



PROJECT FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT

Final Project Report Template

Name of partner:
Access Initiative & Development for Afrika (Aid-Africa)
Workstream: Peacebuilding
Project Duration
Start Date: (dd.mm.yyyy) 17 th March, 2020
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Report Submitted By
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AID-AFRIKA implemented a DFID/UKAID funded program, Reducing Insecurity and Violent Extremism in the Northern and Coastal regions of Kenya (RE-INVENT). The organization implemented a peace building project in Garissa and Tana River Counties that aimed at Promoting sustainable inter-community cohesion in Garissa and Tana River. The project started from March 2020 and ended March 2021.

N/B key terms

IMS- insider mediators

CMS- conflict monitors

1. Key Achievements (1/2 page)

The project interventions directly benefitted 121 participants throughout the community dialogue sessions, the Insider mediators and conflict monitor trainings. It has also indirectly benefitted the wider communities of Tana River and Garissa counties through efforts done by the participants involved in the dialogue sessions in coordination with Aid-Africa. Of the 121 reached, 68 were male, 26 of whom were youth male whereas 42 were adult male. On the hand, the project also reached a total of 53 female participants. Of the 53 female participants, 39 were female youth whereas 14 were adult. Also out of 121 beneficiaries reached 7 were Persons with Disability-PWD and all of them were male adult.

Through the collaborative peace action, the project reached up to 150 participants. The events were done in the form of public baraza in collaboration with local public administration, peace committees, women and youth.



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The interventions engaged the communities in a series of dialogue sessions to understand the various conflicts, the drivers and ways to mitigate conflicts in the area.

The project built the capacities of community peace structures on conflict early warning and early response.

The capacity building process was guided by the development of a training manual.

The enhanced capacities of the peace structures on early response is captured in the following success story where one of the participants used skills and knowledge gained to prevent a potential inter-ethnic conflict between the Kamba locals and Somali locals of Garissa.

The incident happened when one Somali youth was brutally killed by a Kamba local in Province area, Garissa town. The youth was well known in the area and this sparked anger and frustrations among many Somali youth and men alike. The frustrations and vengeance turned into a quest for vengeance where some Somali youth armed themselves with machetes to seek for retribution from the killer's family. Having sensed the early signs of potential violence, sheikh Abdi, a religious leader from the area and a participant in Aid-Africa's project initiatives, played a key role in quelling the impending violence that he was later heralded for. He mobilised other religious leaders and clan elders to intervene. They quickly alerted the police to keep the family safe and their properties. The sheikh with other clan elders held a long meeting with the local youth leaders and parents and they managed to calm the situation. To ease tensions the family were also urged through dialogues between the Kamba local community leaders and the Somali elders, to help the police in tracking down the killer so that he can be brought to justice.

The family played an important role in helping apprehend the killer where they alerted family members back in Mwingi to look for him. He was finally apprehended in Ukasi 11 days later.

Recounting the incident, Sinare a youth leader in Ziwani and a close friend of the deceased heralded the sheikh's effort in quickly responding to the situation. He said those efforts might have averted another crisis i.e. an inter-ethnic violence between Somali people and communities from Tana River. He said "the Kamba and other ethnic people in Tana River have a close resemblance physically. What could have happened if one person from Tana River was caught in the crossfire and get killed?

In the aftermath, Sheikh Abdi became a community gatekeeper and also received recognition from members of the County Assembly. He has since been teaching madrasa-going children the importance of peace through REINVENT initiative.

The project also achieved in providing amicable solutions to the farmers and herders of Guwatu, a boundary area between Garissa and Tana river, in avoiding potential conflicts. By teaming up with a SUPKEM led initiative of well-wishers to help the less fortunate people affected by the pandemic, AID-AFRICA was able to utilise the opportunity and address the farmers and herders of peaceful ways to address conflicts. They unanimously agreed to adopt dialogue culture in addressing issues and put their egos behind.



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The herders stated that it is not of their intention to destroy the crops of the farmers and that the large number of animals can't be controlled by the young teenage boys who look after them. They encouraged the farmers to fence their farms very well and report any teenager who breaches the fences out of his own will to the village elders.

As of February, 4 of the farms in the area were properly fenced while the other surrounding farms in the region have followed suit and started fencing their farms. Since then there has been no cases or reports of conflicts in the region involving farmers and herders. Our community mobilizers and the village elders confirmed this information.

Impact on community relations and attitudes

The interventions were effective in promoting social cohesion, and that the project activities contributed, largely, to achieving the goals and objectives. The beneficiaries noted the following ways in which the project promoted social cohesion

- The community members have become more aware of the need to discuss their issues at the community level.
- The project has strengthened the cooperation and social ties among the community members.
- The number of conflicts has decreased, which has led to a better living situation within the villages with less tensions among community members.
- The project selected community leaders who are members of the same community and trained them on mediation, which contributed to promoting social cohesion.

The project activities succeeded in reducing the risk of inter-communal violence through collaborative dialogue processes, whereby the project promoted formation of inter/intra-communal peace committees and provided solutions such as the use of water boozers vehicles to water their animals instead of fighting over entry points to the river. This alleviated the tensions within local communities and strengthened positive relationships. The beneficiaries responded a strong agreement that dialogue is a good way to resolve conflicts in the region. Therefore the project established and promoted “dialogue champions”, a few group of people comprised of men, women and elders who were responsible in resolving past conflict (a few new people were added to gain vital experience particularly youth). The dialogue champions can help further promote the dialogue culture, share their experiences and coach other target group in other projects. This will also ensure the sustainability of the project long after it has ended.



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The project also enhanced relationship between communities, security institutions and provisional administration.

The project worked with local administrators, security agencies and community sector groups. The platforms allowed the community and the security to dialogue and address widely held misconceptions/stereotypes between the community and security organs.

The project established close working relationships between the two communities.

The relationships were developed through the continuous dialogue sessions where targeted community members formed personal friendships.

These friendships later turned into working relationships whereby a joint peace committee called Uwiano Committee comprising of members of the two communities was formed. Since February 2021, the joint committee held two meetings with the business people who are largely of Somali ethnicity, the youth and elders of Madogo town.

The meeting recommended that the business people help in further development of the town by also employing the local youth in their shops. This was confirmed when AID-AFRIKA paid a visit to a local storeowner, Mzee Garane, in Madogo who employed two youths in his shop. One as a delivery person and another as a security guard. Since the meeting was held, cases of crimes and conflict between the Somali business people and the locals decreased.

With further meetings and engagements aimed at promoting peace, it is anticipated that Madogo will attract bigger entrepreneurs and inspire the locals to start businesses thus transforming it a booming business centre.

The project also influenced a positive attitude of the communities towards each other. This was achieved through the inter-ethnic dialogues where members of the two communities met and discussed issues affecting the region. Through these discussions, the members learnt of each other's culture, values and developed personal friendships and relationships.

This change of attitude was also reflected on the greater community members whereby in a public Baraza, Madogo chief and the local community members acknowledged and attributed the Somali business people of developing Madogo town into a big trading hub compared to it was a decade ago.

The project helped change community members mind-sets, moving them away from individual-based solutions and towards finding solutions that are beneficial for the whole community. This was well shown through the willingness of members of the two communities coming together to form a voluntary joint peace committee that was aimed at addressing problems of the two communities and the promotion of a culture of dialogue among community members through efforts done by the trained IMS, CMS, chiefs from two counties and community gate keepers.



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The project trained a team of trainees from Garissa and Tana River as conflict monitors and insider mediators. The total number of the trained participants was 25 with 15 participants trained on early warnings, conflict monitoring and reporting.

The remaining were insider mediators trained on conflict sensitivity, analysis, negotiation and mediation skills. Seven (28%) of the IMS and CMS were female, achieving the projects aim of gender representation or inclusivity. According to the feedback received, the IMs reported a 90% increase of knowledge in conflict analysis, mediation skills, facilitation and dialogue design.

The training also influenced a change in personal attitudes with one IM saying ““I started dealing with the people regardless of their backgrounds or affiliations; I feel I can influence a person’s behaviour and orientation through what I learned in the training.””

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Finally, through our continued coordination with our REINVENT partner, PGI, AID-AFRIKA sent one of our participants to partake in their project interventions. She reported that she learnt many things on women empowerment and the important role women play in our societies. This increased knowledge inspired our participant to take an active role in community peace building efforts whereby she created a group of women whose aim is to promote peace messages in Madogo town. The group has so far attracted a host of other women from Garissa.

One recent work the group has been involved is taking part in solving a conflict between the Orma and Munyo clans of Tana River County. They volunteered to spread peace through the interior villages. Their efforts resulted in no violence happening since then and also contributed into managing conflicts.

2. Key Challenges (½ page).

Drawing from its experiences in project implementation, close coordination with Tetra Tech and good planning helped AID-AFRIKA to put measures to avoid major challenges to the project results

However this goes without saying that were random challenges experienced during the project implementation process.



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- Language barrier- The project engaged communities from Garissa and Tana River Counties. These communities speak different languages. This necessitated AID-AFRIKA to deliver engagements in a manner that is acceptable and understandable by the beneficiaries. This was done through translation of the content to the specific language of the target communities. This was time consuming but necessary.
- Covid-19. The implementation of the project coincided with the beginning of the global pandemic. This forced us to readjust and to re-strategize by following the MoH covid19 prevention guidelines. This has largely affected our target reach and had to reduce the number of participants to fit what the Ministry of Health saw as allowable.
- Budget constraints- - the project was operating on a very tight budget. This was a result of the challenges that came with covid-19, the limited budget was further revised making it difficult to implement all the activities as originally planned. As a result some very important activities were dropped from the work plan as they were no longer feasible based on the available budget.
- Adaptation strategy- The adaptation strategy as advised by the donor and in turn tetra tech delayed the implementation of the project.

3. Lessons Learnt (½ page)

Involvement of locals in the project planning and implementation process is highly important. Locals play an important role in the smooth implementation of the project activities and also get the desired feedback the project set out to achieve.

It is important to include local leaders, community members and locally selected IMS as they play an important role in increasing cohesion and reducing local conflicts. These parties also facilitate participation, cooperation and have a better understanding of local issues. AID-AFRIKA consulted local community mobilizers and the chiefs to identify participants who have an understanding of the underlying issues in the region for the community dialogue sessions. By doing this, it influenced a sense of ownership and a positive attitude among community members which aided the smooth implementation of the Project.

Project interventions were highly relevant, appropriate and useful. The findings from the community dialogues were reflective of the community concerns regarding peace and security in the region.

However further support is needed in implementing community led initiatives such as joint cleaning of towns, community barazas. Such support will decrease a greater demand of interventions needed to address issues.

Engagement of women occurred less often in insider mediation and conflict monitoring than in the community dialogue sessions.

This is due to the strict roles and traditions that limit women's involvement in making decisions. Therefore, the IMs suggested supporting women by encouraging non state actors to establish women groups to champion for women related issues in the community by providing capacity building for women to be more engaged in decision making activities.



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4. Sustainability Measures (½ page)

Capacity building activities for IMs and CMs was noted as a key component promoting long-term sustainability. Trainees reported an increase in new skills and their intent to continue applying their capacities beyond the project, both in their personal lives and in donor supported interventions.

The IMS reported that they learnt from exchanges and interactions during the training and noted that they gained greater experience from applying their trainings in the field, which sharpened their skills.

To utilise the trainees' knowledge, the IMS and CMs were linked to local administrators who will respond to information shared. This relationship will transcend beyond the project lifespan. AID-AFRIKA has also continued to share relevant publications and E=materials to the trainees via a WhatsApp group formed. This move is geared toward further empowering the trainees and increases their knowledge in order to better able to organise and facilitate dialogue processes in the region, in order to resolve conflicts that may arise in the future. The establishment of dialogue champions will further help in ingraining dialogue culture into the community members.

Training manual- the project developed a training manual that will be used for years to come long after Reinvent ends.

Recommendations

1. Expanding the project corridor- Tana River/ Garissa corridor is very long. It stretches over 4 sub-counties but the project was able to reach only 1 sub-county. We recommend expanding the project reach to other sub-counties flagged as hotspots especially as the electioneering periods come closer.
2. As the country prepares for 2022 general elections, it will be wise to work towards contributing to peaceful elections otherwise we risk the reversal of the gains made during year 1 of the project especially since the project corridor has a history of cross county violence during elections.
3. Budget improvements- We acknowledge the limited budget of the project however, for quality of the project goes hand in hand with human and capital resources and these can only be realized with the availability of a reasonable budget.



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5. Stories of change (1 page)

Garissa and Tana River counties have been experiencing open and latent inter/intra communal conflicts that date back to the colonial era. For example, along the boundary between Garissa and Tana River Counties, conflicts have persisted arising out of contested borders and territories, access to resources especially water and pasture, inter-ethnic political competition and competing resource uses-land and water- particularly between pastoralists and farmers. The main conflict formation is between Somalis (Abdalla and Abudwak sub-clans) and Pokomo ethnic groups.

AID-AFRIKA has been continuously engaging men, women, community elder and youth from the two counties in a series of community dialogue sessions to identify the causes of these inter-communal conflicts and the their drivers. In efforts geared toward finding solutions to the myriad of problems, the interventions influenced a positive change of attitude of the two communities towards each other and they have since established close working relations.

The youth have been on the forefront in championing for peace as they suffered the brunt of inter communal clashes especially from the police. They are now aware of the importance of peace and are actively participating in peace efforts. There has been a continuous increase of youths leaving behind their idle or gangster life and have now taken important roles within their communities.

Land conflicts have been the major drive force of conflicts in the region and efforts through which to manage or solve the land issues have been put in place. A council of elders was formed to map out individuals, organizations and strategies that could help resolve contentious land conflicts.

The community members led by the Uwiano Peace committee prepared a list of trusted specific individuals and their contact information to call upon for immediate help if a conflict becomes dangerous.

The peace committee also petitioned their county Assembly representatives to urge the county government to formulate policies guiding land ownership in the contested areas.

Office of peace and security under the office of the deputy county secretary of Garissa and Garissa's Assistant County commissioner acknowledged the effort the project and assembled a team comprising of the chiefs, ward administrators from the two counties and representatives from their offices to resolve conflicts related to territorial or formal boundaries when and if they occur.



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Mohamed is a youth who has been living an idle life in Madogo with no job and his future looked bleak.

At one time he suffered the brunt of police brutality in quelling riots that gripped the town when two locals were killed in a Somali owned warehouse. The effect of those clashes saw him lose his arm as a result of police firing randomly at rioters.

Having escaped death narrowly albeit the amputated arm, he chose to change his life for the better. Through Aid-Africa's initiative he was given a platform to address the community members in a public baraza. His ordeal inspired many other youths like him to transform their lives.

Mohamed now is happily married, lives in Madogo town, is a champion of change and is a respected youth leader who has helped many youths escape from their struggling past and change for the better.

Stories of change- sample guide (Click on the attachment below to open)



Microsoft Word 97 -
2003 Document

Photo Consent Form (Click on the attachment below to open)



photo.jpg (Command Line)



consent form.pdf (Command Line)