IFAD Investing in rural people

AVDP Agricultural Value Chain Development Project

AGRICULTURE VALUE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

SURVEY REPORT

FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM MANUAL FOR AVDP COMMUNITIES

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Consultant

Tsitsi Muvunzi | **Gender, Research and Development Specialist**

T : +23279831512 | C:+232 34268916|

E : muvunzitsitsi@gmail.com

1 Jonson, Off Kallon Drive, Freetown, Sierra Leone

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AVDP	Agricultural Value Chain Development Project
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
OPEC	Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries
OFID	OPEC Fund for International Development
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
GoSL	Government of Sierra Leone
ESMF	Environment and Social Management Framework
IVS	Inland Valley Swamp
MDAs	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
GBV	Gender Based Violence
PCU	Project Coordinating Unit
VGRC	Village Grievance Redress Committee
FGRC	Farmer Grievance Redress Committee
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
DGRMC	District Grievance Redress Management Committee
NSC	National Steering Committee
NGRC	National Grievance Redress Committee
ACC	Anti-Corruption Commission
FSU	Family Support Unit
SLRA	Sierra Leone Roads Authority
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report provides details of a research conducted in 8 districts in AVDP operational communities to investigate the grievances and conflicts that existed before and during the implementation of AVDP. This study constituted the first phase towards the development of the AVDP Grievance Redress Mechanism that was conducted in two phases. Firstly, a research study was conducted in eight districts to identify existing and emerging conflicts arising in the AVDP targeted communities as result of the project implementation. This report was the main outcome of this study. Secondly, the data collected and analysed informed the development of a manual with standard operating procedures for the establishment, implementation and management of a grievance redress system in the AVDP operational communities:

440 survey questionnaires were administered in Kenema, Kono, Western Area Rural, Port Loko, Bo, Moyamba, Bombali and Koinadugu in AVDP locations. FGDs were conducted in 24 communities with a total of 240 participants. Key informants were also identified in the project communities and those who interacted with the project directly or indirectly were preferred. Quantitative data was collected through an automated data collection platform (Kobo Collect/ google forms) with the use of smart phones or tablets. KIIs and FGDs were collected face to face and recorded.

Key Findings

- Survey results revealed that the main sources of conflict in the project communities before ADVP intervention were related to access and ownership and control of land (45%), domestic and gender based violence (34%), cattle herder vs farmers (31%), boundary conflicts (31%), politics (17%), chieftaincy (14%) and conflict over natural resources (12%).
- In general, the main sources of disputes cited by project beneficiaries can be grouped into four broad categories i.e. Economic Related Conflicts, Governance Related Conflicts; Family and Social Issues as well as Project Related Grievances.
- 26% of the survey respondents believe that farmer's are the main perpetrators of conflict in their communities, followed by 20 % who said youth, 13% strongly believe that the chiefs are perpetrators, 13% of the respondent said cattle herders, 11% men, 5% politicians, 4% said women, and 3% said stakeholders respectively.
- It was determined that community structures for dispute resolution and grievance handling are generally composed of traditional leaders, community stakeholders, representatives of youth and women.
- The study found the highest number of respondents exposed to grievance redress and peace building related trainings high in Port Loko at 96% and Kenema at 84%. In Bo exposure to trainings was found at 47%, Western Area 45% and Bombali 43%.

Conclusions

Grievances and Conflicts within AVDP Project Locations
<u>Economic Related Conflicts</u>

- Disputes relating to loans and credit.
- Disputes between cattle herders and farmers as a result of cattle destroying crops.

- Boundary conflicts.
- Conflicts between farmers and landowners over leasing agreements and tenure
- Price controls especially in marketing vegetables.

<u>Governance Related Conflicts</u>

- Perceived or actual discrimination by decision makers or service providers in allocating resources including public services.
- Political interference in resource allocation and distribution.
- Politically motivated conflicts from rival parties

<u>Family and Social Issues</u>

- Domestic and Gender Based Violence including sexual assault and wife battering.
- Theft of crops and domestic animals

<u>Project Specific Grievances</u>

- Grievances based on alleged unfulfilled promises.
- Limited collaboration between the project and other agricultural related stakeholders including MAFF.
- Unequal dissemination of information.
- Insufficient knowledge on the scope of the project including the resources and products derived from the project.

Existing Grievance Redress Mechanisms
- It was determined that community structures for dispute resolution and grievance handling are generally composed of traditional leaders, community stakeholders, representatives of youth and women.
- The study also found established dispute resolution service providers including stakeholders such as Mummy Queens, Religious Leaders, Non-Governmental Organisations, Legal Aid Board, community elders, youth, and women leaders.
- However, dispute resolution service providers at community level are voluntary, without clearly defined terms of reference and no clear scope of work.
- Responses revealed communities' reliance on local court systems and customary law in resolving disputes and grievances within their communities.
- However, informal service providers, generally lack systems for getting feedback from their beneficiaries.
- Additionally, it was ascertained that there is a general lack of safeguarding policies and systems that regulate the behaviours of the dispute resolution service providers with their clients.

Exposure to GRM Trainings
- Exposure to GRM training among AVDP communities is limited.
- Existing training opportunities are not only a product of AVDP but there are also other organisation spread across project implementing activities that are engaged in awareness raising and building public education around dispute resolution.
- The content and format of the training is determined by the organisation facilitating the training, and not necessarily focused on a particular GRM.
- The application of skills acquired from trainings was high among AVDP communities illustrating the impact of public education and knowledge building among target communities.

Willingness to participate in Community Grievance Redress
- Willingness to participate in community grievance redress was found high among all the AVDP communities visited with almost all beneficiaries expressing desire to be part of committees or teams supporting grievance redress.

Recommendations

The study identified the following issues as vital for consideration in the development of GRM in AVDP communities.

- AVDP should prioritise inclusive transparency especially in the dissemination of information and distribution of project resources and products across its communities. This means being open about project information to communities throughout the implementation period.
- Guidelines for regular community engagement and for managing feedback from project beneficiaries should be developed and enforced.
- Safeguarding Focal Points should be identified and trained across project communities. These could be key relevant stakeholders already working on issues relating to safeguarding.
- AVDP should put in place community redress/ accountability structures to support complaints redress and feedback mechanisms that ensure prompt feedback. These structures should be established in a participatory manner based on a criteria established with project beneficiaries. A selection process with clear selection criteria should be put in place.
- Selected members of community accountability structures should be trained on AVDP's GRM. This should be comprehensive ensuring that safeguarding issues, transparency and inclusivity are prioritised. Additionally, AVDP should develop detailed and clear terms of reference not only for the community structures but also for AVDP staff involved in grievance redress. The responsibilities of each party should be clearly understood by all.
- The GRM should spell out how grievances are lodged, how they are received, recorded and actioned as well as how feedback is provided.
- The GRM should be widely disseminated using multiple awareness raising and sensitisation strategies such as outreach, engagement meetings, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials and media engagement.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

This report was developed under the Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (AVDP) as part of the process leading to the development of AVDP's Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM). The report provides details of a research conducted in 8 districts in AVDP operational communities to investigate the grievances and conflicts that existed before and during the implementation of AVDP. The research was commissioned by the AVDP project and conducted by an independent Research, Gender and Development Specialist, Ms. Tsitsi Muvunzi. AVDP is a six-year project being implemented by the Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Agriculture with funding from the international Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Toni Blair Institute (TBI. The project is primarily sponsored by IFAD, the Adaptation Fund, the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID),the business sector, the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL), and the beneficiaries. The initiative is implemented in 10 Districts of the country, primarily with Farmers Organizations, Service Providers, and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the rice, vegetable, cocoa, and oil palm value chains to improve nutrition and create alternative income streams.

The overall consultancy under which this study was conducted was overally aimed at developing a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) that would provide appropriate pathways for institutional and project-based stakeholders to raise issues and grievances linked to operations and performance of the AVDP. In order to ensure that the GRM process considered contextual issues related to the geo-political system in AVDP targeted districts and communities, this research was conducted to highlight the context specific grievance issues. The results of the study informed the development of a GRM that took into consideration grievances and conflicts that may arise as a result of the AVDP intervention.

1.2. Research Objectives
The objectives of the research were to:

a) Identify grievances and conflicts that existed prior to the implementation of the AVDP project within the project implementing communities.

b) Identify the grievances and conflicts that occurred as a result of the implementation of AVDP including those likely to be exacerbated by the project implementation.

c) Analyse existing processes and mechanisms that could be utilized to address conflicts and grievances related to the AVDP project within the project implementing locations.

d) Identify mitigation actions and strategies to enable the AVDP and the Ministry of Agriculture institutions to support the successful and sustainable implementation of the AVDP GRM

1.3. Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions.

a) What is the nature of grievances and conflicts that existed prior to the implementation of the AVDP project within the project implementing communities?

b) What are the grievances and conflicts that occurred as a result of the implementation of AVDP, and which ones were exacerbated by the project implementation?

c) Are there any existing processes and mechanisms that could be utilized to address conflicts and grievances related to the AVDP project within the project implementing locations?

d) What are the recommended mitigation actions and strategies supporting the successful and sustainable implementation of the AVDP GRM?

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1. Research Design

A mixed methods research study was employed in gathering data and this involved collecting both quantitative and qualitative data through a mini survey, face to face administration of key informant interviews and focus group discussions. A mixed methodology produced triangulated results that allowed comparisons among different data sources.

2.2. Data Collection Tools

2.2.1. Desk Review

A detailed literature review was conducted throughout the entire process. The consultant reviewed project documents, and related documentation produced by key institutions in the agricultural sector including the Land Commission, Independent Commission on Peace and National Cohesion, District Development Plans, Poverty Reduction Strategies; related academic journals, related media articles, other GRM produced by similar projects as well as related manuals and resource materials from reputable institutions. Government legislation and policies were also referenced.

2.2.2. Mini-survey

A mini-survey was conducted in eight project districts as approved by AVDP during the inception phase of this research. The sample frame was equivalent to the project's final direct project

beneficiaries of 43,000. With the number of project beneficiaries taken as population figures, at 95% confidence interval and 5% margin of error, the sample size was estimated using the Slovenian survey calculator as indicated below.

The sample size per District was determined using the Slovin's formula for determining sample size i.e:

$n = N / 1 + N (e \times e)$

Where:

n = sample size

N= Population Size/ direct target population

e = margin of error (0.05)

Sample size = 43,000/1 + 43,000 (0.05 X 0.05)

= 43,000/1 + 43,000 (0.0025)

= 43,000/1 + 107.5

= 43,000/108.5

=396

A 10% additional sample size was added to the sample size to overcome non-response error.

Thus, sample size = 396 + (10% of 396)

= 396 + 39.6

= **436**

Considering that AVDP was implemented in the four regions of Sierra Leone (Eastern Region, Northern Region, North-western (including Western Area Rural) and Southern Region, the sample size was divided by 4 to determine the sample size per region.

Therefore, sample size per region = $\frac{436}{4}$ = **109**

To ensure equality among the targeted districts, a total of 55 respondents were reached in two districts per region totalling 110 respondents with a grant total of 440 as indicated in the table below.

Table 1: Survey Respondents by District and Region

	District	Sample size per district	Sample size per region
East	Kenema	55	110
	Kono	55	
Northwest	Western Rural	55	110
	Port Loko	55	
Southern	Bo	55	110
	Moyamba	55	
Northern	Bombali	55	110
	Koinadugu	55	
Total		**440**	**440**

Four enumerators were recruited per region to conduct the quantitative survey in line with the approved questionnaire (Annex 1). Only trained enumerators and those who signed to the Code of Conduct were deployed.

2.2.3. Focus Group Discussions

The purpose of FGDs in this study was to probe, explore and identify needs and generate data regarding facts and attitudes. Beneficiary farmers were interviewed separately in at least two communities per district in order to capture the different needs, preferences and attitudes. Conducting separate FGDs was key in determining context specific issues, experiences, attitudes and perceptions. Each FGD was composed of at least 10 members who participated in the project including persons with disabilities. FGDs were conducted in 24 communities with a total of 240 participants as indicated below:

Table 2: FGD Participants per District and Community

#	Districts	Communities
1	Kenema	Kpailahun
		Jawehun
		Nekabu
2	Kono	Tongoro
		Tuiyor
3	Western Rural	Magbagban
		Songo Colony
		Ogoo Farm
4	Port Loko	Lungi modiya

		Kagbantama
		Rowal
		Kamasondo
5	Moyamba	Greema
		Bompeh
6	Bo	Gbandi
		Kalia
		Konia Golema
7	Bombali	Makeh
		Mafaray
		Kabombeh
8	Koinadugu	Malaforia
		Nyanfuranda
		Mamoudiakoro
		Gbawuria
Total FGDs		24

2.2.4. Semi-Structured Key Informant Interviews

Semi-Structured Key Informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted targeting key stakeholders at all the levels of project implementation. Key informants were identified in the project communities and those who interacted with the project directly or indirectly were preferred. In each district six KIIs were conducted drawn from the following stakeholders.

- Representatives of agriculture institutions
- Representatives of implementing partners
- Local Authorities and Ministries, Departments and Agencies
- Agriculture Associations
- Traditional leaders
- Heads of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) involved in the Agricultural Sector
- Heads of Disabled People's Organisations
- Representatives of women's organisations

2.3. Data Collection Process

Data collection commenced soon after the approval of the inception report and data collection tools. The tools were pre-tested and fine-tuned as part of the training of enumerators. AVDP project staff were instrumental in mobilizing participants and supported setting up of appointments. Trained enumerators conversant with the local language that is spoken in their districts collected quantitative data and administered the interviews. The training covered ethical issues, comprehensive question by question assessment and review and quality issues. A data analyst supervised and monitored the data collection process. Quantitative data was collected through an automated data collection platform (Kobo Collect/ google forms) with the use of smart phones or tablets. KIIs and FGDs were collected face to face and recorded.

2.4. Data Analysis

2.4.1. Quantitative Data Analysis

The data received from the survey in the automated platform (Kobo Collect) was exported into an excel spreadsheet. The downloaded excel sheet was conveniently used to develop pivot charts and tables that enabled cross tabulation and comparisons. This provided graphs and charts showing the frequencies of responses that were included in this report to provide a visual representation of the responses. Data was also presented in percentages, graphs and charts.

2.4.2. Qualitative Data Analysis

After the data collection process, the note takers and consultant worked together to compile and code the responses. In analyzing the findings, the team paid special attention to direct quotations, statements of appreciations, challenges and recommendations that spoke to the research questions. In addition, the team compared findings for verification and authentication. Qualitative data provided some explanations and validation for the quantitative data. A draft report was produced and shared with the AVDP team for their review and validation leading to the development of the final report.

3. SURVEY FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

### 3.1. Demographic Information of Survey Respondents

The study was conducted across eight project districts of Kenema, Kono Western Area Rural, Port Loko, Moyamba, Bo, Koinadugu and Bombali. A total of 440 respondents in six value chains were reached (Oil Palm, Cocoa, Hot pepper, Bulb Onion, Black pepper and Irish Potato). Of the 440 respondents, 7% were PWDs, 60% women and 40% men as indicated below

Table 3: Survey Respondents by Category

Category	% of sample size	Sample size
Persons Living with Disabilities	7%	32
Women	56%	245
Men	37%	163
Total	**100%**	**440**

There were more PWDs in the survey because all of the PWDs who wanted to take part in this study were incorporated. Without taking the PWD status into consideration, the survey reached 60% women, and 40% men.

Figure 1: Respondents by Sex
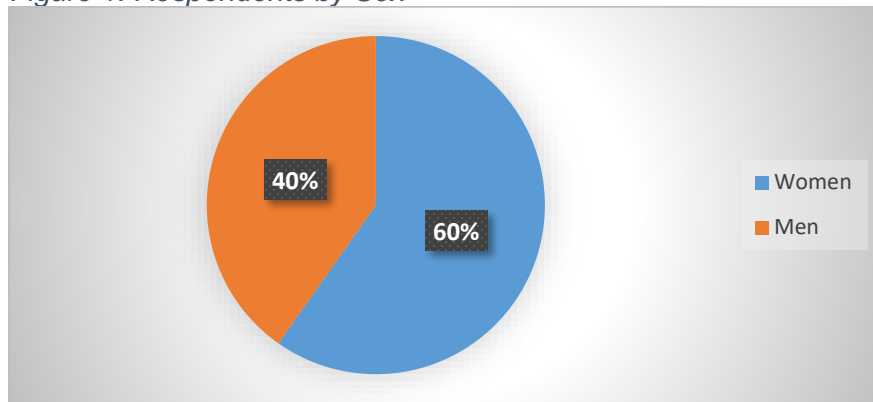
Availability of the respondents at the time of the study was also a key influencing factor to the total number that was eventually reached.

Disaggregated by age 2% (7) of the respondents were aged between 15 to 17; 30% (133) were aged between 18 to 35; 43% (188) between 36 to 45 and 21% (96) between 46 to 60 and 4% (20) aged 61 and above. This was not deliberate but could be considered a reflection of the youthful composition of the beneficiaries of the project.

Figure 2: Respondents by Age
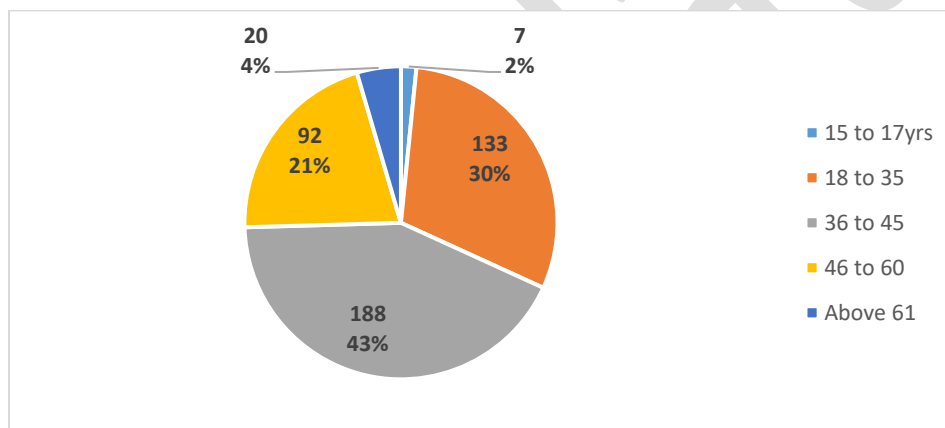
Most of the project beneficiaries (54%) reached through the survey had never been to school, while 21% had attained primary school, 15% had attained Junior Secondary School (JSS) and 8% senior secondary school with only 2% having attained university education as shown in the chart below.

Figure 3: Respondents by Educational Level Attained

Legend:
- College
- JSS
- SSS
- Primary School
- Never been to school

(Pie chart values: 2%, 15%, 8%, 54%, 21%)
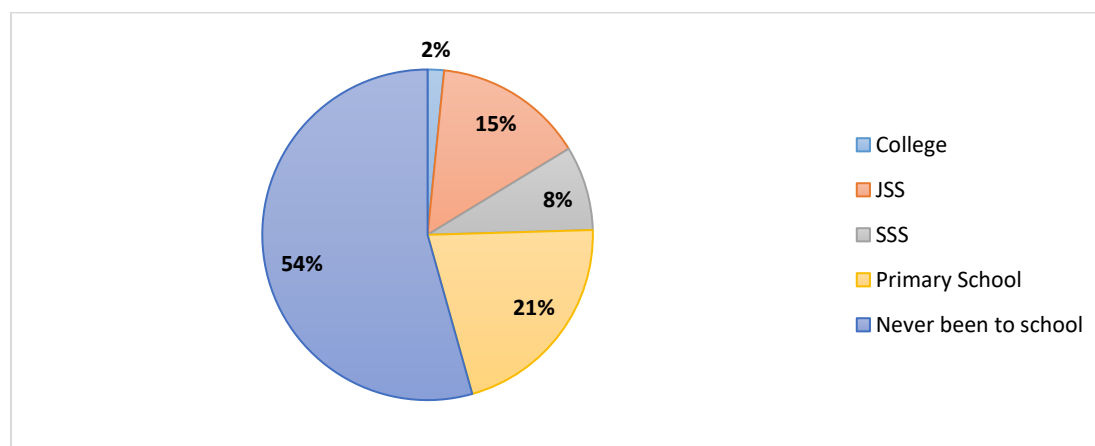
3.2. Conflicts before AVDP Intervention

Survey results revealed that the main sources of conflict in the project communities before ADVP intervention were related to access and ownership and control 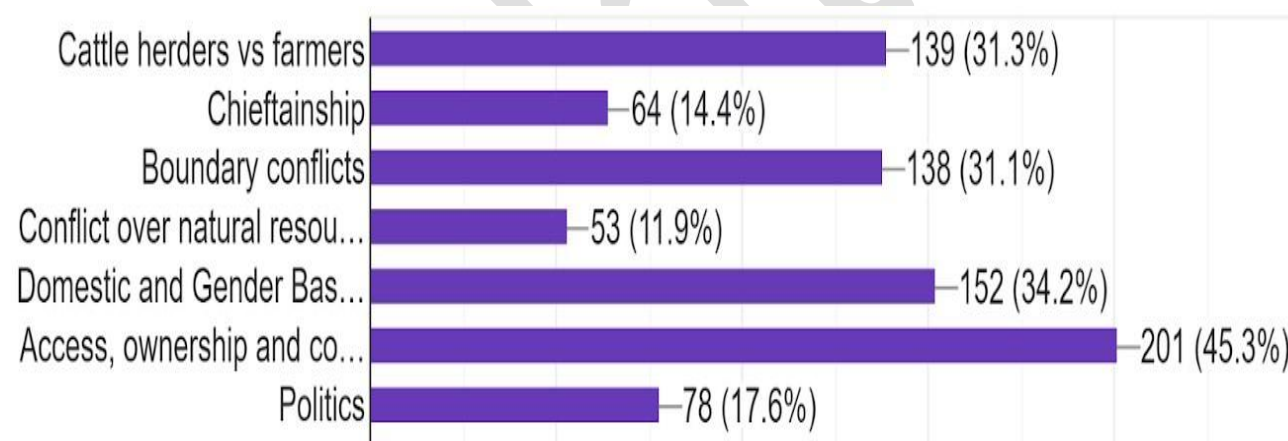of land (45%), domestic and gender based violence (34%), cattle herder vs farmers (31%), boundary conflicts (31%), politics (17%), chieftaincy (14%) and conflict over natural resources (12%).

Figure 4: What were the main sources of conflict before ADVP project in this community?

Bar chart values:
- Cattle herders vs farmers — 139 (31.3%)
- Chieftainship — 64 (14.4%)
- Boundary conflicts — 138 (31.1%)
- Conflict over natural resou… — 53 (11.9%)
- Domestic and Gender Bas… — 152 (34.2%)
- Access, ownership and co… — 201 (45.3%)
- Politics — 78 (17.6%)

Below are some quotes from the members of AVDP communities that illustrate their opinions with regards to conflicts before the implementation of the project.

> *Land in this community is mostly owned by the elderly, who normally lease it out to younger people for payment in cash or kind. When the actual owner dies, the people leasing the land will* hold on to *it and refuse to negotiate with the relatives of the*

deceased owner. This has caused a lot of conflict here. Male FGD participant in Saforoko Limba Chiefdom, Mararay Community, Bombali District.

Another big problem sparking violence in this village, is related to animals destroying vegetable plantations.

Stealing of crops and animals is a very serious issue here.

3.3. Conflicts during AVDP Implementation

The study found that during project implementation there were no major changes in the sources of conflict. Access to, ownership and control of land, cattle herder vs farmers, boundary conflict, domestic and gender based violence, chieftaincy and conflict over natural resources still top in the sources of conflict according to participants in the study, even though there are few project related conflicts associated with limited transparency and accountability and untimely execution of work by contractors.

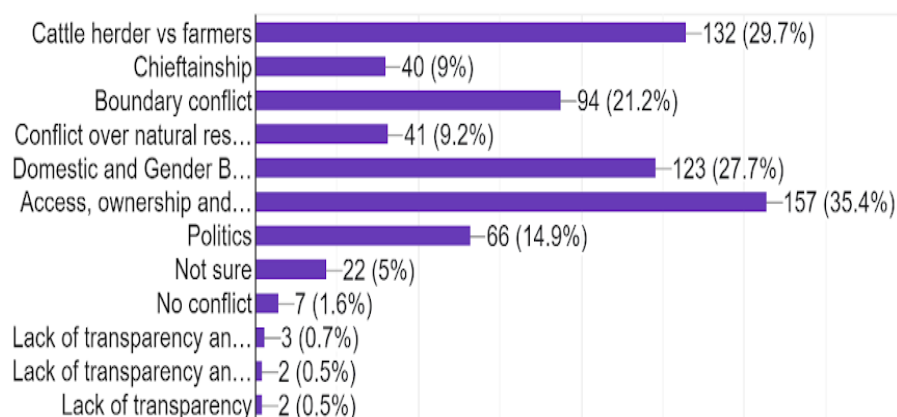*Figure 5: conflict during the implementation of the project*

Category	Value
Cattle herder vs farmers	132 (29.7%)
Chieftainship	40 (9%)
Boundary conflict	94 (21.2%)
Conflict over natural res…	41 (9.2%)
Domestic and Gender B…	123 (27.7%)
Access, ownership and…	157 (35.4%)
Politics	66 (14.9%)
Not sure	22 (5%)
No conflict	7 (1.6%)
Lack of transparency an…	3 (0.7%)
Lack of transparency an…	2 (0.5%)
Lack of transparency	2 (0.5%)

Figure 5: Differences in the Occurrence of Conflict Before & During AVDP

Nature of conflicts	Before AVDP	After AVDP	Difference
Access, ownership and control over land	45%	35%	-10%
Domestic and Gender Based Violence	34%	28%	-6%
Cattle herders vs farmers	31%	30%	+1%
Boundary conflicts	31%	21%	-10%
Conflicts over natural resources	12%	9%	-3%
Chieftainship	14%	9%	-5%
Politics	18%	15%	-3%

Across the communities, respondents believe that the AVDP project has been crucial in enhancing social cohesion and supporting communities towards peace resolution. This was attributed to the regular interaction among community people promoted through village awareness and cooperation encouraged through activity implementation. In Western Rural, a male FGD participant said;

> We need projects like AVDP. AVDP is keeping people busy concentrating on agricultural development, cooperating with each other in developing, learning and sharing ideas.

Another FGD participant in Saforoko Limba Chiefdom in Bombali noted;

> I do not really see the conflicts exacerbated by the project. Rather, AVDP has strengthened peace and social cohesion especially among farmers and herders who were the most conflicting parties in my community. There is now better collaboration than before though more needs to be done.

In general, the main sources of disputes cited by project beneficiaries can be grouped into four broad categories i.e. Economic Related Conflicts, Governance Related Conflicts; Family and Social Issues as well as Project Related Grievances. Below is an elaboration of some of the key issues presented during KIIs and FGDs.

3.3.1. Economic Related Conflicts

Across AVDP project communities, poverty was cited as a major cause of grievance resulting from hopelessness and inability to cope with the daily responsibilities. The study noted that farmers usually take loans from each other and sometimes disputes relating to the cost of the loan and timely repayment usually spark violence. Additionally, it was also noted that idleness among young people normally lead them to commit crimes and perpetuate violence that affect the peaceful coexistence of communities. Property inheritance was also cited as a major issue among siblings and cousins, disrupting social cohesion.

The study revealed that the AVDP project led to an expansion of crop farming, cocoa and oil palm production which extended farmland. Already before project implementation, some communities were experiencing disputes related to farm boundaries, access to and control over land and these are likely to worsen with the project. The study also found that there are some conflicts between farmers and land owners over leasing agreements and tenure. Additionally, disputes between cattle owners and crop famers in relation to the encroachment of animals in crop farms were also highlighted as having sparked violence in some project communities especially in Kono where some crop farmers in the past reportedly killed animals that destroyed their farms. With the implementation of the project, such disputes are likely to be more pronounced.

In some communities, farmers argued that market prices were determined by influential farmers without consulting other farmers, especially in crop farming. This has negatively impacted on their turnover.

3.3.2. Governance Related Issues

KII and FGD responses revealed some existing grievances and conflicts resulting from governance related issues. Some ADVP community members indicated that conflicts have resulted from perceived or actual discrimination by decision makers or service providers. Some

alleged that decisions relating to land boundaries, inheritance and land distribution have not been delivered in a transparent manner and disgruntled families find it difficult to seek redress. Others indicated that their land have been subjected to unfair distribution to business investors without their involvement and this has sometimes sparked violence. Others also cited cases where services or products including agricultural products received from government or other donors have not been shared in a transparent and inclusive manner, resulting in the disgruntlement of some community members.

Political differences were also cited among key causes of conflict in AVDP project communities. It was noted that rival parties sometimes clash especially during the campaign period and around major political events and activities. Some FGD participants accused some politicians of meddling in public service delivery and influencing distribution of resources in their communities. They argued that this has resulted in discrimination, lack of transparency and limited accountability that fuels conflict. In an FGD in Western Area Rural, one participant said:

> The major issue causing conflict in the AVDP community is land boundary. Town heads, chiefs and politicians are engaged in grabbing and selling community reserved land and also use political influence to the disadvantage of community people.

3.3.3. Family and Social Issues

Another set of conflicts noted among AVDP communities are related to family and social issues. Arguments between spouses, among siblings, and neighbours were noted as affecting community cohesion. Domestic violence and Gender Based Violence (GBV) including sexual assault were also issues identified as causing conflict. A few other women also noted that they have not been receiving adequate support from their husbands and accused them of feeling threatened as they get more engaged in income generating activities. In FGDs women particularly revealed that girls in their communities are at risk of teenage pregnancy, physical and sexual assault including rape. These incidents have resulted in severe conflicts among families and communities, negatively impacted the lives of women and girls. Some girls have been lured into commercial sex work, some women and girls are stuck in violent relationships for lack of economic opportunities, as they depend on their perpetrators for livelihood.

Cultural issues including disputes among societal groups over land and resources were cited as key grievances across AVDP communities. However, it was revealed that these issues have traditionally been handled by traditional leaders under the custody of Paramount Chiefs at chiefdom level. Most KII participants advised that AVDP should recognizae the importance of culture and tradition in Sierra Leone and thus be structured in a manner that ensures all custom and cultural related issues are referred for resolution to the Paramount Chiefs.

As AVDP is being implemented, the influx of workers and consultants has the possibility of increasing the risk for early marriage where early marriage is common. The rampant female poverty and women's vulnerability may prompt young women and girls to consider marriage an alternative livelihood strategy. In communities where marriage to an employed man is seen as an alternative livelihood strategy, young girls may be exposed to risk. The project must also consider the fact that, their workforce and consultants are likely to be well off than a majority of the community members. This may increase the risk of communities to transactional sex, and incidents of sexual interactions, either transactional nor non-transactional between labourers and minors. Some men indicated that the project was changing power imbalances as women's income

increased as a result of their participation in the project. The subsequent increase in the status of some women, is perceived as having given them confidence to challenge their husbands.

3.3.4. Project Specific Grievances

Despite the tremendous project successes, the study also noted project specific grievances that are associated with the implementation of the project. Much of the grievances cited by community members and stakeholders are related to coordination, communication and information dissemination issues. Below are the key project related issues pointed out by beneficiaries as sources of grievances.

a) The study found that in some communities, AVDP representatives made promises to provide services and/ or products to some farmers but these were not delivered. In Ogoo Farm one FGD participant said;

> *We have a complaint. We were promised groundnut to plant, food stuffs and allowances, net for the nursing of the palm oil trees, wire mesh to protect the trees from bush animals after transplanting. We are yet to receive anything but have already gone through a lot while preparing to receive these items.*

In Moyamba a senior member of a farmers' association said;

> *AVDP came here, took pictures of us as project beneficiaries and promised to give seeds and inputs for our black pepper planting. It is now more than a year, nothing happened. We have heard that the seed was given to some other people who were never among the beneficiaries.*

b) Some farmers alleged that PMU have not been visiting them in their field schools (FFS). There is limited understanding of how the PMU selects communities to visit, hence, some community members complain that they have been left out and neglected.

c) In some communities, traditional leaders indicated that they have been approached by some beneficiaries who believe that they have received money from AVDP on behalf of the farmers. One traditional leader in Bo said;
> *AVDP should come out and clear the air. Now because people saw me with the AVDP PMU, they believe I received some cash and diverted it for my own use. I have denied this, but I believe they should hear this from the horse's mouth.*

d) Additionally, some noted that there has been insufficient and late supply of inputs. Community members exhibited lack of understanding of the amount of resources that should be distributed to them under the project. Some stakeholders called on the project to be more open and transparent especially in the distribution of inputs.

e) There was noted lack of sharing of information and limited collaboration between the project and other agricultural related stakeholders including those within MAFF. One KII participant said:
> *The lack of collaboration between the Ministry and the project needs to be worked on especially in relation to the payment of stipend on time, enhancing openness in procurement processes and ensuring sufficient supply of inputs to farmers.* KII participant, MAFF

f) Some of the FGD participants alleged that information about the project is provided only to a privileged few and this tends to frustrate some of the project beneficiaries. One participant FGD said:

> *New developments about the project are communicated just to specific individuals but this should be an inclusive process so that everyone is well informed.*

3.4. Perceptions on the Main Perpetrators of Conflict

26% of the survey respondents believe that farmers are the main perpetrators of conflict in their communities, followed by 20 % who said youth, 13% strongly believe that the chiefs are perpetrators, 13% of the respondent said cattle herders, 11% men, 5% politicians, 4% said women, and 3% said stakeholders respectively.

Figure 6: Respondents perception of the main perpetrators of these conflicts
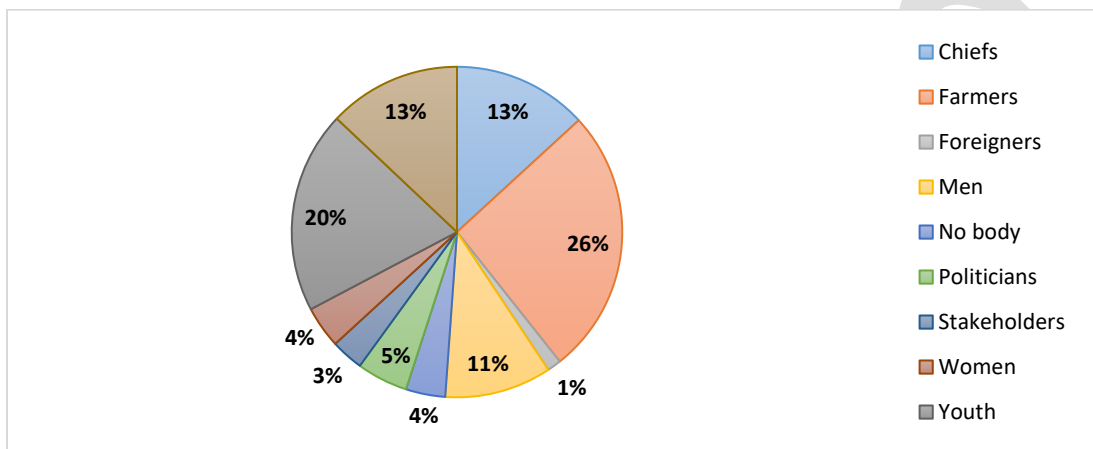
Crop farmers accuse headers of being the main perpetrators of conflict indicating that they do not take measures to control their animals and when the animals destroy plantations, they are not willing to compensate the crop owners. Crop farmers allege that headers often bribe authorities to disregard the complaints of crop farmers leaving the farmers with limited alternative dispute resolution options. On the other hand, the headers also accuse crop farmers of failing to protect their crops by fencing the boundaries. Many people indicated that youth are very active and perpetrate several offenses especially during school holidays. One FGD participant in Koinadugu said:

> *These young men attend school outside our community. They come here during the school holiday on a rampage, stealing people's crops, slaughtering domestic animals and fighting each other. This also affects their family members who are normally involved to compensate affected families.*

Several other people accused the traditional leaders of fueling conflict through unfair land distribution, lack of transparency in dispute resolution, and accuse them of collecting money from perpetrators of violence to ignore their cases. Men were cited as perpetrators against violence especially GBV including sexual assault. Politicians were also alleged to have caused conflicts by meddling into public service provision, spreading hate speech and paying thugs and hooligans to abuse people.

3.5. Existence of Grievance Redress Mechanisms in Project Communities

In order to determine whether there were any existing GRM in AVDP communities respondents were asked three key questions; first; 'Are there any Grievance Redress Mechanisms in your community that you are aware of?' Second; those who said yes, were asked; 'to the best of your knowledge, is the GRM effective in responding to community grievances?' Thirdly, all respondents were asked, 'is there any informal Grievance Redress Mechanism based on norms and practices? The table below summarises the responses.

Table 2: Perceptions on the Existence of Grievance Redress Mechanisms and their effectiveness

Question	Yes	No	Total Percentage
Is there any existing Grievance Redress Mechanism in your community?	73.%	27.0%	100%
Is the GRM effective in responding to community grievances?	93.%	7.0%	100%
Are there any informal GRM based on norms and practices, in your community that you are aware of?	16%	84%	100%

73% of the respondents reported that there was some form of GRM existing in their communities. Disaggregated by district, the results were as follows:

Table 4: Is there any existing GRM in your community?

District	Yes	No	Total
Bo	54	1	55
Bombali	38	17	55
Kenema	45	10	55
Koinadugu	36	19	55
Kono	54	1	55
Moyamba	18	37	55
Port Loko	54	1	55
Western Rural	24	31	55

The study found the existence of GRM across the project communities. In Bo, Kono, and Port Loko; knowledge of an existing GRM was at 99% with only one respondent in each of these districts demonstrating lack of awareness of the existing GRM respectively. In Kenema, knowledge of existing GRM was at 81% (45 out of 55 respondents), 69% in Bombali and 65% in Koinadugu. Limited awareness of an existing GRM was noted in Moyamba and Port Loko with 32% and 43% respectively. During FGDs and KIIs it was ascertained that the existence of a dispute resolution platform was considered to be a GRM mechanism. This means that there are no uniform mechanisms for grievance redress.

The survey also sought to determine the players involved in dispute resolution and grievance handling in AVDP communities. Thus, respondents who acknowledged having GRM in their communities were asked to name the people who were involved. The table below summarises the key actors mentioned as being involved in grievance redress.

Table 5: Name the key stakeholders or institutions involved in grievance redress in your community?

Stakeholder/ Institution	Frequency	Percentage
AVDP	26	8%
Chairlady	50	15%
Community Stakeholders	64	20%
Elderly people	14	4%
Farmers	11	3%
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security	13	4%
Police	6	2%
Religious Leaders	27	8%
Traditional Leaders/ Chiefs	152	47%
Youth	47	15%

It was determined that community structures for dispute resolution and grievance handling are generally composed of traditional leaders, community stakeholders, representatives of youth and women. Of the 323 survey respondents who indicated that they were aware of an existing GRM in their communities, 47% said chiefs were involved, 20% said community stakeholders, 15% said chairlady, 15% youth 8% religious leaders and 8% AVDP Field Officers. The study also noted community trust in the existing grievance redress mechanisms with 93% indicating that existing community structures are working.

The existing GRM mechanisms are less formal but recognized structures such as Village Development Committees and Local Court Structures. The study also found established dispute resolution service providers including stakeholders such as Mummy Queens, Religious Leaders, Non-Governmental Organisations, Legal Aid Board, community elders, youth, and women leaders. However, there were no evidences of existing written guidelines or standards operating procedures for these dispute resolution service providers. Through KIIs and FGDs across project communities it was also noted that these stakeholders are closer to the people and frequently relied upon as the first point of contact in cases of community grievances and disputes. However, dispute resolution service providers at community level are voluntary, without clearly defined terms of reference and no clear scope of work. Evidence gathered during interactions with some

of these stakeholders revealed that they are more focused on promoting reconciliation, peace and social cohesion. Thus, in cases of disputes, they normally facilitate resolution by bringing parties together, encouraging them to listen to each other and find common ground. In cases where parties reach mutual agreement, stakeholders support them to commit to the promises they make ensuring that where one party agrees to pay another compensation; this is done timely and fairly. However, they do not have the power to settle or judge, except at Local Court level. Additionally, they refer cases involving serious criminal offenses such as rape, murder, robbery and assault involving serious bodily harm.

3.1. Mechanisms for dealing with grievances in AVDP Communities

The study also sought to understand how grievances emanating in AVDP communities have been addressed at community level, the stakeholders involved and the perceived capacities in managing grievances. The study noted that non-judicial dispute resolution has been an important means of resolving various types of grievances and disputes for a wide range of issues in AVDP communities long since AVDP interventions. In addition to being cheap, quick and accessible to the wider public, they provide justice in a manner easily understood by the communities, in a language and form that the parties identify with and understand. However, the study could not ascertain the extent to which these mechanisms are organized, clear, accessible, effective and human rights sensitive, but notes that, if supported they can help maintain peace and social cohesion, following prompt, predictable and transparent processes.

Survey results revealed that knowledge of actions taken to address grievances in AVDP communities was at 61%. Only 39% of the respondents said that they had no knowledge of any action taken in their community to address grievances or conflicts over the past one year, that is within AVDP's implementation period.

Figure 6: Are you aware of any action that has been taken in this community over the past 12 months to deal with conflict issues or to address grievances?
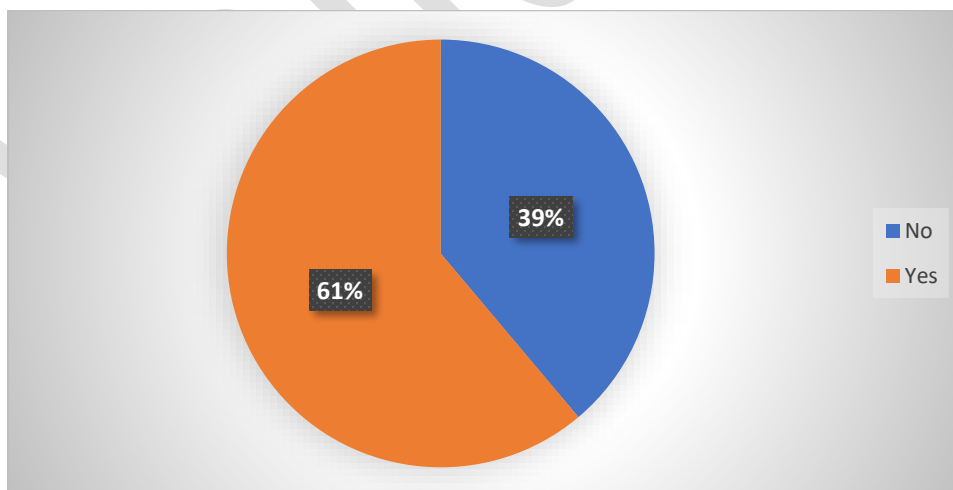
Respondents who indicated that they were aware of actions taken to deal with grievances were asked to name the key actions that they were aware of. Responses revealed communities'

reliance on local court systems and customary law in resolving disputes and grievances within their communities. 50% of the respondents mentioned byelaws, local court decisions and fines paid in line with the customary law. A significant number also mentioned advice from the elderly and sincere apologies backed by compensation from offenders. Other cases were also taken to the police (9%) and some were resolved within farmers' committees especially in Kenema and Bo where 13% of the respondents mentioned farmers' committees as dispute resolution service providers.

The study also noted that over the years, public officials such as Provincial Secretaries, District Officers, Customary Law Officers and council chairpersons have presided over disputes including land, ethnic and family disputes between and within communities and families, as well as between communities and cooperations. Regulators such as the National Minerals Agency (NMA) and the environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have also played a role particularly in resolving land-related disputes. NGOs, religious leaders, family heads and secret societies have similarly performed dispute resolution functions in relation to land. Negotiations during marital disputes in Sierra Leonean communities are often conducted by family members and neighbours of the disputants. This is because marriage is a relationship between the families of the marriage partners rather than individual spouses and all disputes are handled by the families to restore social equilibrium between all parties, not just the spouses[1]. Civil Society Organisations and Community Based Organisations have been involved in resolving land disputes using mediation and other conciliation processes as well as channeling grievances through different mechanisms.

3.2. Women's involvement in Conflict

In order to ascertain the involvement of women in conflict, the survey sought to understand whether women are involved in grievances as parties to a dispute. Only 10% were convinced that women were not involved while 13% said they were totally involved, 37% said they we somehow involved and 40% said they were involved as indicated in the chart below.

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[1] Stone (2016)
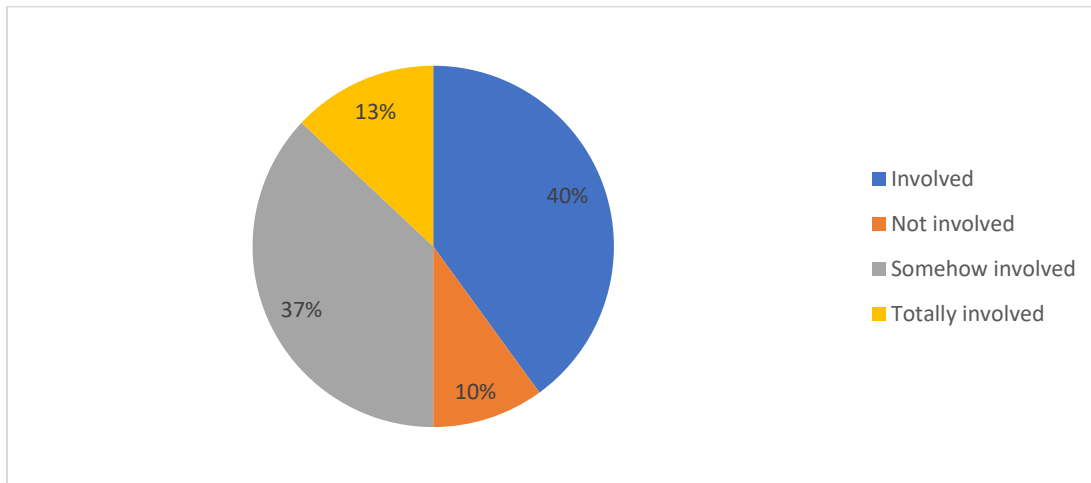
During FGDs across AVDP communities' women revealed that their grievances are mostly related to perceived discrimination in decision making, resource distribution including land, inheritance issues, domestic and gender based violence including rape and sexual assault. They highlighted that some of the platforms where grievances are handled are over dominated by males and tend to disregard women's concerns. Male societal heads and male members of the local courts were cited as some of the men with excessive decision-making powers and patriarchal tendencies that affect women greatly. They also appealed to AVDP to support them in ensuring the implementation of the newly enacted customary land law that seeks to advance women's rights in access to, ownership and control of land.

3.3. *Exposure to GRM Related Trainings*

Above half (55%) of the survey respondents indicated that they have participated in some form of training related to grievance redress and peace building within the past 24 months.

Figure 7: Respondents that have participated in training related to peace building or grievance redress.
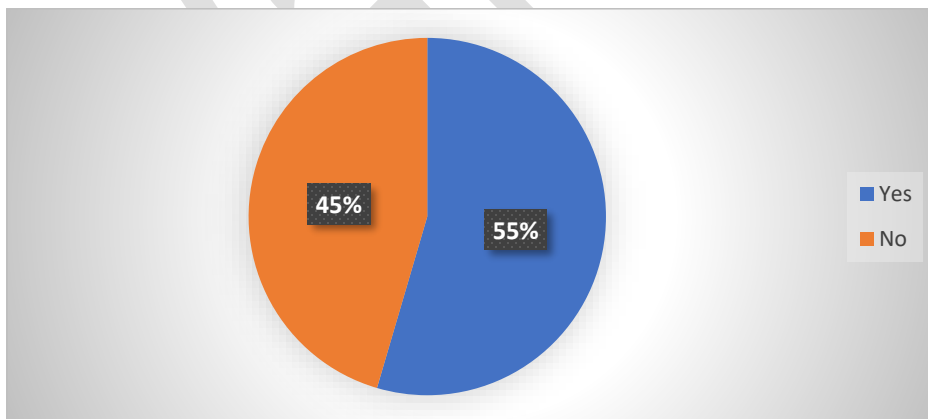
Disaggregated by District, exposure to grievance redress trainings were noted as follows:

Table 6: Exposure to Grievance Redress Training by District

District	Yes	No	Total
Bo	26	29	55
Bombali	24	31	55
Kenema	46	9	55
Koinadugu	6	49	55
Kono	12	43	55
Moyamba	10	45	55
Port Loko	53	2	55
Western Area Rural	23	32	55
Total	200	240	440

The study found the highest number of respondents exposed to grievance redress and peace building related trainings high in Port Loko at 96% and Kenema at 84%. In Bo exposure to trainings was found at 47%, Western Area 45% and Bombali 43%. The district found with the least opportunities for grievance redress trainings were Koinadugu (11%), Moyamba (18%) and Kono (21%). The study also found that existing training opportunities are not only a product of AVDP but there are also other organisation spread across project implementing activities that are engaged in awareness raising and building public education around dispute resolution. The content and format of the training is determined by the organisation facilitating the training, and not necessarily focused on a particular GRM. The table below summarises some of the institutions and individuals mentioned as having facilitated trainings in AVDP communities.

Table 7: Actors involved in Peace Building & Grievance Redress Trainings in Project Communities

District	Actors involved in trainings related to peace building and grievance redress
BO	GALS; Red Cross, Mawedeh
Bombali	Global Foundation, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Commit and Act, Boosting Agriculture and Food Security Project (BAFS), Child Fund, United Nations Children's Fund, AAD-SL, Women Forum for Human Rights and Democracy (WOFHRAD-SL), Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAG),
Kenema	GOAL; Fambul Initiative Network for Equality Sierra Leone (FINE-SL); SEND-SL; Mowuma Women Unite
Koinadugu	Town Chief, District Officer, Local NGO
Kono	IRC, World Food Programme (WFP), Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD), GIZ

Moyamba	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFF); Foundation for Rural and Urban Transformation (FORUT); Action Against Hunger (ACF)
Port Loko	MAFF,
Western Area	Save the Children International (SCI), Government Officials, Farmers' Associations, GCCE

The study also found that application of skills acquired from trainings was high among AVDP communities illustrating the impact of public education and knowledge building among target communities. 97% of the respondents who reported having been exposed to trainings reported that they applied the skills acquired to advance peace building in their communities as indicated in the chart below.

Figure 8: Did you apply the skills acquired to advance peace in your community?
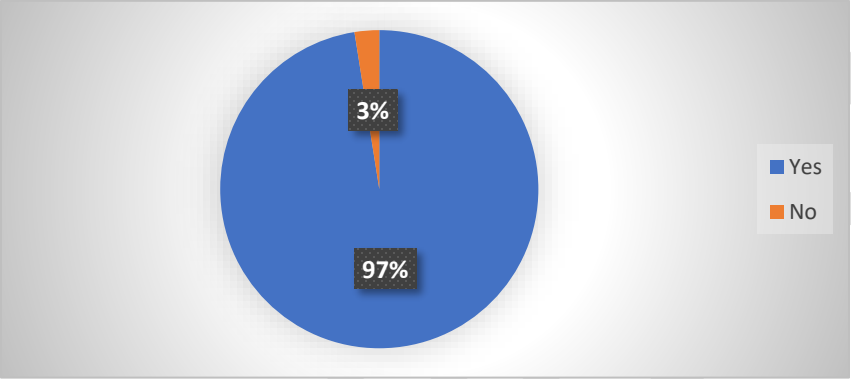
However, the study noted gaps in knowledge as revealed by testimonies from some interviewees who indicated that they have experience in handling grievances. Informal service providers, generally lack systems for getting feedback from their beneficiaries. Such a system will help them to ascertain whether their beneficiaries are satisfied with the services rendered and will help them get suggestions on how to enhance service provision. Additionally, it was ascertained that there is a general lack of safeguarding policies and systems that regulate the behaviour of the dispute resolution service providers with their clients. Safeguarding policies or related guidelines such as Gender Policies or Codes of Conduct are generally absent within the framework of community grievance redress.

The study further ascertained that a few AVDP community members have interacted with organisations and individuals in their communities to address grievances in their communities. 39% of the respondents acknowledged having worked with individuals or institutions to create platforms for addressing grievances as diagrammatically presented in the chart below.

Figure 9: Have you worked with any individual or institution to create a community platform to address grievances?
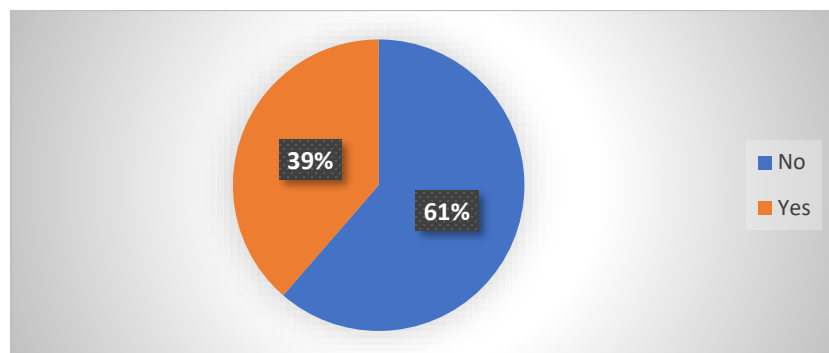
It was noted during FGDs and KIIs that such platforms include committees within farmers' association, family meetings, societal activities and market groups among others. Such informal structures have also been crucial in supporting disputes including those relating to economic and social issues, minor grievances among couples, siblings and co-wives.

3.4. Impact of Grievances and Conflicts among AVDP Community members?

The study noted that grievances and conflicts among community members within the past year (during AVDP implementation) have negatively impacted on beneficiary farmers. 29% of the respondents believe that within the past 12 months some people within their communities have made loses due to conflicts. Some of the loses mentioned include time, money, farmland and tools. Others ascertained that houses were burnt, properties and crops destroyed, domestic animals poisoned and killed, and land illegally confiscated. One young person in Kenema said.

> *A powerful family confiscated my bush and planted palm oil. This is an injustice I suffered as a young person.*

Another woman in Bombali said.

> *Arguments with the owner of the distribution van costed me because he refused to transport my vegetables to the market.*

Some also noted that pursuing justice in the formal courts have costed them a lot of time and money to the point of giving up.

3.5. Willingness to participate in Community Grievance Redress

Willingness to participate in community grievance redress was found high among all the AVDP communities visited. 90% of the respondents indicated that they were available to be part of a committee or team supporting grievance redress in their community.

Figure 10: Are you available to be part of a team or committee supporting grievance redress in this community?
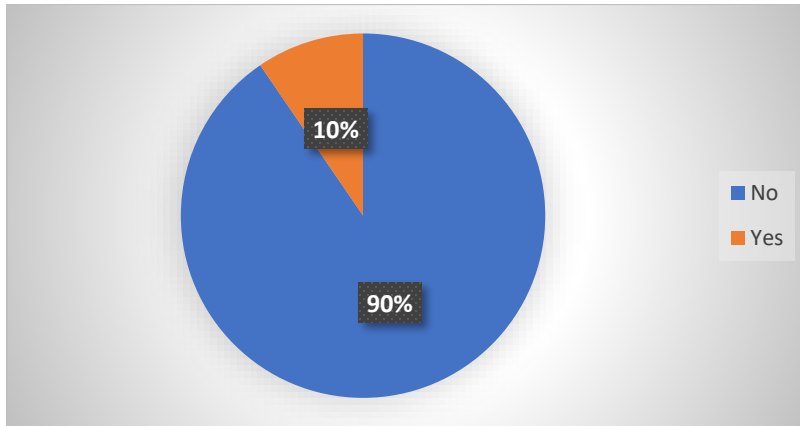
4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. Conclusions

4.1.1. Grievances and Conflicts within AVDP Project Locations

Economic Related Conflicts

-   Disputes relating to loans and credit.
-   Disputes between cattle herders and farmers as a result of cattle destroying crops.
-   Boundary conflicts.
-   Conflicts between farmers and landowners over leasing agreements and tenure
-   Price controls especially in marketing vegetables.

Governance Related Conflicts

-   Perceived or actual discrimination by decision makers or service providers in allocating resources including public services.
-   Political interference in resource allocation and distribution.
-   Politically motivated conflicts from rival parties

Family and Social Issues

-   Domestic and Gender Based Violence including sexual assault and wife battering.
-   Theft of crops and domestic animals

Project Specific Grievances

-   Grievances based on alleged unfulfilled promises.
-   Limited collaboration between the project and other agricultural related stakeholders including MAFF.
-   Unequal dissemination of information.

- Insufficient knowledge on the scope of the project including the resources and products derived from the project.

4.1.2. Existing Grievance Redress Mechanisms

- It was determined that community structures for dispute resolution and grievance handling are generally composed of traditional leaders, community stakeholders, representatives of youth and women.
- The study also found established dispute resolution service providers including stakeholders such as Mummy Queens, Religious Leaders, Non-Governmental Organisations, Legal Aid Board, community elders, youth, and women leaders.
- However, dispute resolution service providers at community level are voluntary, without clearly defined terms of reference and no clear scope of work.
- Responses revealed communities' reliance on local court systems and customary law in resolving disputes and grievances within their communities.
- However, informal service providers, generally lack systems for getting feedback from their beneficiaries.
- Additionally, it was ascertained that there is a general lack of safeguarding policies and systems that regulate the behaviours of the dispute resolution service providers with their clients.

4.1.3. Exposure to GRM Trainings

- Exposure to GRM training among AVDP communities is limited.
- Existing training opportunities are not only a product of AVDP but there are also other organisation spread across project implementing activities that are engaged in awareness raising and building public education around dispute resolution.
- The content and format of the training is determined by the organisation facilitating the training, and not necessarily focused on a particular GRM.
- The application of skills acquired from trainings was high among AVDP communities illustrating the impact of public education and knowledge building among target communities.

4.1.4. Willingness to participate in Community Grievance Redress

- Willingness to participate in community grievance redress was found high among all the AVDP communities visited with almost all beneficiaries expressing desire to be part of committees or teams supporting grievance redress.

4.2. Recommendations

The study identified the following issues as vital for consideration in the development of GRM in AVDP communities.

- AVDP should prioritise inclusive transparency especially in the dissemination of information and distribution of project resources and products across its communities. This means being open about project information to communities throughout the implementation period.
- Community accountability mechanisms should be strengthened. Guidelines for regular community engagement and for managing feedback from project beneficiaries should be

developed and enforced. This should include procedures for communities to lodge complaints, through the project focal points or field officers who will communicate with the responsible project structures, and if they cannot handle the issues, take them up with the head of the Ministry or other service providers.

- Safeguarding Focal Points should be identified and trained across project communities. These could be key relevant stakeholders already working on issues relating to safeguarding.
- AVDP should put in place community redress/ accountability structures to support complaints redress and feedback mechanisms that ensure prompt feedback. These structures should be established in a participatory manner based on a criteria established with project beneficiaries. A selection process with clear selection criteria should be put in place. Such a criteria for appointing members into these structures could include the following:
    a) Must have been a resident of the community for more than five years.
    b) Must be willing to volunteer their services without receiving payment.
    c) Must abide by AVDP's Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct.
    d) Must have no criminal record
    e) Must be of good moral standing and good reputation in the community
    f) Must be approved by community members.
- It is recommended that the composition of the community accountability committees be inclusive of the different sections of the community members. This could include:
    a) Women representative
    b) Youth representative
    c) Representative of People with Disabilities (PWDs)
    d) Traditional Leader
    e) Religious Leader
    f) Representative of the elderly
    g) Representative of the Child Rights Committee or any representative of children rights organisation.
- GRM structures should also ensure that appropriate systems are in place to refer cases relating to customs and tradition to relevant traditional leaders especially Paramount Chiefs to ensure that customary practices and laws are not disrupted.
- Selected members of community accountability structures should be trained on AVDP's GRM. This should be comprehensive ensuring that safeguarding issues, transparency and inclusivity are prioritised. Additionally, AVDP should develop detailed and clear terms of reference not only for the community structures but also for AVDP staff involved in grievance redress. The responsibilities of each party should be clearly understood by all.
- The GRM should spell out how grievances are lodged, how they are received, recorded and actioned as well as how feedback is provided.
- The GRM should be widely disseminated using multiple awareness raising and sensitisation strategies such as outreach, engagement meetings, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials and media engagement.

5. ANNEXES

5.1. Mini-Survey Questionnaire

Introduction	

Introduction

The government of Sierra Leone is implementing a project titled "Agriculture Value Chain Development Project" (AVDP) funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Toni Blair Institute (TBI). AVDP is a six year programme that aims to enhance the livelihood, food security, and climate resilience of rural agricultural communities. I am supporting AVDP to conduct an independent assessment of grievances that existed in your community before the project, grievances exacerbated by the project and grievances occurring or those that are likely to occur because of the project. This information is important for AVDP to develop a Grievance Redress Mechanism that will ensure that these grievances will be resolved in a participatory and effective manner.

You have been selected to participate in this survey because your opinions are important. I realize that you are busy and appreciate your willingness to be part of this survey. I would like to assure you that the discussion will be anonymous.

Do you agree to participate in this survey? a) Yes b) No
If no, thank the respondent and end the interview.

Section A: Demographic Information	
I	Date of Interview
II	Enumerator's Name_____
III	Are you an indigene of this place (Where you born here?) a) Yes b) No
V	District: a) Kono b) Kenema c) Western Rural d) Port Loko e) Bo f) Moyamba g) Bombali h) Koinadugu
VI	Community/ Town: (Please Indicate)
VII	Sex of respondent a) Male b) Female
VIII	Do you consider yourself disabled (look for visible disability as well)? a) Yes b) No
IX	Age of respondent a) 15 to 17 b) 18 to 35 b) 36 to 45 c) 46 to 60 d) 61 and above
X	What is your highest level of education completed?

	a) Never been to school b) primary school c) junior secondary school d) senior secondary school e) college f) university
XI	What is your marital status a) single b) married c) separated d) divorced e) widowed
XII	Tick if you belong to any of the following categories a) Farmer b) Herder c) Traditional Leader d) Security Personnel e) local council official f) religious leader d) peace champion g) women leader h) youth leader i) CSO staff/ member j) PWD leader k)Trader/Business person l) other (specify)
Types of grievances in the community	
1.	Which type of crop do you depend on for livelihood? a) Oil Palm b) Cocoa c) Hot Pepper d) Black Pepper e) Irish Potato f) Onion g) Sweet Potato h) Green Vegetable i) Inland Value Swamp j) Other (specify)
2.	What were the main types of conflict in this community before the ADVP Project? *Type* a) Cattle herders Vs farmers Conflict b) Chieftaincy Conflict c) Boundary Conflict d) Conflict over natural resources e) Domestic and Gender Based Violence f) Access, ownership and control of land g) Politics h) Other (specify)

3.	What are the main types of conflict in this community
	Type
	a) Cattle herders Vs farmers Conflict
	b) Chieftainship
	c) Boundary Conflict
	d) Conflict over natural resources
	e) Domestic and Gender Based Violence
	f) Access, ownership and control of land
	g) Politics
	h) Other (specify)
3.	Who do you think are the main perpetrators of these conflicts a) Farmers b) Herders c) Chiefs d) Foreigners e) Youth f) men g) Women h) others- please specify
5	Why do you think so?
6.	Is there any Grievance Redress Mechanism in your Community a)Yes b) No
6.1	If yes, who is involved in the grievance redress (include all players if possible)
6.2	If yes, to the best of your knowledge, is the Grievance Redress Mechanism effective in responding to community grievances? a) Yes b) No
6.3.	If no, is there an informal grievance redress mechanism, based on norms and practices? a) Yes b) No
7.	Have you ever participated in any form of training related to peacebuilding or grievance redress? a) Yes b) No
7.1.	If yes, name the institution or organisation that facilitated the training?_____
7.2.	If yes, did you apply the skills you acquired to advance peace in your community? a) Yes b) Not yet
8.	What other 3 key things are preventing peaceful coexistence in this community?
9.	What are the other structural conflicts that people hardly talk about but might disturb the project in due course?
	Type

	a) Cattle herders Vs farmers Conflict
	b) Chieftainship
	c) Boundary Conflict
	d) Conflict over natural resources
	e) Domestic and Gender Based Violence
	f) Access, ownership and control of land
	g) Politics
	h) Other (specify)
9.	Within the past 12 months, how would you assess the occurrence of conflict in your community? a) It remained the same b) conflicts slightly increased c) conflicts significantly increased
11.	Are you aware of any action that has been taken in this community over the past 12 months to deal with conflicts or to address community grievances? a) Yes b) No
11.1	If yes, please specify the actions taken so far. ------------------------------
12.	Will you rate the involvement of women in conflict as parties to disputes, in this community? a) involved b) not involved c) somehow involved d) totally involved
13.	Are you aware of other any organisation or individual involved in resolving disputes in this community? a) Yes b) No
13.1.	If yes, name the organisation.
13.2	If yes, to what extent have they influenced parties in conflict to promote peaceful coexistence? a) highly influenced b) influenced c) not influenced at all
14.	Taking into consideration the past 12 months, how do you see the involvement of stakeholders in the following issues.

Action	Highly involved	Somewhat involved	Not involved
a) Taking action to address grievances and complaints from development projects			
b) Demanding for service providers to address			

	citizens concerns and grievances				
	c) Using community platforms and engagement meetings advocate for peace between conflicting parties				

Opportunities for GRM in the community	
15.	Within the last 12 months, have you worked with anyone/ group/ association in your community to create the platforms for resolving grievances, especially those associated with development projects? a) Yes b) No
15.1	If yes to above, are you going to continue working with these people to achieve peace? a) Yes b) No
16.	How do you rate collaboration and networking among farmers, cattle herders, community members and stakeholders on developmental issues in your community? a) very good collaboration b) average c) poor, d)there is no collaboration
17.	Do you think the collaboration among farmers, cattle herders, community members and stakeholders on development issues in this community will continue with this project? a) Yes b) no c) there is no collaboration
The effect of grievances in the community	
18.	Within the past 12 months, do you think people have made loses due to conflict in this community? A) Yes b) No
19.	If yes, to the best of your knowledge state two things that have been lost by some community members?_____
Community participation in GRM processes	
20.	Are you available to be part of a team or committee supporting grievance redress in this community a) Yes b) No

5.2. Focus Group Discussion Guide

Introduction

The Government of Sierra Leone is implementing a project titled 'Agriculture Value Chain Development Project' with funding from the international Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Toni Blair Institute (TBI). AVDP is a six-year programme that aims to enhance the livelihoods, food security, and climate resiliency of rural agricultural communities. The purpose of the project's development is to raise the earnings of smallholder farmers by promoting agriculture as a business. The AVDP aims to reach around 43,000 direct recipients and their families, for a total of 260,000 people. The project is primarily sponsored by IFAD, the Adaptation Fund, the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID),the business sector, the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL), and the beneficiaries. The initiative is implemented in all 16 Districts of the country, primarily with Farmers Organizations, Service Providers, and SMEs in the rice, vegetable, cocoa, and oil palm value chains in order to improve nutrition and create alternative income streams. I am supporting AVDP to conduct an independent grievance that existed in your community before the project, grievances exacerbated by the project and grievances occurring or those that are likely to occur because of the project. This information is important for ADVP to develop a Grievance Redress Mechanism that will ensure that attention is paid to these grievances and that they will be resolved in a participatory and effective manner.

You have been selected to participate in this survey because your contribution will be an immense value to the evaluation. I do realize that you are busy and appreciate your time to be part of this survey. I would like to assure you that the discussion will be anonymous. The findings will only be used for the purpose of supporting the development of a Grievance Redress Mechanism under the ADVP project.

Do you agree to participate in this survey? a) Yes b) No
If no, thank the respondent and end the interview.

Date of Interview:……………………………………………………………..

District: …………………………………………………………………….

Chiefdom:……………………………………………………………………..

Community:…………………………………………………………………..

Question Master …………………………….......................................

Note Taker:…………………………………………………………….

Participant's Category……………………… No. of Participants……………… No of PWDs……

Question Guide

Ice breaker question

What do you like the most about the implementation of the AVDP project in this community?

1. To the best of your knowledge, what were the key issues that usually led to grievances and conflicts before the intervention the AVDP project?

2. To the best of your knowledge, what are the current grievances that people usually talk about in this community?

3. What changes were brought by this project in terms of conflicts? Explain whether there were any conflicts that were exacerbated or reduced as a result of the project.

4. What are the major sources of conflicts in this community?

5. Who are those involved in the conflicts?

6. Where are they from and how do they influence conflict?

7. What are the situation/systems that exist now that can be built upon to promote movement towards peace/positive change?

8. What currently connects people across conflict lines?

9. How do people cooperate?

10. Who exercises leadership for peace and how? How have these conflicts been resolved? What has been the experience so far? Any successes, challenges, or gaps?

11. Explain how your community can be involved in grievance redress or conflict resolution?

12. What systems should be in place and what kind of support do you think will be relevant to strengthen the involvement of community people in grievance redress or conflict resolution?

13. Is there anything you think is relevant to this conversation apart from what we have discussed?

Thank you for your time

5.3. Key Informant Interview Guide with CSOs, Police, Farmers' Associations, Traditional and Religious Leaders

Introduction

The Government of Sierra Leone is implementing a project titled 'Agriculture Value Chain Development Project' with funding from the international Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Toni Blair Institute (TBI). AVDP is a six-year programme that aims to enhance the livelihoods, food security, and climate resiliency of rural agricultural communities. The purpose of the project's development is to raise the earnings of smallholder farmers by promoting agriculture as a business. The AVDP aims to reach around 43,000 direct recipients and their families, for a total of 260,000

people. The project is primarily sponsored by IFAD, the Adaptation Fund, the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID),the business sector, the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL), and the beneficiaries. The initiative is implemented in all 16 Districts of the country, primarily with Farmers Organizations, Service Providers, and SMEs in the rice, vegetable, cocoa, and oil palm value chains in order to improve nutrition and create alternative income streams. I am supporting AVDP to conduct an independent grievance that existed in your community before the project, grievances exacerbated by the project and grievances occurring or those that are likely to occur because of the project. This information is important for ADVP to develop a Grievance Redress Mechanism that will ensure that attention is paid to these grievances and that they will be resolved in a participatory and effective manner.

You have been selected to participate in this survey because your contribution will be an immense value to the evaluation. I do realize that you are busy and appreciate your time to be part of this survey. I would like to assure you that the discussion will be anonymous. The findings will only be used for the purpose of supporting the development of a Grievance Redress Mechanism under the ADVP project.

Do you agree to participate in this survey? a) Yes b) No
If no, thank the respondent and end the interview.

Name of Key Informant:……………………………………………………………..

Name of Institution:…………...

District: …………………………………………………………………………….

Chiefdom:………………….………………………………………………………

Question Master:……………….……………Note Taker:…………………………

Question Guide

Ice breaker question

What do you like the most about the implementation of the AVDP project in this community?

1. To the best of your knowledge, what were the key issues that usually led to grievances and conflicts before the intervention the AVDP project?

2. To the best of your knowledge, what are the current grievances that people usually talk about in this community?

3. How have you been involved, if at all, in addressing these grievances? What has been your experience? What has been working and what are the gaps? Describe what you think should be done to address these gaps?

4. Explain whether you have any formal and written Grievance Redress Mechanism that you can share with us? (Explain whether there is an informal common practice to grievance redress in the community.)

5. What changes were brought by this project in terms of conflicts and grievances? Explain whether there were any conflicts that were exacerbated or reduced because of the project.

6. What are the major sources of conflicts in this community?

7. Who are those involved in the conflicts?

8. Where are they from and how do they influence conflict?

9. What are the situation/systems that exist now that can be built upon to promote movement towards peace/positive change?

10. What currently connects people across conflict lines?

11. How do people cooperate?

12. Explain how your involvement in grievance redress or conflict resolution could strengthened?

13. What systems should be in place and what kind of support do you think will be relevant to strengthen the involvement of community people in grievance redress or conflict resolution?

14. Is there anything you think is relevant to this conversation apart from what we have discussed?

5.4. KII Guide with Project Implementing Unit

You have been selected to participate in this survey because your contribution will be an immense value to the evaluation. I do realize that you are busy and appreciate your time to be part of this survey. I would like to assure you that the discussion will be anonymous. The findings will only be used for the purpose of supporting the development of a Grievance Redress Mechanism under the ADVP project.

Do you agree to participate in this survey? a) Yes b) No

If no, thank the respondent and end the interview.

Name of Key Informant:………………………………………………………..

Name of Institution:……………...

District: …………….………………………………………………………….

Chiefdom:………………………………………………………………………………………

Question Master:…………………………………Note Taker:………………………….

Ice breaker question

What do you like the most about the implementation of the AVDP project in this community?

1. Will you explain the existing project structures and how they interact with each other?

2. Given your experience with this project, explain whether they have been any complaints or grievances lodged in respect of project implementation?

    a. By beneficiary farmers

    b. By community members apart from the direct beneficiaries

    c. Stakeholders (Civil society, council, MDAs, community and traditional leaders)

3. What issues were brought up and how were these addressed? Were there any challenges or successes?

4. How were the complaints made to your office? Did this work well? What do you think can be done to enhance grievance redress under the project?

5. How were these complaints addressed? How was feedback provided on complaints redress to the affected people?

6. Explain whether you have any formal and written Grievance Redress Mechanism that you can share with us? (Explain whether there is an informal common practice to grievance redress under the project.)

7. What has been working and what are the gaps? Describe what you think should be done to address these gaps?

8. To the best of your knowledge, what are the major sources of conflicts in your operational areas, apart from what we have discussed?

9. Who are those involved in the conflicts?

10. Where are they from and how do they influence conflict?

11. What are the situation/systems that exist now that can be built upon to promote movement towards peace/positive change?

12. What currently connects people across conflict lines?

13. Explain how your involvement in grievance redress or conflict resolution could strengthened?

14. What systems should be in place and what kind of support do you think will be relevant to strengthen the involvement of community people in grievance redress or conflict resolution?

15. Is there anything you think is relevant to this conversation apart from what we have discussed?