

In March, 2013, in Cote d'Ivoire, Offuh James Offuh with a small team from the NGO United for Peace Against Conflict International (ONG UFPACI) drove 400 km from Abidjan to facilitate relationship-building and ethnic, religious, and tribal healing in Duekoue. This is Part #1 of the [larger success story](#).



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Part 1: Conference Opening in Duekoue



Offuh James Offuh with colleague Usman Magassouba mount graphics charts to illustrate the public peace process.



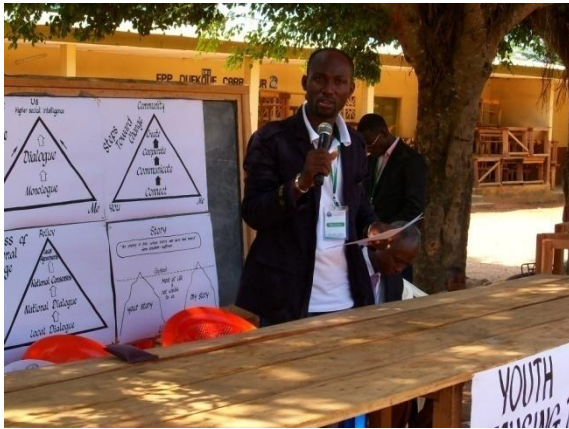
Offuh James Offuh introduces the context, motives, and principles of the conference.



Opening ceremony with the public singing of the Cote d'Ivoire national anthem.



A time of silence to remember those who have been lost and suffered unspeakable pain from violent acts.



Before the next hours for healing and becoming closer, Offuh James Offuh created awareness about a bigger cause of death than HIV/AIDS. It is HRV -- Human Relationship Deficiency Virus. We speak of food famine and financial poverty. Yet, our deeper root causes are a Poverty of Relationships, and a Famine of Communication Skills -- the basic cause of wars, bombs, killings, prejudice, alienation, and segregation.



Offuh James Offuh calls the entire community to embrace the practice of Dialogue communication.



Louis Patrice expresses the need to love one another and forgive your enemies of all hurts.



Offuh James Offuh describes the need for sustainable Dialogue for the invention of a new future that benefits all.



Journalist Lobe Chrysostome defines the need for communal efforts and everyone's collective intelligence for post-war community development.



The Guerre ethnic group seating side-by-side with Mossi-Burkinabe, These two ethnic groups have been in inter-community violence caused by land disputes.



Guerre ethnic animist group sitting side-by-side with Malinke Muslim ethnic group. These ethnic rivals have suffered from decades of inter-community violence.



A Guerre man interpreting all French language messages into local Guerre and Malinke languages.



Offuh James Offuh encourages the youth to become artisans of peaceful communication -- credible peace workers.



A Guerre youth-victim of the war and leader of handicaps association victims of the war, expresses his hurts, pains, and experiences during the war while seeing his parents and families massacred.



Guerre ethnic group members expressing their hurts, pains, and deaths of loved ones and properties during the war. They ask for help, explaining that they lost their jobs and could no longer pay for their children's school fees. Their main occupation is farming. They complain that a group of armed men call "Dozo" are still occupying their farm lands, and the government is not doing anything to help retrieve their farm land and restore their rights back to them.



The Guerre ethnic sitting side-by-side with the Malinke ethnic group.

A Malinke ethnic expresses his hurts, pains, and hopes.



A widow who lost her husband during the war expresses her deepest sorrows and traumas. After the war she helped form an association to help other widows.



Guerre ethnic group member expresses his grief from painful experiences of loss during the war.



Guerre ethnic member expresses his hurt, pains, and hopes. "I lost everything, my wife, children, properties. I sleep outside. I have no house."



A Guerre ethnic youth expresses his traumas and needs, asking ONG UFPACI to help the youth drop-outs to get back to school.



A Guerre ethnic expresses his tragedies, asking ONG UFPACI to help the youth return to school and get jobs, because their parents were killed during the war.



Gnamien Louis Patrice encourages dedicating one's life to creating a culture of peace and rejecting violence.



Refreshment and lunch were served at about 13.00 o'clock in the afternoon.



A sound amplified was operated so voices and music could be heard well by everyone.



During lunch hour, the participants were served rice. A Guerre woman is voluntarily distributing the food from the canopy stand.



A generator was hired to supply energy. There was no electricity light in the whole of Doukoue province the day of arrival.



Mr. Oula Kpae Bernard, village chief of Gueheby people in the Doukoue region.



Mr. Honde Joseph (center), the chief of Guezon village in Doukoue.



Mr. Zehia Denise (center), chief of Carrefour-Diahebernard village, where the conference was hosted, expresses his joy for the historic visit ONG UFPACI voluntarily offered to his people. He said they need psychotherapy to heal from trauma, and the different teachings of this conference were already healing him to live longer with new hope and light. His wish is for ONG UFPACI to please return.

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