

Quick guide to...

COMMUNITY CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION DIALOGUES

Equipping communities with peaceful strategies to address the conflict issues that matter to them

The 'Community Conflict Transformation Dialogues' are a tool for use by community peacebuilders to facilitate a series of community reflections and workshops designed to help the community think about the conflicts that affect them while equipping them to transform those same conflicts.

PRINCIPLES

- **Community Driven:** The programme equips communities with the knowledge and skills to address the conflicts and issues that are a priority for them. Through the dialogues the community begins to identify issues that

matter to them and gain the confidence to start addressing those issues using the resources, knowledge and expertise that they, as a community working together, possess.

- **Experiential:** The sessions follow an experiential learning cycle that encourages and enables participants to reflect on their own experiences, drawing out the learning for themselves. The peacebuilding champions act as facilitators guiding the community on that journey rather than as external experts with all the answers.

- **Nurtured:** The programme aims to build an ongoing relationship with the peacebuilding champions, nurturing them as they work within their communities to facilitate the sessions and support community peacebuilding initiatives. As such, the trainers meet with the champions at regular intervals by phone, messaging and, whenever possible, face-to-face. The programme therefore includes follow up gatherings of champions such that they can share stories, reflect, gain insights and learn from each other, providing ongoing support and encouragement.



COMMUNITY LEADERS

Community leaders attend workshops that engage and equip them to provide leadership and support for the community conflict transformation process



PEACEBUILDING CHAMPIONS

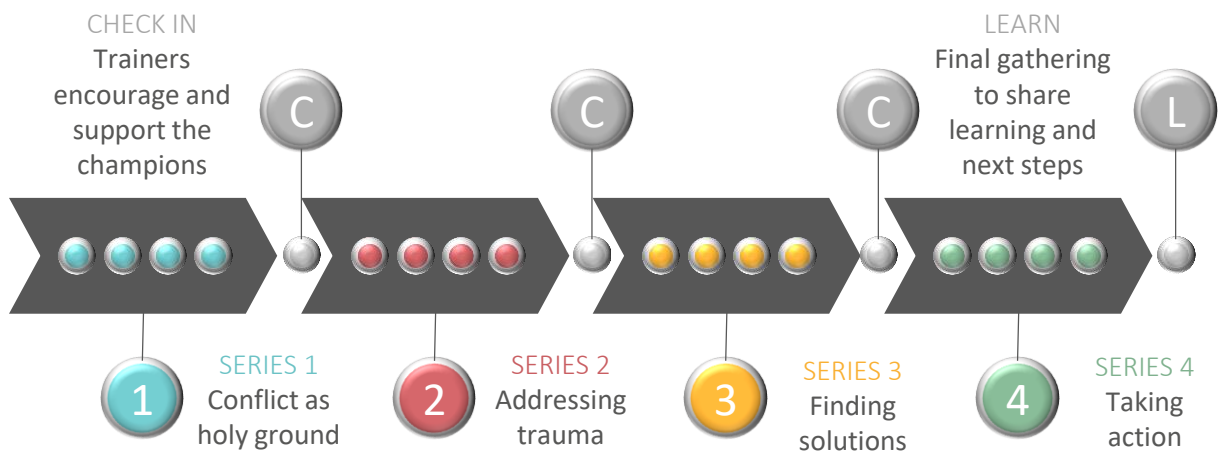
Community leaders select key male and female members of the community to be trained as facilitators of group discussions called 'community dialogues'



COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Mixed groups made up of members of the community meet weekly for four series of four week discussions led by the peacebuilding champions

Community conflict transformation dialogues are conducted in four series of four two-hour weekly sessions with the trainers 'checking in' with the champions after each series



The community dialogues form part of a series of interventions that begin with meetings to engage and mobilise key faith and community leaders and identify people suitable to be trained as community peacebuilding champions. Champions are usually trained in pairs or triplets from each community including men and women and more than one age group; it is good to include at least one from the youth. Once trained, these champions are mentored and supported by the trainers as they facilitate the dialogues within their communities.

Champions are strongly encouraged to hold the first series of dialogues as soon as possible after they have been trained, certainly within a month. Facilitating this first series inevitably raises questions and champions therefore value the opportunity to share their experience with other champions and receive refresher training before conducting the second series.

Ideally, each series should be followed by a short two day gathering of community peacebuilding champions and trainers to allow this face-to-face interaction, encouragement and support. If this is not possible, trainers should follow up with champions from each group directly by phone or, if technology and connectivity allows, consider arranging virtual meetings. At the very least a physical gathering bringing all champions together should take place once all communities have completed the fourth series. This allows champions to celebrate their achievements, share challenges and learning, identify outcomes and motivate each other to continue.

The structure of the dialogues is such that the final series, 'taking action', moves the community towards an action planning phase where they identify actions that they can take to address the issues that concern them most as a community. Putting this into practice results in communities forming their own peacebuilding forums or committees and starting their own peacebuilding activities.



Community peacebuilding champions in South Sudan take part in the initial training