



Project 2: Consolidating peace and security between farming and herding communities in the provinces of Salamat, Sila and Ouaddaï

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Duration:

Length:	2 years
Start Date:	November 2021
End Date:	November 2023

Budget:

TOTAL:	\$3.5 Million
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Implementing Agencies and Partners:

FAO, UNDP, WFP

CONTEXT

Like many neighboring countries, Chad faces a significant threat to peace and security from farmer-herder conflicts, which have become the leading cause of violence, occurring with increasing frequency and intensity. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in 2021, Chad experienced a particularly high human toll due to transhumance and inter-community tensions, with 24 incidents reported across the country (nine in the East, seven in the South, eight in the Lake region). These clashes resulted in 309 fatalities and 182 injuries, displaced over 6,500 people, destroyed property and livelihoods, and heightened community tensions. By the end of 2021, 1.3 million people in these three provinces required humanitarian assistance, with 13 percent facing acute food insecurity (IPC3+).

The issue is compounded by reports of herders being armed by unidentified individuals, while local authorities struggle to disarm them. This uncontrolled circulation of weapons complicates efforts to manage conflicts peacefully and poses a challenge for central authorities seeking a long-term solution.

Additionally, climate change exacerbates existing conflict drivers and introduces new disputes, including changes in transhumance routes, increased competition for pasture and water, soil depletion, reduced agricultural productivity, diminished community resilience, and migration.

This conflict affects every province in Chad, particularly the border areas. The eastern provinces have historically experienced social tensions, inter-communal conflict, and persistent food insecurity.

OBJECTIVES

The project aimed to prevent farmer-herder conflicts to promote social cohesion by adopting a human rights-based approach, enhancing relevant legislation, improving the justice system, and upgrading socio-economic infrastructure for these communities. It also sought to ensure equitable access to natural resources to strengthen social ties between farmers and herders.

Project activities included organizing local committees for conflict prevention, facilitating negotiations and dialogues to achieve Memoranda of Understanding between communities, implementing compensatory measures to address complaints, supporting the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, assisting local judicial authorities in preventing and managing conflicts, and aiding in the resolution of disputes within the farmers and herders communities.

- **Result 1:** Conflicts between farming and livestock-raising communities are reduced, helping to consolidate peace and social cohesion.
- **Result 2:** The capacities of stakeholders involved in resolving conflicts between farmers and herders are strengthened, enabling them to engage in conflict resolution and management.
- **Result 3:** Livelihoods of farming and herding community households are improved, enhancing security, peace and social cohesion.

PEACEBUILDING IMPACT

The project operationalized three provincial committees for conflict prevention, which are now actively functioning under established decrees. A forum among these committees facilitated the sharing of best practices and challenges, leading to joint solutions, including an early warning mechanism for incident reporting and herd movement alerts. This system also notifies relevant authorities, enabling timely conflict resolution and easing community tensions.

The committees played a key role in managing 25 socio-economic infrastructures along 120 km of transhumance corridors, including pastoral wells, water ponds, vaccination parks and markets shared by farming and pastoralist communities. These initiatives followed 36 negotiated Memoranda of Understanding. Communities identified priorities through Participatory Community Planning workshops, ensuring the inclusion of women and young people.

Additionally, the project strengthened the capacity of justice actors to apply legal frameworks for conflict management more effectively. As a result, conflict reduction was reported at 38 percent in project areas, between farmers and herders, with 75 conflicts resolved peacefully by local committees, while four were escalated to provincial or national authorities due to their nature and scale. Half of the participants reported improved incomes due to peaceful relations, access to socio-economic infrastructure, and additional support provided to more than 4,000 households, but with an intentional targeting of women and young people.

At the national level, the initiative also provided technical support to the Ministry of Public Security for establishing a National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

CATALYTIC EFFECTS

The initiative supported local and national mechanisms and institutions, unblocking the process of establishment of a National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons, which now has the potential to reduce armed violence and contribute to security and stability across the country.

Strengthening local capacities of the authorities, members of conflict management committees, and producers' associations, along with bolstering basic structures for conflict prevention and management, has created a dynamic network capable of providing local technical support to farming and herding communities. This foundation allows for better monitoring of both short- and long-term actions and initiatives.

Testimonial

"This project has encouraged women to participate in the discussions where conflicts among the communities were discussed. Often, youth and women are excluded. Women have a role to play in creating change and showing new generations the importance of social cohesion".

Amine Ali from Amtiman

The project has significantly reduced conflicts in the area due to the completion of agropastoral works, including the marking of transhumance corridors and the fencing of market gardening sites, according to the Governor of Ouaddaï Province. He further highlighted that the organization and involvement of young people in awareness-raising missions on peaceful coexistence have consolidated peace in the province.

Other testimonies noted that, previously, local committees did not include women and young people in decision-making process. This initiative has introduced an innovative approach, incorporating these groups despite the highly patriarchal context in which the committees operate. The project has also played a central role in defending women's traditional roles within the cultural sphere, with a primary focus on fostering social cohesion and ultimately preventing inter-community conflicts.