

Saferworld's Participatory Conflict and Security Assessment in Uganda

Saferworld uses participatory conflict and security assessment also in other contexts to identify the factors causing violence for local communities. For example, in the Karamoja region in Uganda, Saferworld collaborated with two local community organizations to:

- Design a questionnaire aimed at identifying the factors driving insecurity in this particular region. For example: Why are there incidents of violence? What are the underlying tensions between two groups, between a group and security actors, between a group and other government actors? What impact do these factors have on the community's desire for security?
- Select participants for the assessment among the community with particular attention to elders (who have seen the evolution of the conflict), women (who are often the most vulnerable to attacks but not included in peacebuilding efforts), youth (who often instigate or participate in violence), children (who are innocent but may have knowledge of what is happening), adult men (who may be witnesses, perpetrators or victims) and witch doctors (who are often consulted by warriors to foretell whether and how to carry out raids). The organizations also selected participants representing government (ministries, police and army), local and national civil society organizations, and international actors (UN agencies, international NGOs).
- Interview over 300 participants in over 12 localities
- Summarise the results in form of a report
- Present the report to local security actors (government and police) and discuss the findings with them

The assessment helped to better understand the different layers of the conflict (intra-ethnic, inter-ethnic, tribes vs. state actors) involve the local community in violence reduction strategies and change the perception of community security needs among the state actors.