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CONNECT FOR PEACE (C4P)

June 2017- May 2020 Implementer: Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

The Connect for Peace (C4P) project is a 36-month initiative to support peace efforts in Liberia, particularly in Nimba County and Monrovia. C4P activities target 230 men, women, and youth across Nimba County and at least 50,000 residents of selected electoral districts in greater Monrovia. As revealed by the project's conflict analysis, Liberians have never experienced the benefits of a healthy social contract between citizens and the state. Land disputes, ethnic rivalries and clashes, and limited state capacity for peaceful resolution of disputes explain Liberia's propensity for conflict. For positive peace to take root and prevail, Liberians must find ways to reconcile, overcome mutual mistrust, and live in harmony. It is in this light that the project seeks to:

- Strengthen vertical and horizontal social cohesion between and among Civil Society Organizations and public officials through People-to-People trainings, workshops, consultative public gatherings, social and cultural events, and connector projects.
- Employ CRS' innovative binding, bonding, and bridging (3Bs)/discovery, dream, design, and deliver (4Ds) methodology to promote healing and reconciliation and to strengthen vertical and horizontal social cohesion in and between key social groups and state actors in Nimba County and Monrovia.
- Build individual and institutional capacity, offer disparate adversarial groups opportunities for reconciliation, and establish trust between citizens and the state.
- Reinforce Indigenous Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (I-ADRM)s so that women and youth, members of civil society, public sector institutions, and traditional authorities can embrace diversity, resolve differences constructively, and establish conditions for positive peace in Liberia.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Conduct CRS innovative 3Bs/4Ds social cohesion approach, cascade trainings to “Key people” and “More people” in Nimba County.
- Conduct CRS innovative 3Bs/4Ds social cohesion approach, cascade trainings to “single identity groups” and “mixed identity groups” in Nimba County.
- Work with seven Hometown Associations to conduct connector activities within their respective kinship communities.
- Conduct conflict mitigation and management trainings for traditional council members.
- Roll-out advocacy campaign on the harmonization of I-ADRs and I-ADRs recognition, and use at the community, district, and county level.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- CRS’ African Justice and Peace Working Group (AJPWG) conducted 3Bs/4Ds social cohesion master training for C4P partners in FY 18; C4P partners then conducted eight (8) 3Bs/4Ds social cohesion cascade trainings for community level conflict resolution mechanisms.
- C4P partners conducted eight (8) 3Bs/4Ds social cohesion cascade trainings for single identity and mixed identity groups across the 36 project communities in Nimba County.
- C4P partners conducted two (2) district level durbar (council) and one (1) county level durbar in Nimba County.
- C4P project team conducted 3Bs/4Ds social cohesion cascade training for Ganta Motorcycle Union at the request of the National.
- C4P project team conducted a rapid assessment to pilot test the integration of Savings and Internal Lending in Community (SILC), approach in 12 communities across the six statutory districts in Nimba County.

PLANNED OUTCOMES

- Horizontal social cohesion strengthened by enhancing capacity for reconciliation and strengthening ties between Monrovia and Nimba County kin groups, which will increase the percentage of people who report healthy and positive relationships between and among social and ethnic groups in their communities from just 41% in 2017 to 80% by the end of the project.
- Vertical social cohesion strengthened by establishing mutual trust between citizen and state in Nimba County and strengthening indigenous Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (I-ADRs) in Nimba County, so that by the end of the project 80% of people will have confidence in their community’s I-ADR structure (s) to successfully mitigate or resolve conflict.