



KENYA

Reporting Agencies: National Steering Committee on Peace building and Conflict Management (NSC); Kenya National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons (KNFP); Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MOYAS); Arid Lands Resource Management Project (ALRMP II); Maendeleo Ya Wanawake Organization (MYWO); Partnership for Peace and Security (PfPS); in partnership with UNDP.

Country: Kenya

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT (Q3)

Project Number and Title: Consolidating the Peace Process and Establishing the Foundations for a Successful Political Transition in Kenya: 2010 – 2013

Reporting period: October-December, 2011

I: PROGRAMME PURPOSE

This is a national programme whose overall objective is to strengthen the capacity of national and local government and civil society to effectively prevent and reduce levels of armed violence in order to nurture peace and enhance development opportunities in Kenya, and to enhance prospects for cross-border cooperation and dialogue. More specifically, it aims to consolidate the successes of previous and on-going interventions such as the Uwiano Platform for Peace through supporting the strengthening of national capacity for conflict prevention; strengthening and expanding the coverage of district peace committees; supporting civil society activities to anticipate and prevent violence around the next general elections in 2012; responding to the challenges posed by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons; strengthening national cohesion and integration and mainstreaming the role of women in peace building and conflict prevention and the youth in violence prevention and peacebuilding in Kenya. The peace dividend component seeks to consolidate the gains made in expanding development opportunities for prudent resource use in addressing the security-peace-development nexus. It seeks to demonstrate that youths and women can engage in “licit” and gainful livelihood and income generation activities.

Programme partners:

The programme is funded by UNDP and the Government of Kenya and executed through both National and Direct modalities. NSC is the main Implementing agency, with other partners serving as implementing partners:

Partnership for Peace and Security (PfPS). This is a Platform of civil society which brings on board capacities for civil society coordination, collaboration, and mobilization, mediation and grassroots participation of CSOs. It provides a framework of civil society actors in peace and security sector management with a view to strengthen both national and local level coordination between CSOs, Academia, State and non-state actors in the realm of Peace and Security. The Partnership complements the NSC component on strengthening national capacities.

The programme component seeks to address the gap of strengthening and consolidating national capacities of civil society in the field of peace building and conflict prevention. Civil society plays a pivotal role in this field but often times, these efforts are not properly coordinated and/or documented. PfPS is bridging the gap by coordinating civil society initiatives to anticipate and prevent violence around 2012 general election and beyond.

II. RESOURCES

The programme component was managed by Partnership for Peace and Security. Some of the activities conducted during the period under review were financed through the direct execution mode.

III. RESULTS

1. Strengthened National and Local Civil Society Coordination & Collaboration

The programme has continued to support revitalization of the Partnership with a view to bringing together CSOs working in the field of peace and security in the country on a common platform. This need is brought on by the realization of the tremendous work CSOs are engaged in within the country but oftentimes goes uncoordinated and undocumented. This creates a scenario where various initiatives are duplicated thereby limiting the impact they would have had they been coordinated. The Partnership is therefore harnessing the efforts of CSOs from the national to the grassroots level with an objective of joint strategic analysis, coordination and response on matters of peace and conflict in the country.

The partnership recognizes the comparative advantage each partner brings to the platform, and is also cognizant of the need to have a coherent strategy towards 2012 and beyond. Through this activity, member organizations have been provided an enhanced forum for synergy, better coordination, and partnerships necessary for identifying challenges and opportunities in peace building and conflict prevention and consequently formulating a single framework of mitigation and response. This approach has seen the efforts of civil society in the peace-building arena harnessed through pooling of resources, both human and technical, among members within the partnership thus providing a better coordinated, coherent, efficient and effective programming in the field.

Over the Quarter, coordination capacities of CSOs at national and local level has been further built up through recruitment of new members from the counties to create a presence within communities in readiness for general elections in the coming year and beyond; trainings, continued documentation of capabilities, niche and presence of each member organization which informs the areas they cover thus reducing duplication of efforts and subsequently promotes strategic programming. While further efforts targeting the county and grassroots level shall take place in the early days of the coming quarter, so far the coordination framework for CSOs has been strengthened resulting in enhanced capacities necessary response as well policy dialogue on peace building and conflict management.

Through the support of the programme, PfPS has established and nurtured strategic partnerships with the media, academia, CEWARN mechanism under IGAD, and international organizations/societies like Society for Peace Studies and Practice housed at the University of Ibadan. Additional efforts to snowball these alliances shall continue in the coming quarter. Details regarding how these partnerships are working are explored later on in this report under sections 3&4 below.

2. Organization Support for Strengthened Capacity of PfPS

Cognizance of the need to strengthen the Partnership for better CSO coordination and policy dialogue, the programme supported PfPS in terms of organizational capacity that included rent, personnel and other administration costs.

During the last quarter's reporting, the Strategic Plan formulation process was still underway.

Regrettably, the final document handed in did not meet the threshold and quality desired by the Partnership and its partners. It is expected that recovery approaches shall be initiated in the coming quarter. This matter is reported in detail under the challenges and constraints section below.

To support visibility, documentation, and knowledge management, the programme is currently supporting development of the Partnership's website. It is expected that the Partnership, being a knowledge platform, will achieve this objective by making available current and cutting edge research findings, studies and discourse on peace and security as well as its activities in its website for global consumption.

Both the Strategic Plan and the website development are procured through direct execution.

3. Support for Research, Policy and Practice in Peace, Conflict and Security; and Knowledge Management

During the period under review and with the programme support, the Partnership held a national high-level colloquium on Climate Change, Environment and Conflicts in Africa. The idea behind this colloquium was conceptualized after periods of droughts and floods that hit some regions of the country disrupting livelihoods and leading to proliferation of conflicts among the communities affected. While designing and initiating response to these developments, it was deemed necessary to have a forum in which scholars, researchers and practitioners of climate change, environmental studies, peace building and conflict management would deliberate on mechanisms of anticipating climatic changes and variations and consequently building it in programming. This would then create a culture of adaptation and reduce the negative effects of climate change on communities that ultimately precipitate occurrence of conflicts over natural resources.

This meet brought together research, theory, practice and policy in the various fields mentioned here from various institutions of higher learning in Kenya, Southern & Western Africa, and Spain; institutes of research from both state and independent players, various government bodies and agencies, UN agencies, IGAD CEWARN mechanism, and civil society actors in the field of environment, peace building and conflict management. The meet also brought in players from the regions perennially affected by effects of climate change and are currently involved in adaptation practices to share best practices that can be replicated elsewhere. This forum provided an avenue for joint analysis among the various actors on matters of climate change and how the effects can be mitigated thus moving the discourse from the traditional reactionary fashion to pragmatism.

From this dialogue, the actors have agreed to come up with a policy brief on climate change that the government can be persuaded to adopt detailing adaptation and response mechanisms that can be employed in the regions that have traditionally been known to bear the brunt of harsh climatic variations. The civil society actors have agreed to incorporate climate change adaptation in programming to assist communities within which they operate to anticipate and respond to effects of climatic changes thereby reducing the incidents of conflicts resulting from this phenomenon.

The scholarly works and discourse presented during the colloquium, together with the recommendations arising out of the deliberations are currently being reviewed for publication. The previous colloquium's papers have been consolidated and are at editing stage for publication. This should be completed in the coming quarter.

This activity was procured through both direct execution and programme support

4. Communication and Knowledge Management

Through these dialogues, the Partnership provides knowledge and information for evidence-based programming, and supports policy formulation and response with the findings of studies carried out and also through sharing of best practices and scenario building. This information is shared to all interested audiences and shall also be available in the website currently under construction.

By documenting and disseminating findings of research findings and best practices, the Partnership has served a critical role of knowledge management and this shall further continue and improve once the web portal is up.

5. Established and Consolidated Partnerships

Through the programme, strategic partnerships have been fostered in recognition of the uniqueness and complementarity that each member/partner organization brings to the platform. These partnerships are critical in setting the pace for peace and conflict management in the country. During the quarter, the Partnership strengthened existing partnerships (with National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management, Uwiano, UNDP, Usalama Reforms Forum, Kenya Action Network on Small Arms; tertiary institutions such as University of Nairobi, United States International University, Kenyatta University, USIU, Strathmore University among other institutions of higher learning); research institutes, and Society for Peace Studies and Practice (SPSP, University of Ibadan). These partnerships bring together the three important arms of peace work-theory/research, practice and policy-with an objective of supporting policy formulation and response with evidence-based knowledge of current trends and challenges in peace, security and conflict, and anticipating future occurrences through scenario building. By enhancing dialogue and collaboration among these interrelated fields, programming and response to issues of conflict will henceforth be evidence-based as opposed to being ad hoc.

An important milestone achieved in this quarter was identifying organizations in various counties that will be focal points for the Partnership at the community level. Going towards 2012 elections and being alive to the various fundamental processes happening in the country, it is important to have presence at the community level for better coordinated information flow (early warning, especially) to catalyze response.

The European Commission has been championing strengthening of networks in the run-up to 2012. This initiative dubbed *Sikika Hasa Campaign* (loosely translated to Be Heard Now Campaign) managed by Poverty Eradication Network (PEN) has been keen on supporting PfPS, which is one of the identified networks, in its role as the CSOs coordinating body towards enhanced national capacities for conflict prevention. This initiative continued through the quarter with various trainings for the member organizations being carried out. These trainings covered such critical areas as conflict prevention and management, and organization development among others.

PfPS also partnered with Life and Peace Institute (LPI), NSC, SaferWorld and Care International in training the media on conflict sensitive journalism. This initiative shall continue in the following year till after the General Elections. The role of media in conflict areas is widely documented and appreciated. The effects of their work can exacerbate or cool off a potentially explosive situation and it's therefore important to build the capacity of the media to report in a conflict sensitive fashion.

IV. CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

During the period under review, the main challenge was delayed disbursement of finances. This is hoped to be overcome in the coming year by having the work plans signed early in advance to allow a seamless transitioning to the next financial period.

Another challenge encountered during the quarter is submission of sub-standard Strategic Plan by the consultants. Despite numerous discussions, an acceptable document has not been submitted and a decisive plan of action is expected to be taken in the early days of the coming quarter.

V. FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION

The financial report for the implementation of these activities is presented separately.

VI. LOOKING AHEAD

The Annual Work Plan focuses on coordinated Civil Society to respond to conflict, joint response mechanism to avoid duplication of initiatives, research and documentation of pertinent issues in peace and conflict in Kenya. In fact, collaboration between civil society and academia will continue in the coming year.

In the coming quarter, the Partnership shall establish new and also foster existing relationships with organizations at the community level in various counties. This creates a coordinated framework of action to create capacity to anticipate and respond to the challenges that may occur in 2012 being a campaign period in the run up to the general election later on in the year.

Details of the planned activities and estimated budgets are contained in the 2012 Half Year Work Plan.