

Guinea and Sierra Leone Cross-Border Project



Building cross border peace and strengthening sustainable livelihoods of cattle herders and crop farmers in Sierra Leone and Guinea

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This newsletter provides a snapshot of field activities, lessons learned, case studies and good practices on conflict prevention, border management and sustainable livelihoods in Falaba District in Sierra Leone and Faranah Prefecture in Guinea.



Since November 2021, IOM, WFP and Talking Drum Studio are implementing a cross-border project between Sierra Leone and Guinea. Funded by the UN Peacebuilding Fund, the goal of the project is to strengthen the relationship between Guinea and Sierra Leone through addressing recurring cross border conflicts that occur between cattle herders and farmers.

1. Context in Falaba District (Sierra Leone) and Faranah Prefecture (Guinea)

The security and socio-political context in Falaba district was marked by violent confrontations between cattle herders and crop farmers in Masonfinya town in Neya chiefdom¹. This town witnessed violent clashes between Fullah herders of Masonfinya and Konos of Sandor chiefdom (Kono district) leading to two deaths and the destruction of properties including houses and ranches. IOM Sierra Leone facilitated a visit involving the Office of National Security through the Directorate of Provincial Border Security to conduct a mission (16-19 April) to organise community engagement meetings. The project stakeholders and its government counterparts will continue to closely monitor the situation in the chiefdom and in the district in general. Talking Drum Studio will also conduct a conflict study in Sulima, Mongo Bendugu and Neya chiefdoms to capture conflict dynamics and identify

an intervention strategy. In Faranah Prefecture, the security context remained relatively stable.

2. Project implementation

Border management

Between February and March, IOM Sierra Leone conducted a comprehensive cross-border assessment. The mission visited the major chiefdoms in the district bordering Faranah in Guinea, with the aim of identifying and mapping out major transhumance corridors. This month, following the transhumance mapping exercise, IOM Sierra Leone recruited and trained 28 enumerators to be deployed for a period of 45 days across the border chiefdoms in Falaba. These enumerators will be collecting data mainly relating to the ongoing transhumance activities within the cross-border localities of Falaba. Between March and April, IOM Guinea also conducted a transhumance mapping exercise in Songoya,

¹ The project intervenes in Mongo Bendugu and Sulima chiefdoms in Falaba District. However, Neya chiefdom's geographical proximity

with Mongo Bendugu may have consequences or spillover effects in the project sites.

Heremakonon and Sandeya sub-prefectures in Faranah. This activity was realised by enumerators from the Higher Agronomic and Veterinary Institute of Faranah and local community agents selected to report and alert IOM on early transhumance movements.

Livelihood

In Faranah, Community Participatory Planning (PCP) was organized in 15 communities in the Guinean sub-prefectures of Banian, Songoya and Hérémakono, bordering Sierra Leone. Based on this community-driven diagnostic, WFP Guinea identified villages exposed to conflicts between farmers and herders, assessed the level of community engagement and the agricultural potential of the villages. As a result, 6 villages in 3 sub-prefectures were targeted as a priority for the implementation of project activities including the development of Inland Valley Swamps (IVS).



Head bund in Lansenia, Mongo chieftdom in Falaba district

Across the border, in Sierra Leone, IVS development is ongoing and progressing well in the 10 communities of Sulima and Mongo chiefdoms. Most of the communities are now mid-stage in the completion of development work. The first cash distribution took place this month. 501 farming households engaged in the IVS development of their communities were supported by WFP Sierra Leone.

Social cohesion

Following the violent incidents in Neya chiefdom, TDS is closely monitoring the state of social cohesion in the district. The organisation found necessary to conduct a conflict study called conflict scan. This rapid and periodic analysis captures key peace and conflict determinants, dynamics and actors in a given geographical area. The results of the conflict scan will provide an updated

identification of local peace mechanisms as well as evidence-based information to the project implementing partners and stakeholders for the integration of conflict sensitivity approaches in their intervention. A similar exercise will be done by TDS Guinea in the selected communities where WFP will engage its livelihood activities. The results of both scans will be available next month.



3. Good practices

Community Youth Contractors (CYC) as a knowledge transfer channel

WFP Sierra Leone recruited 10 CYCs to provide technical back-up and monitor the development of IVS in their respective communities. The youth contractors were trained by WFP and its partner from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on IVS development and the construction of water management structures. The CYCs represent key resource pool to transform rural agriculture and food production in their communities. By strengthening their capacities, the CYCs will be able to spread their knowledge within their communities which in turn can improve farming and food production techniques. WFP capitalize on the youth contractors to sustain achievements and consolidate community resilience.

4. Story of the month: Koindukura a potential case study for peacebuilding?

In Koindukura (Falaba district), Alphajor Janneh, Chairman of the farmer-based organisation (FBO) and Ibrahim Barrie, the community youth contractor have the particularity of being cattle herders and farmers. Mr. Janneh's profile and influence within his community represent an opportunity to foster more conciliatory approaches and improve the relationship between herders and farmers. The project implementing team will rely on MM. Janneh and Barrie not only for its livelihood activities but also for the development of community-based conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms.

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