

CAP CHAD

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE SUPPORT PROJECT

Project Overview: Funded by USAID/West Africa, the overall goal of the CAP Chad program (2006-2008, US\$1.45 million) was promoting peace and stability in target regions of Chad.

From **July 2006** to **September 2008**, CAP Chad:

- Supported rural communities in mitigating potential destabilizing factors at the local level in the Kanem and Batha regions;
- Provided people with the resources for community-development initiatives to address the root causes of conflict (e.g., natural resources);
- Strengthened the capacity of community leaders and civil society organizations (CSOs) to identify and address key issues in their communities (e.g., income generation);
- Supported increased collaboration among local governmental officials, traditional leaders and CSOs; and
- Served as a model and promoter of good governance, transparency and effective and community-driven decision making and problem solving.

Chad Context: Chad has experienced increasing amounts of conflict due to ongoing internal and external political crises; limited natural resources, such as water and arable land, poor economic performance; pressures from large displaced populations; increased presence in eastern Chad of armed military and rebel groups; and lack of government accountability for state revenues from oil extraction.

Communities located far from the country's capital have little access to resources and support from the government and in their isolation must devise strategies for maintaining peace and meeting community needs.

The **major components of the program** included:

Capacity Development for Community Leaders: Traditional chiefs, civil servants, teachers and religious authorities received training and technical assistance to support them in managing limited local resources, mitigating conflict and leading community advocacy and problem-solving efforts;

CSO Institutional Strengthening: A participatory processes was facilitated with CSOs to increase programmatic impact and improve community services. One hundred percent of organizations demonstrated progress in meeting institutional strengthening benchmarks;

Small Grants for Community Initiatives: Resources were awarded to communities to implement activities for community-identified needs, including repairing and building wells, rehabilitating schools, building community centers and income-generation activities. Participation of community members in community problem-solving processes increased 17%;

Collaboration between CSOs and Local Governments: Opportunities were created for CSO leaders and local governments to engage in 67 community-level trainings and 68 activities through the implementation of small grants; and

Strengthening of Inter- and Intra-community relations: 94% of community members reported weakened "dividers" in inter-community relations, and 99% reported strengthened "connectors" in inter- and intra-community relations.

Areas of intervention: N'Djamena and the Kanem and Batha regions; 24 communities

Number of individuals trained: 1,540

Number of organizations worked with: 16 CSOs

Number of grants executed and total value: 9 CSO and 10 in-kind commodity grants; US\$515,000

"The project's approach of bringing people together to discuss community problems has had a significant impact. Women who once struggled to express themselves are now able to speak freely and even share their ideas with men who are their advisors."

--LEAD Chad, CAP Chad Grantee

"It's like a new school, as every day we learn new, interesting and pertinent things, as well as adapted and effective tools."

--Association of Nomads and Herders
CAP Chad Grantee