ 2,494.97	95.14
Peace Cultural Gala	UGX	2,510,000.00	€ 602.21	99.76
#Play4Peace Soccer & Netball Tournament	UGX	6,070,000.00	€ 1,456.34	99.51
Youth Space	UGX	-	€ -	0
Total Programme Cost	UGX	18,979,000.00	€ 4,553.51	75.89
Office and Salaries	UGX	4,106,600.00	€ 985.27	101.29
Total Expenditure	UGX	23,085,600.00	€ 5,538.78	92.31

