



Report on CRID Monitoring visit to Anglican Diocese of Egypt

18th February – 23rd February 2020

Cairo, Egypt

Introduction

Communities Richer In Diversity is a project initiated by a consortium of faith organisations namely: Faith to Action Network (F2A), African Council of Religious Leaders-Religions for Peace (ACRL-rfp), All African Conference of Churches (AACC) that are coordinated by the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA). The ultimate desired outcome of CRID is to enhance understanding, tolerance and respect for cultural and religious diversity among 24,400 youth at risk of radicalization, and to leverage on the influence of faith leaders and institutions to promote cultural diversity and respect for equal dignity of all men and women in Egypt, Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Burundi and Tanzania.

Background information

CRID has supported 6 local implementing partners in the 6 respective Countries that have designed and implemented right based interventions on inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogues.

In Burundi, the project is being implemented by the Inter-Religious Council of Burundi (IRC-B) and seeks to promote religious and ethnic tolerance and understanding as a response to the challenge of ethnic radicalisation and extremism and religious divisions in the country. Its main goal is to promote harmony between faith communities and collaboration between religious leaders with a view to fostering peaceful co-existence between religious formations and local communities in four provinces, namely, Muyinga, Rumonge, Bujumbura Rural and Bujumbura Mairie.

The Kenya Muslim Youth Alliance (KMYA) is implementing the project in Kenya, which aims to contribute to reduction of radicalisation and violent extremism in Mombasa and Kilifi counties. The project is responding to the problem of religious radicalisation and violent extremism in the two counties and seeks to promote interreligious tolerance and cultural diversity, promote peaceful coexistence through youth-led interfaith dialogues, and promote tolerance of intercultural and interfaith diversity in the coastal region.

The project in South Sudan is implemented by the Evangelical Alliance of South Sudan (EASS) and its women's commission, the Pan African Christian Women Alliance of South Sudan (PACWA). The project aims at reducing conflict and building peace by strengthening community peace structures and improving intra- and inter-faith collaborations. The project's activities will decrease levels of

community-based conflicts, create community peace platforms, facilitate reconciliation and trauma healing, and foster peaceful coexistence.

The project in Tanzania is being implemented by Anglican Diocese of Zanzibar and seeks to address challenges of political conflict and radicalization of youth by violent extremist groups. The project had been stalled by the government but has resumed operations after diplomatic engagements of the government in Zanzibar.

The project in Egypt responds to the challenge of religious radicalisation and violent extremism in the country. It seeks to improve inter-religious relations among youth and neglected communities, increase resilience of youth to radicalisation and violent extremism, and increase knowledge about the commonalities and differences between religious groups. Implemented by the Anglican Diocese of Egypt (ADE), the project's activities are in Gusour Cultural Centre in Cairo, Old Cairo, and Ezbet El-Nakhl and El-Salam City Community Centres in Cairo. The activities seek to demystify negative stereotypes about other religions, enhance cooperation between youths of different faiths, enhance women's confidence, and promote harmony and peaceful co-existence between followers of different faiths.

Purpose and Objectives of visit

This visit purposed to monitor ADE's implementation of the project activities, evaluation of their approaches, documentation and cataloguing of religious, cultural, educational and artistic experiences, methodologies, materials and tools with the aim of identifying available practices for scale-up and experience sharing. The end product will be information and knowledge products packaged for dissemination in print and electronic channels including the Multi-Media Toolkit. The objective was to catalogue both the documented and un-documented practices as envisioned in CRID Project Proposal Activity 3.1.

More specifically, the objectives of the visits were to:

- i. Review documented and undocumented models and practices used by ADE in implementing **'Better Together'** project and the extent to which they have contributed towards achievements of agreed targets, outputs and outcomes.
- ii. Elicit feedback from project staff on the effectiveness and contribution of the models towards achieving success and outcomes.
- iii. Catalogue approaches and strategies used in applying the practices/models for documentation
- iv. Conduct project site visits and/or engage with beneficiaries, community-based implementers, participating faith communities, beneficiaries, religious leaders, partners and government teams who have interacted with the project.
- v. To provide technical support to ADE project accountant on financial reporting

Visit Participants

The visit was conducted by 3 members of CRID project technical team; Jimmy Otieno (Communications Officer - ACRL), Isaac Tamey (Finance Manager – F2A) and Nicholas Pande (Project Officer – CAPA). The local implementing partner ADE had a team of staff who facilitated the visit activities and were respondents to the CRID team enquiries.

ADE team comprised:

1. Rt. Rev. Mouneer Anis - Bishop of Anglican Diocese of Egypt
2. Ibrahim Negi – Education coordinator, Episcocare
3. Gigi – Community engagement, Refuge Egypt
4. Michael – Gusuor Cultural Centre manager
5. Shernouda Nermeen – Project Accountant, ADE
6. Francine Abdel Malak – Partnership Manager & Project Coordinator
7. Monica – Inter-faith dialogue administration officer
8. Laurel – Partnership volunteer, ADE
9. Nehi – Director of Salaam Cultural Centre

Visit activities & achievements

The CRID team with assistance from ADE team managed to:

- i) Document the project processes that involved interrogating the activities implemented by the project, detailing the activities' description, objectives, approaches, target groups, resources used and achievements made.
- ii) Conduct focused group discussions with project beneficiaries in Salaam City.
- iii) Participate in project activities on community awareness creation in Salaam, a football tournament in Old Cairo town, and a pantomime & drum circle session in Gusuor Cultural Centre in Zamalek.
- iv) Hold key informant interviews with religious leaders in Salaam city and Old Cairo town.
- v) Conduct a video interview with Bishop Mouneer Anis, project staff, activities' facilitators, project beneficiaries and religious leaders.
- vi) Debrief with the project team and the Bishop of ADE.



Drum circle session at Gusuor Cultural Centre, Zamalek - Cairo



Muslim and Christian religious leaders after a key informant interview in Salaam, Cairo

Way Forward

- Package the information received during the visit into knowledge and information products to be shared by the project stakeholders.
- Jimmy to compile the communication report, Nicholas to compile M&E report and Isaac to write a finance report.
- Nicholas to engage the Diocese further in planning for an exchange to the project sites later in the year.
- Nicholas to discuss further with the ADE project team on scale up plans.

Report written by: Nicholas Pande