



Human Interest Story

Promoting Inclusive Action in Peacebuilding (PIAP Initiative)

Context

Buufow and Shalambod villages, both located in Marka district share a history marred by clan conflict. Throughout the decades, clan-based violence and tension has impacted the two villages that lie only 7 kilometers apart in the canal zone of the rich farmland of Lower Shabelle. The lack of social cohesion resulted in numerous cases of revenge killing and a general lack of development, hampering business and social linkages between the two communities. Providing support when emergencies arose has also been difficult as the main road linking the two villages had been cut off for the past 7 years. Both communities depend mainly on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods and recurrent drought and climatic changes have hampered production. On top of that, hostilities between the two villages prevented trade between the two villages, with products from Buufow being taken to Marka or Ceel Jalle instead of Shalambod.

The PIAP initiative facilitates community exchanges and has built trust between the two communities, particularly targeting youth and women. The aim has been to foster horizontal trust and mitigate inter-communal and interclan tensions and to increase cooperation, collaboration, and economic integration. To increase awareness of the activities taking place, the events were publicized across the region. A total of 200 beneficiaries (100 from Buufow and 100 from Shalambod) participated in the exercises.

"The cross-mobilization events have changed the negative mindset of the community, improved social cohesion and aided people to enjoy the activity. We appreciate the support of the organization."



Beneficiary close-up

Deka Dalmar Doyow is a 27-year-old woman residing in Buufow with her family of 10. She described the historical relationship between Buufow and Shalambod as lacking trust, with people fearing for their lives whenever they had to travel to the neighboring village. Even expectant mothers in Buufow facing difficult deliveries avoided travel to Shalambod where the closest maternity ward with a proper delivery unit is located.

IOM's implementation of cross-community mobilization events was a first step toward healing the scars and ending cyclical violence people in the two communities have dealt with for many years. Being clan, gender, and age inclusive, the event fostered open exchange and participants from the two villages sat together and expressed their respective concerns and experiences.



As a result, people from the two villages are comfortable facility, in neighboring Shalambod. traveling the previously avoided road connecting the villages and movement from Buufow to Shalambod is now frequent and farmers are now taking their agricultural produce to Shalambod for sale. Deka described the impact of this change, "in earlier days before the cross-community mobilization, movements, trade, confidence in sharing resources, and support during an outbreak of disasters were nonexistent between these two villages. Now, people are crossing, offering support to one another and the confidence level grew up." She added that, IDPs in Buufow with small-scale businesses now take their produce to the market of Shalambod for sale and come back in the evening brimming with excitement!" And she further noted that maternity cases are now being referred to the nearest appropriate facility in neighboring Shalambod.