

# Ateker (Zone 3) Cross Border Leadership Initiative for Peace, Security & Development in Uganda, Kenya, Sudan & Ethiopia

CENTRAL PLAINS NILOTES MIGRATIONS



suffers from absence of the state or weak presence of its law enforcement institutions. The violent conflicts are exacerbated by the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons, extreme poverty, chronic food insecurity, limited access to basic services such as water, education health and environmental degradation leading to the depletion of the natural survival base.

## THE INITIATIVE

- Over the years, numerous conflict prevention and peace-building interventions have been employed by Central and Local Governments, Cultural leaders and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to address both the internal and cross-border dimensions of the conflict.
- Various disarmament attempts have also been made to tackle the problem of illicit small arms and light weapons in the different countries. While these have had their mixed results, the cost of failure has been catastrophic.
- The challenge of attaining durable peace, human security and sustainable development among the Ateker still remains an issue.

## OBJECTIVES

### Overall Objective

To contribute towards the formulation of a comprehensive and practical framework for collaboration and promotion of lasting peace, human security and socio-economic development among the Ateker communities and their immediate neighbours in Southern Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

### Specific Objectives

- I. To promote a common understanding of the historical roots and identity of Ateker in the four countries in order to attain durable peace, security and development.
- II. To generate consensus among the people in the Ateker zone on the sources of persistent failures to bring about peace and development in the Ateker zone and chart a united way forward.



## BACKGROUND

The project is linked to the 'Ateker' people who are the Itung'a speaking group of Nilotics (formerly referred to as Nilo-Hamites) whose cradle is historically traced to a land between the Blue Nile and White Nile of present day Sudan. They currently inhabit the borderland area (Zone 3) which is the most conflict-prone zones straddling four countries (Kenya, Uganda, Sudan and Ethiopia) in the Eastern and Horn of Africa region.

On the whole, the region experiences recurrent widespread cattle rustling, lawlessness, criminality, banditry and generalized insecurity. The zone also





## ATEKER INITIATIVE PHASES

The Ateker Initiative as a process is organised in three main phases namely the pre-conference, the conference and the post-conference as described below.

### 1. Pre-Conference Phase

This includes the following:

- Mobilization of resources from development partners.
- The establishment of the Ateker initiative conference secretariat and administration.
- Mobilization of traditional and formal leaders in support of Ateker initiative.
- Mobilization of women for the Initiative.
- Holding of a National Symposium to get feedback from consultative meetings with traditional and formal leaders.

### 2. The Conference Phase

The conference phase comprises of the actual conference that converges the leaders from the three countries (Kenya, Uganda, Sudan and Ethiopia), specifically from the Zone 3.

### 3. Post- Conference Phase

The Expert analysis and summaries derived from the Ateker consultative pre-conference and conference process is to be developed and presented as a Road Map for 'Peace, Security and Development among the Ateker cluster in the Eastern and Horn of Africa'.

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III. To promote customary and formal inter-community dialogue on accountability, reconciliation and economic inter-dependence for peaceful co-existence among the Ateker across borders

IV. To generate inputs and formulate a comprehensive Road Map for regional peace, security and development among the Ateker; towards sustainable peace security and development at regional, national, sub national and community (Adakar) levels.

## THE THEMES OF THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE INITIATIVE

**Theme 1:** Background of the Ateker people: History, Politics, Culture and Social Organisation

**Theme 2:** Peace and Security challenges within and among the Ateker group.

**Theme 3:** Governance, Development and Economic empowerment: strategies to grow out of conflict and poverty trap

**Theme 4:** Mobilization, organization and empowerment of Ateker group: strategies to increase voice in order to influence policy and decision making in the IGAD and Great Lakes Region.



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