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SOUTH SUDAN

ANNUAL REPORT 202/23



Figure 1: Key stakeholders during Proception on 16/12/2022 at Youth Garden-Yei



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FOREWORD BY TIDE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

The year 2022 has been very historic in the life of TIDE.

The new collaborations such as that with GiZ and the protestant Church of Horgen in Switzerland have given TIDE the opportunity to reach out broadly to more South Sudanese in terms of enhancing its efforts in peace building especially at grassroots, using Creative Arts approach. Through the partnership with GiZ on its project "Strengthening the Peace Process in South Sudan (StrePP)" in which TIDE qualified for the local subsidy grants particularly, TIDE's commitment in promoting peace and reconciliation through increasing and improving the knowledge of stakeholders at the local communities and local government especially the police in YRC, Yei town Payam, Yei Boma has been achieved with the relevant activities under Yei Music for Peace Festival (#YeiPeaceJam22), a project that commenced on December 14th 2022 and ended on 15th February 2023. Ideas including formation of gender equality clubs and strengthening the knowledge and capacity of its members to bridge gender gaps at schools and communities, the objective to preach Christmas peace messages and produce two peace songs using Yei Local Music Association, South Sudan Evangelical Mission Network (SSEMNeT) and Yei cultural groups, shooting the videos after the launching of the 2 peace songs including producing a short documentary to cover the project in YRC have all been achieved. At least 105,204 people have been reached in Yei River County and the two peace songs will probably reach out to another thousands of audiences on YouTube, other social media platforms and the local radio stations. For the first time ever, some of the new local artists have performed in a crowd and it is also first of its kind since the 2013 crisis started in South Sudan that the Yei secular artists and the gospel artists have come together to sing and dance for peace, according to the leadership of YMA.

Additionally, the partnership with the protestant church of Horgen in Switzerland has enabled over 80 young leaders from within Juba city obtain knowledge and skills in conflict management, leadership, financial literacy and gender-based violence mitigation in their communities. With its local partnership with CDC (Capacity Development Center) in Juba further, at least 4 emerging NNGOs have received training on resource mobilization and fundraising, in order to improve their resource mobilization capacities, being one of the major challenges faced.



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In summary through these partnerships, a great opportunity to learn within the institution and outside the institution has been provided especially during proposal review, its defense, commercial eligibility checks and inception workshop that provided challenges in form recommendations that TIDE has welcomed positively and have added value to the institution. Interestingly

it was a great encouragement to receive recognition of the importance of our initiatives by the Yei River County Government authorities including Hon. Commissioner's office, the national security, the inspectorate of police, Yei River County Youth Association-YRC who pledged to provide safe environment for the implementation of the entire project and other future engagements.

TIDE is grateful to GiZ for enabling its ideas work; especially Denis Simon and Dorina the StrePP focal persons and Mr. Mathias in Switzerland, who voluntarily supports our work tirelessly. Thank you to the commitment of team TIDE, the target participants and the Yei River County Local Government for being very supportive throughout the project implementation timeframe.



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1. INTRODUCTION

Founded in 2018 and officially registered in 2020, the Talent Initiative for Development (TIDE) is a Creative South Sudanese non-profit and non-governmental organization that uses creative arts to support Peace Building, Human Rights, Democratic Governance, Gender-Based Violence Mitigation, Civic Education, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Advocacy, Hate & Extremism violence Mitigation and 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 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 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. As already highlighted on the forward by the ED, TIDE has committed to leveraging the importance of collaborations and partnerships at local and global levels. Locally, it has continued to partner with emerging Civil Society Organizations, Faith-based Institutions and other local stakeholders to ensure peace efforts are amplified up to the grassroots. At international level, TIDE has secured two partnerships; that is with the GiZ and with the Protestant Church of Horgen to build peace and strong social cohesion and to enhance the capacity of church youth in leadership, conflict management and financial literacy despite the usual limited funding challenge, which has been caused by the COVID 19 pandemic, the Ukrainian crisis and the alarming humanitarian needs

across the world. This report therefore, presents the core activities and achievements made, Main

challenges encountered and the lessons learned, key participant comments and some

recommendations.



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2. CORE ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED AND ACHIEVED IN 2022

The following were the core activities achieved in 2022.

2.1. Training of Youth on Leadership, Conflict Management and Financial Literacy.

With the goal to enhance capacity and build a community of vibrant youth leaders who will use their powers and voices to advocate for inclusion in decision making process and champion development of their communities in the long run, the training was successfully conducted by Talent Initiative for Development (TIDE) with the financial support of the Protestant Church of Horgen in Switzerland on leadership and conflict management, held at St. Mary's Parishlokworoso church on 3rd December 2022 in Gudele Block 7 area, Juba.

The training targeted 35 beneficiaries but actually overwhelmingly drew a total of 54 youth below the age 35 years; thirty-one (31) females and twenty-three (23) males.



Figure 2: Group of youth at St. Mary's Parish after training on 3/12/2022

From this training, these young leaders are able to impact their homes, respective departments and places of work and expand to the communities as peer educators and ambassadors of peace and change, because of their improved knowledge and understanding on the subject matter respectively.



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2.2. Training of some Emmerging CBOs and NNGOs on Local Fundraising and Modern Resource Mobilization technics.

As emerging humanitarian organizations, there are enormous challenges grassroots institutions such as Banat Power-a Women Led CBO envisioning at enhancing the capacity of girls to live a full independent life, RiWA (Rise Initiative for Women's Rights Advocacy)-a National Nongovernmental Organization advocating for the rights of women and Talent Initiative for Development (TIDE)-a youth-led National NGO promoting Governance and Human Rights, Peace Building, Youth and Women Economic Empowerment, Digital skills and the need to end Gender Based Violence are facing.

Among many other core challenges, limited funding is on the top and it comes as a result of limited knowledge, skills and network in resources mobilization and local fundraising technics. Hence, their impact is suffocated.



Figure 3: Photo taken during training of Mid-senior Organization Managers on Resource Mobilization and Fundraising techniques and skills in Juba-South Sudan

Therefore, TIDE organized a one-day training of the top leaders and programs staff was held and drew a total of 8 participants. The purpose of the activity to identify some of the challenges facing the organizations and for the staff to be empowered with the right tools they need to broaden their resource Mobilization and local fundraising drive.

The training was successfully facilitated by Mr. Yeng Lambo, the Program Coordinator, South Sudan Center for Middle East Africa and Africa of the United States Institute of Peace (USIP).



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2.3. Formation of Gender Equality Clubs-GECs.

The formational of the necessary GECs was done on 15/12/2022 and the following is the composition of these GECs. A total of 129 students (63 males and 66 females) and 4 teachers (1 male and 3 females) were reached in 4 different schools to constitute the 20 GECs members.

The bale below shows the composition of the GECs.

| S/N | School | Categories of | Total | Nr. Of | Nr. Of | |
|------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------|---------|--|
| | | beneficiaries | beneficiaries | Males | Females | |
| 01 | Yei Day Secondary | Students | 4 | 2 | 2 | |
| | School | Teachers | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| Sub- | Sub-total per school | | 5 | | | |
| 02 | Immanuel Model SS | Students | 4 | 2 | 2 | |
| | | Teachers | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| Sub- | total per school | 5 | | | | |
| 03 | Excel International | Students | 4 | 2 | 2 | |
| | Academy | Teachers | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| Sub- | Sub-total per school | | 5 | | | |
| 04 | Emmanuel Christine | Students | 4 | 2 | 2 | |
| | Academy SS | Teachers | 1 | 1 | 0 | |
| Sub- | Sub-total per school 5 | | | | | |
| Tota | | 16 | | | | |
| Tota | | 4 | | | | |
| Sub- | 20 | | | | | |

2.4. Recording and Airing of Christmas Peace Messages and peace songs.

Christmas day is annually recognized by the Christians as a day of peace, joy, love, salvation, sharing and many other good things, through the Birth of Jesus Christ, the author of Peace. Since the highest composition of the population of worshippers in Yei River County is Christian, the recording and broadcasting of key peace messages on the local radio stations was conducted. The jingle was produced in two languages; that is English and Arabic languages and aired out on Easter



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Radio 94.0 FM, in order to deter conflict and promote peaceful celebration, reconciliation and forgiveness. This Jingle ran for 30 days (December 16th 2022-January 16th 2023).

Recording the two Peace Songs was done, videos produced and a short documentary produced.

2.5. 3-day training/workshop on conflict management and peace building using Creative Arts



Figure 4: One of the participants reacting on gender equality conversation during the creative arts for peace workshop in Jan, 2023.

TIDE with the financial support of GiZ under its StrePP project, organized this three-day workshop in order to create a space for the participants to raise and discuss their own issues hindering the peace process in South Sudan at the community levels and to solicit possible best local solutions. More so, the workshop aimed to equip the participants knowledge and skills in conflict management, reconciliation and peace.

The workshop drew a total of 55 participants; 21 female and 34 male including students, teachers, the police, Yei Local Music Association, Yei

Cultural Groups, Yei council of elders, religious representatives from Muslim and Christian faith, community networkers and others.

The 3-day workshop was very interactive and eye-opening as the topics planned and delivered were very relevant to the audience and the situation in Yei River County. Among others, the following were the topics covered;

Analyzing the conflict styles, attitudes and ideologies of culture and politics in South Sudan and their impact on peace building and respect to human rights, self-awareness, ethics, social corporate responsibility and why it is important in conflict management and peace building, fighting propaganda, hate speech and negative expressions, cultural diversity, inclusion and its merits on state building, conflict sensitivity, mitigation and management and how it differs from peace building and the role of the police in conflict management, peace building(core issues involved, the local policies and gaps). The Police Inspector Yei River County, Mr. Faisal officiated the workshop and briefed the participants on the role of the police and the existing laws and local policies. The workshop was finalized by the session on Creative Arts; that is how to identify talent and use it for advocacy and to influence change at personal, community and institutional levels.



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The workshop started on Thursday 19th Jan 2023 and ended successfully on Saturday 21/02/2023 with clear recommendations from participants.

2.6. Yei Music for Peace Concert.

Well informed about the power of music in uniting people, reconciling communities, conveying messages of hope and peace, this event was the climax of the two-month GiZ-funded Music for Peace and Reconciliation #YeiPeaceJam22 project. The festival took place on 11th, February 2023 at Yei freedom square, following request for the venue from the Hon. Commissioner's office. The main purposes for this Music festival were; to celebrate the cultural diversity of the South Sudanese communities living in Yei River County-YRC, to promote talent and creativity among the young people in YRC and to preach peace and reconciliation messages to the audience.

The recording of the two peace songs titled "Guwa", an Arabic word referring to "Power" started back in December 2022 and were finally launched on the above stated date. The local artists from Yei Music Association recorded these songs which were written by Samse Sam, the Executive Director for TIDE whose passion is to transform communities (especially build peace through creative arts). The songs were produced in different lyrics using the cultural groups represented by the Adungu Peace Club.

By titling the songs "Guwa" the artists remind South Sudanese that we all have the power to change our own narratives; the power to make peace, but not destroy ourselves and the nation. The songs stressed back the several decades of war and how war has caused tremendous suffering and destructions in South Sudan. These songs call for an end to violence and war and provides the option of working for peace using whatever power we have as individuals, families and communities in serving one another.



Figure 5: Artists performing during launching of peace songs on 11/2/2023.

Although the launching of these songs collided with the preparatory day for the reception of the Hon. Governor for Central Equatoria State to Yei River County from His round trip from Kajo-keji via Morobo counties respectively, at least 200 people attended the first session of the concert; through which speeches and launching of



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the songs ended at around 1 pm Central African Time. In the afternoon however, from 3 pm CAT, the different musical performances begun by the Yei curtain raisers (dancehall crews) and the subsequent performing artists from Yei Music Association-YMA.

By around 4 pm CAT, the Yei Freedom square was almost crowded to its full capacity with an approximation of at least 5,000 people; children, women, men, the men in uniform among others from the different sectors of YRC. On top of the initial 15 artists, 2 others also later participated in the song recording, performance and shooting of the video.

Interestingly according to YMA leadership, it is first of its kind for secular artists and gospel artists to work together in producing some songs. All along these two did not find any justification to work together, since the gospel artists considers the secular artists as sinners and perhaps inappropriate to work with.

This project has ironed out this rift by uniting them to work for peace with joint efforts. This project has helped to set an example that the quest for peace is everyone's responsibility and that whenever we isolate one person (party/group), we are actually creating conflict and disunity.

Among the 17 artists who participated directly in the project of the song recording and video shooting is a combination of secular artists from YMA and from SSEMNeT. The concert was concluded by the performance from Cocosan, one of South Sudanese prominent and loved national secular artists at 6pm CAT and the concert closed by 7pm.

3. MAJOR CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED.

As with most emerging National NGOs like TIDE, limited financial capacity to increase impact numerically and geographically has been the major challenge TIDE encountered. This is attributed to the negative impact of COVID 19 and the Ukrainian crisis.

The main specific challenges faced during our different activities include the following.

o Excessive turn-up of participants for the youth leadership training.

The excess number of participants that turned up for the training was almost twice the expected total. Initially, thirty-five (35) participants were budgeted and planned for. However, the number increased from thirty-five (35) to fifty-four (54) making excess of nineteen participants. This was because the training was conducted within the church area which attracted the attention of youths within the church community although TIDE had to block others from entering the venue. This created a challenge in terms of resources to cater for these 54 instead of 35. We've learned that there are many youths who are willing to be shown the right way to go. Others expressed how tired



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they are with the political manipulations and how eager they are to learn better new and positive skills and knowledge to participate in changing their lives and serving their communities. We've also learned of flexibility in solving problems.

Limited time to smoothly cover all the training content.

The topics all seemed very interesting to the participants, thereby causing more active participants participation in form of experience sharing, questions and group works. The one day wasn't sufficient enough to the target audience. However, we learned of the importance of prioritization. This way we were able to cover the most important sessions. The limited time is due to inability to facilitate a 2 or 3-day activity financially.

4. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Observations

GECs and entire school administrations of the selected schools are very interested on the gender awareness through students. For example, IMSS and Excel have gone as far as creating some awareness activities and the member of GECs is already increasing. From 4 students to at least 15 members at IMSS and Excel Academy SS.

Uniqueness of the project activities; the comments and instructiveness of the participants and the Local Government in general reveals to TIDE that the project is positively received and genuinely an important ingredient in influencing local solutions /policies that can greatly contribute to effective conflict resolution, Peace and harmony.

Unity/great team work; it was amazing to see the various artists work out the two peace songs happily with respect for one another.

Recommendations

Strengthening these clubs, merging them with school governing bodies such as PTA, prefectorial boards and community networkers to improve and expand impact in the communities beyond schools.

Expanding the project lifespan and coverage in order to allow room for monitoring and evaluating impact and identifying gaps for further interventions.

Keeping in closeness with the different groups and initiating other social activities that could grow this unity further.



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Within this short period of working with the Local cultural groups and the Yei Local Music Association, we learned that all young people and the different ethnic groups living in Yei need is being given the right information and guidance in identifying and solving their own problems. The element of learning from mistakes and willingness to change from harmful behaviors -culture of war to culture of peace was observed.

This could also mean expansion to other crisis-affected towns and Payams in Yei River County that are divided.

Partnership; as TIDE, we learned of the power of working in partnership and adapting to new challenges. For instance, by engaging different groups to work with us, TIDE has won the trust and support of the people of Yei in its intervention. Through partnership with GiZ, TIDE has learned of the need to enhance the capacity of its staff in modern accounting and other project management software. Timing of the event; for future planning, TIDE has learned to be careful in designing some of its activities.

Lobbying for sustainable partnership with GiZ, other organizations that supports TIDE's vision and continuing to uphold the importance of transparency and accountability to stakeholders.

Conducting capacity building for all TIDE's staff on QuickBooks and Fundraising

Hosting such large public events like music concerts in convenient season or considering hiring tents or venue like youth gardens hall for the show.

5. KEY PARTICIPANT COMMENTS

"Our own children have turned against us. This music for peace has come at the right time.

Our children need to be taught and guided in the truth"

Okuil Biu, Police Gender Desk-YRC during the inception workshop.



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"The need for peace in South Sudan is not only about South Sudanese. It is a global concern that is why GiZ has also joined the struggle. Therefore, support the existing peace structures at schools like Music Dance and Drama, the gender clubs you talked of and others that can promote peace at the school levels and community to change the behavior, attitudes and actions of the young people" Mr. Inziku Joel, Patron ECAS during the 3-day creative arts for peace workshop in Yei.

"I know deep inside my heart that I want to become a water engineer so that my people in Yei will drink clean and safe water, but I found myself doing the opposite just because I am frustrated. No one cares about my desires. When I thought of this, I lost my peace. A friend of mine advised me to sing just to be happy. Now I am not only happy but I make others happy through my songs", Pato Pato (Patrick)-One of the local artists in YRC who is doing more comedies now.

"Our cultures and traditions have contributed greatly to gender inequality, gender-based violence and conflict in our communities, because it falsely dictates that inheritance and other privileges are meant for sons but not daughters. Unfortunately, we found ourselves following this belief", Emmanuel Morbe, one of the male participants stated emotionally during the creative arts workshop.

"When we talk about peace, we talk about our own problems. Peace begins with us; me and you. We cannot rule out the issue of gender, because during creation, I think God Himself didn't talk about gender, but He focused on responsibility and helper. It is us who brought confusion among ourselves and started focusing on gender because of our cultures and traditions", Woyi Wilson, a police officer at South Sudan Police Service-Yei River County.

"The undermining of the role of girls and women in peace and development has caused much pain in us. I feel disappointed and angry when I hear we the young people support the false belief that girls cannot take care of their father's wealth. We must stop it now if our daughters and their future daughters are to live happily", Rachel Umina, a student from Emmanuel Christian Academy.

"Such training should not stop but rather be a continuous process at least twice a year since it is so powerful and beneficial to the young people in Juba. The number of trainees should be increased since there are many youths, government officials in homes and offices who are so ignorant on matters concerning leadership, Financial Management, conflict management and peace building", Samuel Bota, one of the youth leaders at St. Mary's Parish, Gudele-Juba.

With the above feedback from participants in Yei and Juba therefore,



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In the coming year,

Particular attention will be placed on;

✓ Conducting quarterly trainings.

Based on the above feedbacks, we feel this program is much needed by the youth who are indeed less prioritized in the capacity building programs of the government. Therefore, organizing this training quarterly will help in, mentoring more and evaluating results.

✓ Increasing the target beneficiaries to 50 participants per training.

It is realized that the composition of the active youth department of the church is actually big (at least 60 members) and these members and their leaders all lacks the capacity to effectively lead, plan and cause change. They simply rely on assignments the church leadership directives. Therefore, we strongly believe this program will cause great impact in South Sudan in the midterm.

✓ Extending this training to Yei River County-CES.

Although the participants recommend expansion of this program to the 10 states of South Sudan, we feel it is important to first go slowly, considering the implication on resources.

Therefore, since TIDE already has an office in Yei, we recommend inclusion of the youth in Yei. Through its music for peace campaigns where the local government and other partners in Yei has strongly recommended, working in Yei with the youth will be an added advantage.

✓ Strengthening our partnership.

We cannot sustainably do this work alone. The fact that the Protestant Church of Hrogen in Switzerland has already touched the hearts of these youth in Juba has challenged us to think how best we could together save the youth from manipulation and youthful dying in senseless war.

Therefore, we hope for continuous support as per the recommendations upto the point that TIDE can run this program independently.

As an emerging organization that is willing and able to learn and adapt to new challenges positively, TIDE, especially the project staff made the following observations and recommendations to GiZ.

6. CONCLUSION

Not undermining the challenges faced in 2022, as TIDE, we are moved by the increased impact of our work in this year especially the ability to reach out to at least 100,000 audience in Juba and Yei counties of Central Equatoria State, South Sudan. This would have not been possible without support of partners. Therefore, TIDE will continue work to deepen its impact on the ground,



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notably through the consolidation of Peace initiative activities in Central Equatoria State. Particular attention will be paid to development of new project such as income Generation Projects, to support the returnees especially whose livelihood has been affected by war to building their resilience. 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. The high trauma level in especially women and girls due to experience of conflict-related sexual violence, lack of participation and poor standards of living is a priority area of our 2023 agenda.

For Prophet once declared "my people are destroyed because of lack of knowledge". Hosea 4:6

7. ANNEXES

7.1. Activity Photos



Participant contributing



Participants during the training



Moderator joyfully at the end of the training



Participant presenting group work



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Co-facilitator during session on Financial Literacy



Group photo after the training



Yei all-stars performing during launching of peace songs on 11/2/2023 at Yei freedom square



Rachel, GECs member from ECAS giving her view on gender, during gender equality workshop



Key stakeholders after official project launch in Yei



Jorgina & Blessed Lady, performing during launching of peace songs



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Samuel Sebit, ED-TIDE during his remarks at launching of peace songs



Vicky, one of the local female artists during recording of the two peace songs



Johnny, one of the police officers (and a singer) performing during the launching of Peace songs



Mr. Johnson Poru, Chairman Yei River County Youth Association speaking during launching Yei Peace songs

7.2. School Data During GECs Formation

| school | boys | Girls | Total |
|---------------------|------|-------|-------|
| Excel International | 23 | 16 | 39 |
| Yei day | 16 | 15 | 31 |
| IMSS | 12 | 18 | 30 |
| ECAS | 12 | 17 | 29 |
| | 63 | 66 | 129 |

7.3. Overall Audience Reached.



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| S/N | Name of Activity | Nr. Of Male | Nr. Of Female | Total | |
|-------|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| 01 | Project inception workshop | 14 | 6 | 20 | |
| 02 | Formation of GECs | Students who par | hools | | |
| | students | 63 | 66 | 129 | |
| | Teachers | 1 | 3 | 4 | |
| | Overall direct total reached of | n GECs formation | 1 GECs formation | | |
| 03 | Recording Peace songs by | 13 | 4 | 17 | |
| | Yei Local Artists | | | | |
| 04 | Airing of Christmas Peace | At least 50,000 | At least 50,000 | At least 100,000 | |
| | Messages for 30 days | | | | |
| | (including sharing in social | | | | |
| | media groups) | | | | |
| 05 | Workshop on creative Arts | 33 | 21 | 54 | |
| | in Yei | | | | |
| 06 | Music for peace concert | 2,000+_ | 3,000+_ | 5,000+_ | |
| 07 | Youth Leadership Training | 23 | 31 | 54 | |
| | in Juba | | | | |
| 08 | Training of NNGOS, CBOs | 3 | 5 | 8 | |
| | on fundraising | | | | |
| Overa | 105, 286 | | | | |

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