



SOUTH SUDAN

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Photo taken during TIDE peace concert

“PROMOTING PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT”

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FOREWORD BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR TALENT INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPMENT.

2021 has been a momentous year for Talent Initiative for Development (TIDE) in South Sudan. We were able to establish grassroots youth networks for peace promotion in six counties of Central Equatoria State of South Sudan. Despite immense obstacles, our teams and volunteers have achieved incredible results, reaching 1300 children, youths and adults through daily actions that have conveyed the overarching message that peace is everyone's duty to promote.

South Sudan desperately needs peace and prosperity. This nation has experienced a form of civil conflict for more than two decades. Conflict in South Sudan is like a chronic ailment that we cannot hope to address by short-term, off-the-shelf solutions. The underlying drivers of conflict will not go away overnight. Sustainability in action is the only path that we can take to plant the seeds of lasting peace in a soil ravaged by decades of war.

To some, this situation may sound impossible to resolve. Yet, I strongly believe that solutions are achievable - if we work in collaboration directly with local stakeholders, especially young people who can become effective catalysts of change if they are provided with the right resources. I have seen first-hand how young people can become peacebuilders and entrepreneurs within their communities. Empowered youth and volunteers can turn the tables and help break those cycles that have long trapped their country of violence and poverty.

That is exactly TIDE approach in South Sudan, where we are empowering youths as resources that can be mobilized directly on the ground. We now have 42 trained youth who support us in promoting peace and human rights in the grass roots. These trained volunteers do organize community dialogues that normally have brought together almost 2,000 representatives of villages or tribes experiencing conflict. They have, in addition, relayed their messages of peace on radio talk shows that reached audiences of nearly 5,000 listeners.

This is thanks, in no small part, to all the partners that we have been able to mobilize in the pursuit of our goals. In particular, I would like to thank the Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention-IG-MAP, Global Alliance for Civil Society Organizations and Activists-CIVICUS, Global Youth Mobilization Local Solutions Project and Agency for Open Culture and Critical Transformation-rog, Rise Initiative for Women's Advocacy-RiWA and the IGAD Centre for Countering and Preventing Violent Extremism-ICEPVE for the partnership opportunities in 2021.



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1. INTRODUCTION

Talent Initiative for Development (TIDE) is a small emerging organization in South Sudan which was formed in 2018 and formerly registered in 2020. Though with limited funding, TIDE it has continued to empower grassroots youths and communities with messages of peace, civic education, and development. In 2021, TIDE reach to more than 5000 beneficiaries across the region of Central Equatoria State. Our programs provide participants with skills that they can use for and by themselves in their immediate environments. This is the reason why education and training are such an important component in our approach. We could, for instance, undertake conflict resolution education programs in schools equipped students and pupils with skills that they can now use in their schools, their neighborhoods, or even their families. TIDE also has been organizing community leaders training and dialogues that our staff and volunteers managed to hold, often to mediate conflicts at the express request of local leaders and civil society organizations. Having local stakeholders seek our contribution to address their most complex issues is probably one of the most meaningful signs of success for TIDE in its quest to assist vulnerable communities on their path to peace and sustainability.

TIDE's program in South Sudan is designed to develop a new generation of youth leaders that can foster peace, promote sustainable development, build inter-communal bridges, and prevent future conflicts through Creative Arts and Music. As of 2022, TIDE program activities in South Sudan is now being implemented in the entire counties of Equatoria State namely; Juba, Yei, Lainya, Kajokeji, Morobu and Terekeka counties respectively.

Because TDIE operates under the philosophy of local ownership in engaging communities and create awareness on the social drivers of extreme violence at the grassroot levels, we have worked to bring local stakeholders - including youth leaders and other community partners - into the fold to support and entrench our operations. This has allowed our work to firmly establish itself across the counties of Central Equatoria Sate even with limited funding. To that extent, TIDE trained local youth through a unique mix of trainings including peacebuilding, fighting gender-based violence, conflict mediation, human rights and advocacy, digital skills and coding,

entrepreneurship and economic empowerment skills to help establish and support locally-developed peace -building and educational activities as well as in the areas where we work.

Among our most notable results in 2021, TIDE holds dialogue with grassroots civil society activists about the challenges facing emerging and smaller organizations in South Sudan as well as trained 300 youths and community leaders on youth leadership in the six counties of central Equatoria State.

Despite our successes, this past year has also proved challenging, especially considering the insecurity situation in South Sudan and funding limitation. Although the country’s major political actors recently signed a peace agreement in 2018, there are many places in the country that remain highly volatile and lack of access for humanitarian services. This fragile security environment has disproportionately impacted women and youths and issues of gender-based violence and intercommunal violence often go unreported. This has negatively impacted developmental and humanitarian relief efforts in the country on a wide scale, and TIDE’s programs as well.

2. CORE ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

The following are the core achievements registered in 2020.

2.1. LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR YOUNG WOMEN AND MEN AS PEACEBUILDERS

The youth leadership component is one of the main pillars of our strategy to develop young men and women as leaders and peace promoters in their families, schools and communities. The aimed of the training was to empower young people with skills so that they can be able to lead in the different structures at community level, advocate for respect of human rights as well as for them



to fight gender-based violence practices in their communities. Mr. Okwera Richard one of our graduates said, I had no idea on how to resolve a conflict, as well as in advocating for human rights or build peace in my community. But, using the knowledge I have received, I already have been able to resolve a conflict over a land boundary among two families in my village. I know I can

do more, and I will work for peace”

In 2021, TIDE trains 120 youths and community leaders in conflict resolution, human rights, public speaking, and life skills. The trainings were to empower young people to spearhead development in their various communities as well as able to lead in the different structures at community level.



Figure 1. Photo taken during Youth leadership training

After the trainings, these young leaders return to their home communities where they train groups of local youths with whom they undertake peace-building initiatives and income-generating projects. As part of their mission, the youth leaders also teach Conflict Resolution Education (CRE) in primary and middle schools and conduct community dialogues to help resolve conflicts in

their schools, villages and tribes.

2.2. Community leaders training

To help in the efforts to foster long lasting peace in local communities, Talent Initiative for Development (TIDE) trained groups of community leaders in Conflict Resolution Education. This



Photo taken after leadership training in juba county

training is designed to help the leaders gain or improve their knowledge and skills in conflict resolution and mediation, resulting in them being able to manage conflicts they may encounter in their daily responsibilities as leaders. The training was also to strengthen the capacity of local peace actors and provides platform for community leaders to identify best practices in detecting, preventing, mitigating and managing communal conflicts.

In 2021, we trained 100 community leaders who comprised of Youths leaders, local Chiefs and religious leaders in Yei and Juba County of Central Equatoria State.

2.3. Peace Dialogues

Community dialogues are a component of TIDE’s program to strengthen and promote community peacebuilding and conflict mediation activities, especially considering the high number of inter-



Photo taken after community leader’s dialogue

communal conflicts within the areas in which we operate. Dialogues act as confidence-building measures and forums in which communities can come together, discuss pertinent issues, and resolve them in an open and transparent manner.

In 2021, we conducted 2 community dialogues in Juba and Yei. First one was between cattle keepers and farmers and the second one was for civil society organizations working at the grass roots. In Juba, a community dialogue was

conducted following several disputes between the farmers (Bari) and cattle keepers (Mudari) in Central Equatoria State. The dialogue focused on mitigating conflict between the two communities. Cattle keepers had been moving their animals in search of pasture but while looking for grazing, the animals are damaging local farms. The dialogue aimed to provide a platform within which both communities could discuss this issue and resolve it amicably. It attracted 100 people from both sides and concluded in a resolution which stipulated that the cattle keepers should avoid randomly moving their animals so as to be mindful of crops and farms. To avoid future conflict, TIDE will continue to educate the communities about the benefits of peaceful coexistence through local dialogues and radio talk shows.



A photo taken at City Fm Juba after one of our Radio Talk-shows

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2.4.Civil Society Activists Dialogues.



A group photo with CSOs Members at Yamora Office Yei.

In 2021, TIDE held 2 grassroots civil society dialogues in Central Equatoria, South Sudan for 50 civil society organizations and grassroots activists in Juba and Yei River Counties respectively. The purpose of these dialogues was not only focused on resources mobilizations and working spaces but also the policies donor organizations imposed when requesting for proposals from emerging grassroots organizations and movements. But also, to discuss challenges local organizations faces in promoting peace at the grassroots and how they can build partnerships and alliance in addressing the challenges for effective peace promotion.

One of the participants who is also the **Executive Director of Women for Change, Anna Tazita Samuel** said donor organizations put unrealistic demands for grassroots organizations especially



about policies. She added many times; Grassroots organization’s proposals are rated and compared with a well-established organization which is having over ten years of existence in operations and all policies and systems put in place.

*The Executive Director for Women for Change,
Anna Tazita Samuel*

Ms. Anna appealed to donor organizations to start being considerate and flexible especially when they send out calls for proposals so that the emerging grassroots organizations can benefit from and to support their work at the local levels.

“So, I think that donors should help the grassroots organizations by developing these policies together or does not make policy as a priority in considering startups or grassroots organizations in grants making. If an organization have one year of experience with no running funded projects, how can they have all the policies in place? that is not possible and donor organizations should start reconsidering such requirements when they are calling for proposals”, The Executive director stressed.

The consultation meetings in the two locations (Yei and Juba) brought together 50 grassroots actors working in over twenty different grassroots organizations operating in Central Equatoria State. These dialogues focused on different thematic areas such as health-related activisms, others on governance, human rights, rule of law, civil participation, limitations or funding challenges to for their organisations at the grassroots level and gender equality. They each shared their limitations, experiences and knowledge freely. Their insights have deepened our understanding of the real work of these grassroots organizations and given us a clue of what should be done to enhance the work of the grassroots movements as they continue to impact in their communities. Their insights in form of challenges and recommendations are herein highlighted. We are hopeful that the insights shared will shape the grassroots solidarity revolution campaign strategy you can read about the campaign on this link <https://civicus.org/grassrootsrevolution/>.

2.5.Youth Forums.

In 2021, TIDE facilitated one-day youth forums in Gudelle Juba under the theme “The Role of



Youths in Building Sustainable Peace and advocacy in their Local Communities.” The one-day forum aimed to involve youths and citizens to contemplate their roles in the promotion of peace in their respective communities. More than 250 people attended and the forum was also

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broadcasted live on Fm radios, thereby reaching thousands of additional South Sudanese.



The forums participants departed the venues of these events with insights to help them change their communities. It also gave participants ways to voice pressing issues and concerns faced by their respective communities, as well as ways to resolve them. These activities were designed to help foster peaceful coexistence, behavioral change, address problems that are affecting the community and trauma healing approaches.

The youths resolved to work together as peace ambassadors in their respective communities. They also promised to advise leaders at all levels to prioritize national interests. The events were so successful despite the limitation in funding for such initiatives. TIDE staff and volunteers will continue to host similar forums in other Payam across the country once we have access to financial resources.

2.6 Trauma Healing & Gender Base Violence-GBV sessions.

Some of the activities that TIDE has been conducting includes trauma healing and Gender base violence awareness sessions both in communities and in schools. TIDE uses storytelling dialogues approaches to engage communities in understanding trauma, its causes and negative impacts in our everyday lives perpetuated by historical tensions. The trauma healing and GBV trainings provides tools and approaches to bridge divides, paving way to reconciliation within families and communities due to prevalence of harmful cultural practices at family and community level, and how such doings can be avoided and prevented. One participant said during GBV session that; “women are dramatic and men are shy” when it comes to sharing Gender Based Violence cases, men are too shy to speak about their bad experiences in the hands of women because our societies believes that a man is strong and is not supposed to cry and also the fear from being mocked or

bullied at by his colleagues if they find out that his wife beats and that is why you don't hear men speaking about their experiences on Sexual and Domestic Gender Based Violence challenges they face in the hands of their wives and women in general” said Amira Reigns.



Group photo at St. Peter primary school after trauma awareness in Juba County.

2.7 Music For Peace Concerts and Capacity strengthening of Creative practices.



As our trademark, we reach out to larger audiences through public events with such TIDE has taken opportunity of its performing and creative arts program for peace education and advocacy purposes because its power to unite diverse groups of people from different backgrounds in the work for just and peaceful societies. The “Music Days”, which combines music events with community dialogues, cultural performances as well as educational workshops for cultural activists. These concerts have been conducted in collaborations with local artists. The “Music

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for Peace” creates platforms for youths to interact, learn on peace-related issues, and share ideas as well as develop talents of young people.



Photo of local artists after attended training as preparation a for peace concert.

TIDE believed that music has power to heal, reconcile a community whose social fabrics has been distorted. the “Peace Days” started at the refugee camps in Rhino camp, Arua District in Uganda, to bring the South Sudanese communities together utilizing the power of Music to convey values of respect and peaceful competition in an entertaining way. In 2021, TIDE organized a Peace concerts Peace events, including traditional dances, and talks related to peace and

reconciliation. After each song, youths and community elders hold focus group discussions on issues that impact their communities, including sexually-transmitted diseases or gender-based violence. Important notions, such as teamwork and how they can contribute to peacebuilding and community development.

3. PARTNERS WHO SUPPORTED OUR WORK

- Institute for Genocide and mass atrocity prevention (IG-MAP)
- Global Youth Mobilization under the local Solutions Project
- CIVICUS (Global Alliance of Civil Society Organization s and Activists).
- Platform Africa
- Rise Initiative for Women’s Rights Advocacy-RiWA
- Agency for Open Critical Transformation-rog
- People of Goodwill

4. MAJOR CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

As with most emerging national NGOs, limited financial capacity to increase impact in numbers and geographical locations has been one of the major obstacles TIDE encountered, also insecurity. This is attributed to the negative impact of #COVID19, conflicts and competition for the already

limited small scale funding with established big and international organizations operating in the country which has resulted into limited funding opportunities.

5. WAY FORWARD

In the coming year, TIDE will work to deepen its impact on the ground, notably through the consolidation of Peace initiative activities in Central Equatoria State. Particular attention will be paid to development of new projects such as Income Generation Activities-IGAs Projects, to support the returnees especially whose sources of livelihoods has been affected by the war to building their resilience across the State. It is also our expectation that many more community members will be positively impacted by our trainings and various activities to promote a culture of peace as well as economic development through the Business Bootcamp that we will develop in Central Equatoria and other states subject to accessibility to funding Institutions in the coming year.

6. CONCLUSION

Despite the challenges faced in 2021 as a new emerged organization, TIDE managed to obtain strong results in its work in Central Equatoria State of South Sudan. We were able to reach to more than 5,000 South Sudanese civilians by our programs mostly in local communities. After a year of implementation, it is clear that the principles behind our action delivery on their promise: trusting local communities and long-term investment are key to achieving results and to obtain the buy-in of the populations and it remains, that much work needs to be done in the near future.

BRIEFLY ABOUT TALENT INITIATIVE FOR DEVELOPMENT-TIDE.

Founded in 2018 and officially registered in 2020, the Talent Initiative for Development (TIDE) is a Creative non-profit and non- governmental organization that uses creative arts to support Peace Building, Human Rights and Advocacy, Democratic Governance, Gender Based Violence, Civic Education, Sexual Reproductive Health Rights, Countering Hate & Violence Extremism, Women & Youth Empowerment. TIDE is a coalition of different talents, peace builders and change makers with diverse backgrounds who are motivated to empower communities through artistic and educational approaches. TIDE serves as a platform to amplify the voices of South Sudanese creative practitioners, peace builders and cultural activists to foster harmony for sustainable

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development. TIDE is legally registered as a national NNGO with the ministry of Justice and the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission RRC under chapter 3 section 10 of the NGOs Act, 2016 obtaining the **Reg No. 3,183**.

As TIDE we seek to use practical ways to engage communities and create awareness on the social drivers of extreme violence at the grassroot levels and to develop realistic solutions to the contemporary challenges on social leadership, political and economic wellbeing of South Sudanese. TIDE is committed to strengthening community-based advocacy to encourage transparency and accountability for effective service delivery across the country and promote meaningful participation to better nation building through capacity trainings, public concerts, Campaigns and community dialogues.

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