

# Impact Report: Mental Health, Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Women Economic Empowerment in Post-Conflict Tigray



**Organization:** Anenitigray Development Services (ADS)  
**Location:** Mekelle City, Hadnet Sub-City, Tigray, Ethiopia  
**Website:** [www.anenitigray.org](http://www.anenitigray.org)

## ABOUT ANENITIGRAY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (ADS)

**Anenitigray Development Services (ADS)** is a locally registered Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) operating across urban and rural areas of Tigray, Ethiopia. Formally registered under the National Governmental State of Tigray Justice Bureau (Registration No. 15/2015), ADS has been working since 2021 to drive positive change in humanitarian and development sectors.

### Our Vision

To build resilient communities in Tigray by promoting mental health, social well-being, and sustainable economic opportunities for vulnerable populations affected by conflict and crisis.

### Our Mission

ADS aim to empower conflict-affected women, children, youth, and marginalized groups through integrated psychosocial support, livelihood interventions, education, and community resilience programs.

### Core Programmatic Areas

- **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS):** Providing trauma-informed care, community counseling, peer support, safe spaces, and capacity-building to support emotional recovery and resilience.
- **Women Economic Empowerment:** Supporting women to regain financial independence through entrepreneurship training, business development services, access to microfinance, and vocational opportunities.
- **Child Protection and Youth Development:** Ensuring holistic child well-being through Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS), school-based programs, and targeted psychosocial interventions for children affected by conflict.
- **Education Development and School Empowerment:** Improving learning environments, providing school feeding programs, and promoting multi-sectoral prevention and response for students, teachers, and parents.
- **Livelihood and Disaster Risk Reduction:** Facilitating income-generating activities, VSLA groups, emergency response, and basic humanitarian support including food, nutrition, and cash assistance.





## Key Projects – Anenitigray Development Services (ADS)

### 1. Women Economic Empowerment in Tigray (WEE Tigray)

- **Target Group:** 210 conflict-affected women, including war widows, survivors of GBV, IDPs, and marginalized groups; 60 vulnerable children.
- **Focus:** Combines MHPSS, economic empowerment, and livelihood support.
- **Key Activities:**
  - Trauma-informed MHPSS training for women.
  - Business skills, career development, and entrepreneurship training.
  - Formation of 7 VSLA groups to support financial literacy and savings.
  - Access to work premises, microfinance, and startup support for small businesses.
  - Safe spaces and peer support for women and children.
- **Impact:**
  - Women recovered psychosocially, built confidence, and started income-generating activities.
  - 35 women launched businesses; 65 women actively participate in VSLA groups.
  - Strengthened community trust, resilience, and women's social participation.

### 2. Integrated Child Care Support for Vulnerable Children Affected by Conflict

- **Target Group:** 30 conflict-affected children in Mekelle city.
- **Focus:** Child-centered psychosocial support, education, and protection.
- **Key Activities:**
  - Family-centered and comprehensive care services.
  - Psychosocial support through Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS).
  - Individual counseling, play therapy, and socio-emotional learning.
- **Impact:**



- Children developed better social skills, reduced trauma symptoms, and maintained school participation.
- Families strengthened coping mechanisms to support child development.

### 3. Aspiring School Society Empowerment in Tigray (ASSET)

- **Target Group:** School children, teachers, and supportive staff in Mekelle.
- **Focus:** Integration of MHPSS into education, multi-sectoral support for school communities.
- **Key Activities:**
  - Establishment of Child-Friendly Spaces in schools.
  - Counseling rooms for teachers and staff.
  - Training teachers and staff in trauma-informed, culturally sensitive psychosocial support.
- **Impact:**
  - Children showed improved emotional resilience, social interaction, and school attendance.
  - Teachers and staff gained skills to manage trauma and support students effectively.

### 4. Rapid Relief Support for Vulnerable Communities

- **Target Group:** Conflict-affected households across Mekelle and surrounding areas.
- **Focus:** Immediate humanitarian assistance combined with psychosocial support.
- **Key Activities:**
  - Distribution of food, non-food items (NFI), nutrition support, and cash transfers.
  - Integration of psychosocial support during relief operations.
- **Impact:**
  - Enhanced family resilience, reduced stress, and improved access to essential services for vulnerable communities.

### 5. Women and Child-Friendly Spaces (WCFS)

- **Target Group:** 70 women and 60 children affected by conflict.
- **Focus:** Safe and supportive environments for healing, skill development, and psychosocial support.
- **Key Activities:**
  - Group counseling, life skills, creative therapy, and peer support.
  - Awareness-raising on coping strategies and referral pathways.
- **Impact:**
  - Promoted healing from trauma, strengthened women's economic and social participation, and fostered children's psychosocial development.



# Our Approach

Anenitigray Development Services (ADS) adopts a holistic, multi-sectoral, and MHPSS-centered approach to supporting conflict-affected communities in Tigray. Our approach integrates mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), economic empowerment, child protection, education, and peacebuilding, ensuring sustainable recovery and community resilience.

## Key Principles of Our Approach

1. **Trauma-Informed and Survivor-Centered:**
  - All interventions, including MHPSS, livelihood support, and safe spaces, are designed to prioritize the needs, safety, and dignity of conflict survivors, particularly women and children.
2. **Community-Based and Inclusive:**
  - ADS work directly with communities, local leaders, schools, and families, promoting participation, ownership, and sustainability.
  - Special attention is given to vulnerable populations: war widows, GBV survivors, internally displaced persons, and children affected by conflict.
3. **Integrated Programming:**
  - MHPSS is linked with economic empowerment, child protection, education, and peacebuilding, creating pathways for recovery, social cohesion, and sustainable development.
  - Example: Trauma recovery through MHPSS → business skills and VSLA formation → women-led income activities.
4. **Evidence-Based Interventions:**
  - ADS apply internationally recognized MHPSS frameworks, including IASC Guidelines for MHPSS in emergencies, UNDP guidance on peacebuilding, and trauma-informed care approaches.
  - Continuous assessment, monitoring, and adaptive management ensure interventions meet community needs effectively.
5. **Gender-Responsive and Culturally Sensitive:**
  - Programs are tailored to respect local culture, gender dynamics, and social norms, ensuring women and girls have equal access to services and decision-making opportunities.
6. **Sustainability and Capacity Building:**
  - ADS strengthens local capacity through training of teachers, social workers, community volunteers, and government partners to deliver MHPSS and psychosocial support independently.
  - Focus on building resilience at individual, family, and community levels.



# Partnership

ADS leverage **strong collaborations with government, civil society, and international partners** to maximize impact and sustainability of our programs.

## Key Partnerships

- **Tigray Disaster Relief Fund (TDRF):** Grants and technical support for WEE Tigray and emergency response projects.
- **PATH-Tigray:** Coalition engagement for joint distribution of hygiene items, psychosocial interventions, and child protection activities.
- **ACSOT (Association of Civil Society Organizations in Tigray):** Coordination, advocacy, and capacity-building support for local NGOs.
- **Local Government Authorities:**
  - Hadnet Sub-city Women and Social Affairs for beneficiary selection, monitoring, and referral systems.
  - School authorities for MHPSS integration in education.
- **Local NGOs and Health Facilities:**
  - Partnerships with hospitals (e.g., Ayder Referral Hospital) and local NGOs for referral, psychosocial support, and trauma care.
- **Community-Based Organizations and Leaders:**
  - Engaged in peacebuilding, community dialogues, VSLA groups, and awareness campaigns.

## Strategic Approach to Partnerships

- **Collaborative Planning:** ADS works jointly with partners to design, implement, and monitor interventions.
- **Capacity Strengthening:** ADS provides training, technical support, and guidance to enhance partner organizations' skills in MHPSS, gender-based programming, and peacebuilding.
- **Sustainability and Local Ownership:** Partnerships focus on empowering local actors and communities to continue MHPSS, child protection, and economic activities beyond project timelines.

This approach ensures that ADS programs are holistic, inclusive, evidence-based, and sustainable, delivering real impact for conflict-affected women, children, and communities in Tigray.



# Key Highlights – ADS Programs in Tigray

## Women's Empowerment & Economic Recovery

- 210 conflict-affected women trained in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), building confidence, resilience, and social skills.
- 35 women received entrepreneurship and business skills training, with 23 provided work premises to start income-generating activities.
- 7 Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) groups formed, engaging 65 women in regular savings and peer-to-peer micro-lending, enhancing financial independence.
- Women-led businesses include mini-markets, poultry, tailoring, and small-scale trade, creating sustainable income and contributing to household stability.

## Children's Psychosocial Support

- 60+ conflict-affected children supported through Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) and school-based MHPSS interventions.
- Activities included play therapy, group counseling, socio-emotional learning, and creative expression, resulting in improved social interaction, reduced fear, and enhanced school participation.

## Integrated MHPSS and Community Recovery

- ADS provided community-based counseling, peer support, and safe spaces for survivors, linking participants to local health services and referral pathways.
- Trauma-informed interventions facilitated recovery from conflict-related psychological distress, including PTSD, depression, and anxiety, promoting resilience and self-efficacy.
- Women participants progressed from trauma recovery → MHPSS training → business startup, demonstrating the direct link between psychosocial support and economic empowerment.

## Organizational Strength & Partnerships

- Formal registration, structured **accounting and time-management systems**, and proven **capacity in MHPSS and gender-responsive programming**.
- Collaborations with **TDRF, PATH-Tigray, ACSOT, local authorities, and NGOs** to ensure sustainability and multi-sectoral impact.
- Budgeted for integrated programs, including **capacity-building in MHPSS, Dealing with the Past, and Peacebuilding**, promoting holistic community recovery.

## Impact Summary:

ADS's programs demonstrate a comprehensive model for post-conflict recovery, combining psychosocial support, economic empowerment, child protection, and peacebuilding to foster resilience, social cohesion, and sustainable development in Tigray.



## Scalable Psychological Interventions – ADS

Intervention	Description	Target Group	Expected Impact / Outcome
<b>MHPSS Training</b>	Trauma-informed psychosocial support training including coping strategies, stress management, socio-emotional learning, self-care, and resilience building.	Conflict-affected women (210 participants)	Improved mental health, reduced PTSD risk, enhanced social engagement, and self-confidence.
<b>Business &amp; Career Integration</b>	Linking psychosocial recovery to economic empowerment via entrepreneurship, vocational skills, business planning, and career development.	Women post-MHPSS training (35–175 participants)	Empowered women, income generation, financial independence, and improved decision-making.
<b>Community-based Counseling</b>	Individual and group counseling, peer support, and psychosocial follow-up within community safe spaces.	Conflict-affected women, youth, and families	Continued emotional support, reduced isolation, and long-term psychosocial resilience.
<b>Safe Spaces for Survivors</b>	Gender-sensitive safe spaces for women and children affected by conflict, including group activities, psychoeducation, and peer support.	Women survivors of conflict and GBV, children (CFS)	Healing from trauma, social cohesion, and strengthened coping mechanisms.
<b>PTSD Assessment &amp; Early Intervention</b>	Screening using MSQ-20, stress inventory, and PTSD checklists; followed by evidence-based interventions (PFA, CBT, EMDR).	Women and children showing trauma symptoms	Early detection of trauma, reduction in PTSD risk, prevention of long-term mental health issues.
<b>Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) &amp; School-based MHPSS</b>	Structured play therapy, group counseling, art and creative expression, and socio-emotional learning.	Conflict-affected children (60+)	Enhanced emotional stability, improved social interaction, reduced fear, better school participation.
<b>Awareness &amp; Capacity Building</b>	Training local actors, school staff, and community leaders on culturally sensitive,	Local NGO staff, governmental partners, teachers	Strengthened local capacity for MHPSS, culturally appropriate trauma-informed care,



	survivor-centered psychosocial support.		and sustainable support systems.
<b>Peer Support &amp; VSLA Integration</b>	Peer-led support groups linked with Village Savings and Loans Associations to combine psychosocial recovery and financial empowerment.	Women participants (65 members in 7 VSLA groups)	Confidence building, teamwork, economic independence, and long-term psychosocial stability.
<b>Dealing with the Past &amp; Peacebuilding</b>	Community dialogues, storytelling projects, remembrance events, youth-led peace initiatives, and mediation forums.	Women, youth, community members	Reconciliation, social cohesion, trust-building, and prevention of recurrent conflict.
<b>Psychoeducation &amp; Normalization</b>	Education on trauma responses, coping strategies, and mental health literacy to reduce stigma and enhance self-care.	Women, children, Primary school teachers and students	Increased mental health awareness, normalized trauma responses, improved community support systems.




# Integration of MHPSS into Education

ADS recognize that education and psychosocial well-being are closely linked, especially for children and school communities affected by conflict. Through the Aspiring School Society Empowerment in Tigray (ASSET) project, ADS has implemented a comprehensive approach to integrating Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) into the educational system, targeting children, teachers, and school staff in Mekelle.

## Key Interventions and Activities

- **School-based Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS):**
  - Established within **Atse Yohannes Complete Primary School**, providing a safe, structured environment for children affected by conflict to engage in play therapy, socio-emotional learning, group counseling, and creative expression.
  - Focus on reducing fear, building resilience, enhancing social skills, and improving school attendance.
- **Counseling Rooms for Teachers and Staff:**
  - Dedicated spaces for teachers and school staff to receive psychosocial support, stress management training, and trauma-informed guidance, ensuring they can maintain a safe and supportive learning environment for students.
- **Capacity Building and Training:**
  - ADS trained teachers and supportive staff on identifying psychosocial needs, providing peer support, and implementing trauma-informed classroom management.
  - Awareness sessions on coping strategies, emotional regulation, and psychosocial first aid for both children and school personnel.
- **Post-War Support:**
  - Continuous counseling, peer support, and monitoring for children and staff affected by the conflict, ensuring sustained psychosocial recovery.
  - Integration of MHPSS interventions into school activities, building resilience and fostering a positive school climate.

## Impact

- **Children:** Improved social interaction, reduced fear and anxiety, enhanced school participation, and greater emotional resilience.
  - **Teachers and Staff:** Increased capacity to support students' psychosocial needs, reduced work-related stress, and better classroom management.
  - **School Community:** Strengthened psychosocial environment, contributing to long-term mental health, learning outcomes, and community cohesion.
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# Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

ADS recognize that conflict-induced displacement profoundly affects mental health and psychosocial well-being, particularly among women, children, and vulnerable populations. To address these needs, ADS implements trauma-informed, culturally sensitive MHPSS interventions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Tigray, focusing on recovery, resilience, and social reintegration.

## Key Interventions

- **Community-based Counseling and Peer Support:**
  - Individual and group counseling sessions to address trauma, stress, anxiety, and depression among displaced populations.
  - Peer support initiatives enabling IDPs to share experiences, build social networks, and strengthen coping mechanisms.
- **Safe Spaces for Women and Children:**
  - Establishment of Women and Child-Friendly Spaces (WCFS) where survivors of conflict-related violence and displacement access psychosocial support, life skills training, and recreational activities.
  - Integration of activities such as socio-emotional learning, creative arts therapy, and group discussions to promote emotional recovery.
- **Psychoeducation and Capacity Building:**
  - Awareness sessions for IDPs on stress management, coping strategies, and mental health literacy.
  - Training of community volunteers and local actors to provide culturally sensitive, survivor-centered, and trauma-informed psychosocial support.
- **Linkages to Health and Protection Services:**
  - Coordination with local NGOs, governmental health facilities, and referral hospitals (e.g., Ayder Referral Hospital) to ensure IDPs access medical, legal, and social protection services.

## Impact and Outcomes

- **Women:** Improved psychological resilience, ability to engage in economic and social activities, and strengthened self-confidence.
- **Children:** Reduced fear and anxiety, better social interaction, continued school participation, and enhanced emotional well-being.
- **Communities:** Strengthened social cohesion, peer support networks, and community-based mechanisms for trauma recovery.



# Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) for Women

Conflict-affected women in Tigray face multiple layers of trauma, including loss of family members, displacement, sexual and gender-based violence, economic hardship, and social marginalization. Anenitigray Development Services (ADS) implements holistic, trauma-informed MHPSS interventions to support women in their recovery, empower them to rebuild their lives, and foster social and economic resilience.

## Target Group

- 210 women aged 20–45, primarily **war widows**, including:
  - 40% internally displaced persons (IDPs) from other Ethiopian regions
  - 13% survivors of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence
  - 3% immigrants and other vulnerable women
- Many participants were **primary caregivers**, financially dependent on lost family members, and deeply affected psychologically by conflict.

## Key MHPSS Interventions

### 1. Trauma-Informed Training

- **Full-day MHPSS training** over three days covering:
  - Understanding trauma, stress, and psychosocial reactions
  - Coping mechanisms and psychological resilience
  - Socio-emotional learning, team-building, and peer support
  - Self-care practices and psychological first aid
- **Assessment tools:** Pre- and post-training evaluations and Post-Trauma Stress Disorder (PTSD) checklist to identify risk levels and tailor interventions.

### 2. Community-Based Psychosocial Support

- Continued peer support initiatives, group counseling, and mentorship.
- Community-based counseling and referral mechanisms through local NGOs and health facilities (e.g., Ayder Referral Hospital).
- Awareness-raising sessions on coping strategies and psychosocial well-being.

### 3. Safe Spaces and Survivor Support

- Women and Child-Friendly Spaces (WCFS) for 70 women and 60 children providing safe, supportive environments.
- Facilitated group discussions, life skills development, and recreational activities to strengthen social cohesion and reduce isolation.

### 4. Integration with Economic Empowerment

- MHPSS interventions prepared women psychologically to participate in economic activities, such as:
  - Business skills and entrepreneurship training
  - Formation of 7 VSLA groups for financial literacy and savings
  - Access to work premises, microfinance, and startup support for 35 women
- The trauma recovery → MHPSS training → business startup pathway enabled women to regain confidence, agency, and economic independence.



## Observable Impact

- **Psychosocial Recovery:**
  - 31.25% of women had low risk for PTSD; 27.08% had moderate risk, and 11.45% had high risk at baseline.
  - Post-intervention, significant improvements in coping mechanisms, resilience, and team participation were observed.
- **Behavioral and Social Outcomes:**
  - Formation of 7 VSLA groups and active participation by 65 women.
  - Improved peer support and community engagement.
  - 35 women successfully started small businesses (e.g., mini markets, poultry, tailoring), many facilitated with workplace access in Hadnet Sub-city.
- **Economic and Social Empowerment:**
  - Increased financial independence, confidence, and decision-making power within households.
  - Greater participation in community initiatives and leadership roles.





## **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) for Children**

Children affected by the Tigray conflict have experienced significant psychosocial distress, including trauma from violence, loss of caregivers, displacement, and disruption of education. Anenitigray Development Services (ADS) implements child-centered, trauma-informed MHPSS interventions to support emotional recovery, enhance resilience, and facilitate safe reintegration into family, school, and community life.

### **Target Group**

- Approximately 60 children aged 5–17 years affected by war, displacement, and family loss.
- Children include those who lost one or both parents, internally displaced, and vulnerable to social exclusion.
- Interventions were delivered through Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS), school-based activities, and community-centered psychosocial sessions.



## Key MHPSS Interventions

### 1. Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS)

- Safe and supportive environments in community and school settings, **e.g.**, Atse Yohannes Complete Primary School.
- Structured daily programs combining play therapy, creative arts, storytelling, and recreational activities to promote emotional expression and coping.

### 2. Counseling and Individual Support

- Provision of individual and group counseling for children showing signs of trauma, anxiety, or depression.
- Engagement with families to support psychosocial recovery at home.

### 3. Integration into Education (ASSET Project)

- Counseling rooms and psychosocial support for teachers and school staff.
- Training of educators in trauma-informed teaching to enhance understanding of children's needs and strengthen classroom support.

### 4. Community-Based Activities

- Awareness-raising on coping strategies and psychosocial care for caregivers.
- Engagement of local volunteers and peer mentors to sustain **peer support networks** for children.

## Observable Impact

### • Emotional and Social Recovery:

- Children demonstrated reduced fear, anxiety, and stress, with improved ability to express emotions safely.

### • Improved School Engagement:

- Increased attendance and participation in school activities.

### • Enhanced Peer Interaction:

- Better social relationships, teamwork, and collaboration among children.

### • Strengthened Caregiver Capacity:

- Families gained awareness and skills to support children's psychosocial well-being.



# **Lessons Learned**

Through the implementation of MHPSS, economic empowerment, and child protection programs, Anenitigray Development Services (ADS) has gained valuable insights that inform future programming and strengthen impact for conflict-affected communities.

## **1. Holistic, Integrated Approaches Work**

- Combining MHPSS, economic empowerment, and peacebuilding interventions yields stronger outcomes than standalone programs.
- Women who participated in trauma recovery, psychosocial support, and entrepreneurship training were better prepared to start businesses, join VSLA groups, and regain financial independence.
- Children who received psychosocial support alongside educational interventions showed improved school attendance, social interaction, and emotional resilience.

## **2. Community and Survivor Engagement is Critical**

- Engaging participants as active stakeholders (through peer support, VSLA groups, or community dialogues) promotes ownership and sustainability.
- Survivor-led initiatives, such as peer counseling and storytelling projects, foster healing and encourage broader community reconciliation.

## **3. Safe Spaces Are Essential**

- Women and Child-Friendly Spaces (WCFS) and counseling rooms proved critical for providing safe, supportive environments.
- These spaces enhanced psychosocial recovery, peer interaction, and skill development, particularly for survivors of gender-based violence and war-affected children.

## **4. Capacity Building Enhances Sustainability**

- Training local actors, teachers, and government staff in trauma-informed care, MHPSS, and psychosocial support builds long-term local capacity.
- Integrating MHPSS into schools and community services ensures continued support beyond project timelines.

## **5. Continuous Assessment and Adaptive Programming**

- Regular pre- and post-training assessments, PTSD screening, and monitoring are crucial to adapt interventions to participant needs.
- Early identification of high-risk participants allows for timely, targeted psychosocial support.



## 6. Linking Psychosocial Recovery to Economic Empowerment

- Trauma recovery is a prerequisite for effective engagement in income-generating activities.
- ADS's approach of MHPSS → skills training → business support demonstrates that emotional recovery enhances confidence, decision-making, and entrepreneurship outcomes.

## 7. Collaboration and Partnerships Strengthen Impact

- Partnerships with local authorities, NGOs, schools, hospitals, and community leaders expand reach, enhance relevance, and increase sustainability.
- Multi-stakeholder engagement improves referral pathways, cultural sensitivity, and survivor-centered approaches.

## 8. Flexibility and Cultural Sensitivity Are Key

- Programming must adapt to local culture, gender norms, and conflict dynamics.
- Flexible approaches, such as community-based counseling, mobile support for IDPs, and school integration, ensure interventions are accessible and effective.

ADS's experience confirms that integrated, trauma-informed, survivor-centered, and gender-responsive programming is essential to support conflict-affected women and children. Lessons learned emphasize the importance of safe spaces, capacity building, community engagement, and linking psychosocial recovery to economic empowerment, guiding future interventions to maximize both impact and sustainability.



# Looking to the Future: ADS

Anenitigay Development Services (ADS) is committed to sustaining and scaling its interventions to support conflict-affected communities in Tigray, with a focus on women, children, youth, and marginalized groups. Building on the lessons learned from previous programs, ADS envisions a future where mental health, psychosocial support, and economic empowerment are fully integrated into recovery and development initiatives.

## Strategic Directions

### 1. **Scaling MHPSS Interventions**

- Expand trauma-informed psychosocial support for women and children in additional urban and rural areas.
- Strengthen school-based and community-based mental health programs, ensuring early identification and support for vulnerable children.
- Develop digital and remote counseling platforms to reach internally displaced populations and underserved communities.

### 2. **Linking Psychosocial Recovery with Livelihoods**

- Continue the MHPSS → entrepreneurship → economic empowerment pathway, enabling women to rebuild confidence and secure sustainable livelihoods.
- Expand support for Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA), financial literacy, and microfinance linkages for women-led businesses.

### 3. **Integrated Child Protection and Education**

- Strengthen Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) and school-based psychosocial interventions through the ASSET project.
- Collaborate with educators and caregivers to enhance resilience, school attendance, and learning outcomes for children affected by conflict.

### 4. **Peacebuilding and Dealing with the Past**

- Facilitate community dialogues, storytelling, and local reconciliation initiatives to promote social cohesion and prevent future conflicts.
- Incorporate peacebuilding principles and gender-sensitive practices into all interventions, ensuring inclusion of women, youth, and marginalized populations.

### 5. **Capacity Building and Organizational Development**

- Invest in training and professional development for staff, local actors, and partners in MHPSS, trauma-informed care, and psychosocial support.
- Strengthen organizational systems, financial management, and monitoring & evaluation frameworks to improve project quality and accountability.

### 6. **Evidence-Based Programming**

- Implement rigorous monitoring, evaluation, and learning to capture outcomes, demonstrate impact, and inform adaptive programming.
- Use data-driven approaches to refine interventions and share best practices at local, national, and international levels.

## Vision for Impact

ADS aims to empower conflict-affected communities to recover, thrive, and participate fully in society. **By combining** mental health and psychosocial support, economic empowerment, education, child protection, and peacebuilding, ADS envision a future in which:

- Women and children overcome trauma and achieve psychosocial resilience.
- Communities rebuild trust, social cohesion, and peaceful coexistence.
- Economic opportunities and gender equality strengthen sustainable development and long-term recovery.

