

GPPAC-CSO MEETING



Global Partnership
for the Prevention of
Armed Conflict



GPPAC-Eastern and Central Africa regional network

CECORE is the regional secretariat for the GPPAC-Eastern and Central Africa regional network. [The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict](#) (GPPAC) is a global member-led network of civil society organizations (CSOs) who actively work on conflict prevention and peace building. GPPAC consists of fifteen regional networks of local organizations across the world with their own priorities, character and agenda. These regional networks are represented in an International Steering Group, which jointly determines GPPAC's global priorities and actions for its conflict prevention and peace building work. GPPAC's mission is to promote a global shift in peace building from solely reacting to conflict to preventing conflicts from turning violent. GPPAC does this through multi-actor collaboration and local ownership of strategies for peace and security. GPPAC aims to achieve greater national, regional and global synergy in the field of conflict prevention and peace building, and to strengthen the role of local members in the regions affected by conflict.

As the regional secretariat, CECORE coordinates conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts among members in 17 countries across the Eastern and Central Africa region (one of the 15 GPPAC regional networks across the world).



Marie-Laure Poiré – left (GPPAC Partnerships and Development Coordinator), Patrick Bwire- centre (GPPAC Regional Liaison Officer – Eastern and Central Africa regional network – at CECORE) and Laurie Mincieli – right (GPPAC UN Liaison Officer) during a Regional Steering Group meeting 2018 in Kampala-Uganda.

GPPAC - Eastern and Central Africa regional network consists of members from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Somaliland and Eritrea in Eastern Africa; and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Congo Brazzaville, Central African Republic (CAR), Cameroon and Gabon in Central Africa. At national level, each country is coordinated by a National Focal Point.



GPPAC -ECA members in Adjumani district in Uganda during the commemoration of the International Day of Peace - 2014

Each year through the RSG, representatives from 16 countries that are members of GPPAC come together to share country specific experiences in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, deepen understanding of issues at a regional level and national level, and discuss a way forward on joint efforts.



GPPAC -ECA members and partners in Kampala -Uganda during the advocacy training and Regional Steering Group meeting 2018



Figure 1 Martin Owor (standing) the Commissioner Disaster preparedness in the Office of the Prime Minister (Uganda) making opening remarks during the GPPAC-ECA RSG meeting 2018

Contextual overview of conflicts in Eastern and Central Africa.

Eastern and Central Africa region continues to grapple with a cycle of serious multiple and complex situation of conflicts and fragility. These conflicts are characterised by massive killings, gender-based violence, displacement, refugee influx – that affect the region with negative impact on the economic and political and social fabric of communities. Latent conflicts and threats of escalation of conflicts across the region also pose serious threats to peace and security in the region.

A GPPAC-ECA desk review report conducted in August 2018 affirmed that Eastern and Central Africa region is largely a conflict-ridden region with several countries experiencing open violent conflicts. The report notes that although countries like Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Gabon are nationally considered as relatively peaceful, the latent conflicts and tensions are a big threat to the sustainability of peace. This is evident in the case of Kenya where the 2007 and 2017 elections triggered off massive violence in the country.

Although each country has specific conflict challenges, cases of wide-spread gender-based violence, inability to cope with an expanding youth bulge and vulnerability to radicalisation and violent extremism, effects of climate change, and poor governance cut across all countries in the region. Cases of election violence and destruction of property is also an increasing phenomenon across the region.

Some of the driving factors that amplify the conflicts include unemployment, land and other natural resources exploitation and discovery, weak institutions, corruption, mistrust between government and citizens and civil society, lack of rule of law, and shrinking space for civil society. The presence, proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons is another key driver of conflict in the region.

The conflicts tend to be complex because they are deep-rooted in complex issues such as colonial and historical injustices, feelings of marginalisation, ethnic rivalry, structural violence, and poor governance – factors that require multiple approaches to resolve. Although different peacebuilding actors have tried to intervene, a lot still remains to be done. The lack of coordination among the actors also tend to pose a challenge.

On a positive note there are opportunities that offer a window of hope. A network like GPPAC-ECA is well positioned with a key strength to coordinate and build synergy among peacebuilding organisations across the region. Furthermore, many governments in the region are increasingly appreciating the value of CSOs as key partners towards building peace. Several governments across the region have also expressed political will towards peace and conflict prevention. The “Building bridges” initiative in Kenya, the peace deal in South Sudan, the 2 recent Ceasefire agreements in CAR, promises of reform and conflict transformation by the new leadership in Ethiopia, enactment of a national peace policy in Uganda are some of gestures that demonstrate political will towards peace.



Group photo: Kenya national platform meeting of CSOs working on peacebuilding and conflict prevention organized by GPPAC-ECA– August 15, 2018



Patrick Bwire - GPPAC Regional Liaison – Eastern and Central Africa (left) and Onno Koopmans – Senior Advisor Regional Stability, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Kenya (middle) during the Kenya national platform meeting of CSOs working on peace.

“GPPAC-ECA offers a unique and important platform for the prevention of violent conflicts in Eastern and Central Africa region. It fosters collaboration, synergy, information sharing and learning from each other. It is always great to see such dedicated and passionate people working for peace in our region” – Patrick Bwire, GPPAC-ECA Regional Liaison Officer.