

CETA WORKSHOP ON YOUTH PEACE MAKING AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION.

KAS in collaboration with Civic Education Teachers Association (CETA) convened a Youth Workshop in Bukoba from the 22nd to the 24th of March, 2022, to teach and share experience on the topic of Youth Peace Making and Conflict Resolution. The workshop facilitators welcomed thirty (30) participants from across Lake zone, including staff from neighboring municipalities, regional Non-Governmental Organizations, political parties, Christian and Muslim religious organizations, local media, entrepreneurial forums, and private businesses. Due to the diversity of the participants, a big part of the workshop was also dedicated to sharing experiences and approaches to the topic at hand.

The Workshop combined theory, case studies, and interactive work, in order to reach out to all participants and visualize the theoretical input.

Example cases of peacekeeping and conflict resolution were discussed in several group sessions in order to observe how the cases were dealt with and what other possible solutions there might be for the situation shown. Another group work involved sharing traditional methods of peace making and conflict resolution from the participants' communities. They discussed how to deal with the behavior of different conflict parties and how to heal trauma after the resolution.

They identified four areas of conflict in their communities and the Lake zone at large. Relatively high population density (compared to other areas in

Tanzania) exacerbated by rapid population growth regularly leads to conflicts over land rights. Although Nyerere era policies have achieved some degree of interethnic mixing in Tanzania, tribal discrimination between ethnic groups indigenous to the area and relative newcomers takes place. Within communities, gender-based violence against women, especially at home, poses a threat to peaceful cohabitation. Traditional beliefs in (harmful) witchcraft and superstition also create distrust and the seed for conflict between people.

Following an introspective discussion, the participants self-identified people from the Lake Zone to be very competitive, raising the potential for conflict, and recognized the liability that youth bulge and high youth unemployment might pose to peaceful coexistence. However, apart from the interactive work phases, the theoretical learning objectives were the main focus. Both trainers presented theories on peace making and keeping as well as conflict prevention, management, and resolution, e.g. the differences between active and passive peace, and methods to evaluate peace. Explicit references were made to the history of peace in Africa as well as to Tanzania's historical and current role in peace making in Africa with challenges and lessons learnt. Looking outside of the continent, the current Russia-Ukraine conflict provided a vivid example.

EVENT REPORT

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The participants also discussed the nexus of peace and sustainable development, and how one cannot take place without the other. Finally, the important role of youth in peacekeeping was discussed. Various ways to generate greater youth participation as well as obstacles and difficulties involved were presented. The workshop ended with the conclusion that youth should not rely on others to solve conflicts and should not let themselves be used in conflicts. Overall, the interest of the participants in the topics was high and the participation in the discussions and questions was extensive. Participants engaged intensively in the group work and their feedback was consistently positive, recommending that workshops like this should be

rolled out across regions in Tanzania that face heightened conflicts between pastoralists and farmers, interethnic tensions, and distrust due to superstition.

Why focusing on youth in Peacekeeping?

As more than 65% of the Tanzanian population is under 35 years of age, youth participation is not only relevant for the future, but also important, as youth state the largest group affected by conflict. By learning about peacekeeping, conflict prevention already starts at a young age and can take place more sustainably, and youth can contribute to peace in their families and within their own as well as between communities.