

## **Kato Chieftaincy Dispute Fact Sheet**

### **Context**

An impasse between two royal families over the next chief to be installed in Kato, Ghana, has long threatened spill over into violence. The dispute over who should be the next chief has been ongoing for about 15 years.

### **Indicators of Potentially Violent Conflict**

On several occasions, the dispute has escalated to the point of violence, requiring calls for police protection and intervention. Multiple efforts had been made to pave the way for the installation of a legitimized Chief for Kato, but none have been successful. Many feared that a court decision expected in 2015 would cause the situation to devolve into violence. Community members indicated that they lived in a state of fear of the potential violence, and that the conflict had resulted in community members and members of the royal family not greeting each other or engaging in shared activities, as well as contributed to a lack of development.

### **Locally Defined Strategies and/or Activities**

After further discussions with the royal families and community members and in light of concerns about the pending court decision, the PPP convened a meeting in March 2015 attended by members of both royal families as well as representatives of the youth, local government, and market women affected by the conflict to discuss the conflict and identify potential strategies to prevent violence and maintain peace before, during, and after the court decision. Participants indicated that the meeting had triggered a healing process among the families and communities.

During a follow-up meeting in May 2015, participants formed a nine-member peace committee to act on the strategies proposed. They named themselves Odo Na 3y3 Committee (meaning "love is good") or LIGC. The committee has initiated collective clean-up efforts of the community in an effort to help rebuild relationships.

### **Impact**

The formation of the committee itself, which included members from both families as well as the committee at large, was considered a significant sign that relations were improving. Since then the committee reports that the two sides have been greeting each other and undertaking activities together.