



## German Civil Peace Service (CPS) in Uganda

### Background

For over twenty years, Northern Uganda was characterised by instability and violent conflict. The Lord's Resistance Army caused unrest in Acholi and Lango from 1986 to 2006. In West Nile, rebels were active until 2002. Still today, conflicts between ethnic groups in Karamoja are exacerbated by a culture of cattle raiding.

### Programme

The German Civil Peace Service started its Uganda programme in 2001 to address in particular the different conflicts in Northern Uganda. Since then, it has been implemented by the German Technical Cooperation agency GIZ and the non-governmental Association for Development Cooperation (AGEH).

Ten years after the signing of the peace agreement between the then last active rebel group in the West Nile subregion and the Government of Uganda, CPS, a long standing partner in the peace process, is supporting the consolidation of the fragile peace in the region. Programme areas include: reintegration of ex-combatants into society, issues of reparations to war victims, and specific questions of peace building, especially peace education, with the aim of achieving lasting peace.

In addition, CPS addresses issues related to land conflict and development.

CPS has been active in Acholi and Lango subregions for 11 years providing psychosocial support for devastated families, particularly returnees and former child soldiers. The programme has supported traditional methods of conflict transformation, facilitated access to justice through training and coaching of a strong network of paralegals, and initiated an outreach programme hosted by Gulu University to ensure the link between theories of conflict transformation and peace building in communities.

In the mainly semi-arid Teso and Karamoja subregions, border disputes and competition over resources continue to cause violent conflicts between the Iteso and the Karamojong as well as within the latter. CPS is now in cooperation with various partners in the subregions in order to effectively address these issues. In particular, CPS facilitates dialogue between grass root groups and local stakeholders, especially elders, kraal leaders and herdsmen. It implements justice and peace awareness-raising activities in villages and settlements. Through the successful cooperation of various partners, 30,000 people were resettled in the green belt, a border area between Karamoja and Teso, and are now living together in peace.

