

**NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ON
PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT**

NATIONAL CONFLICT ANALYSIS AND MAPPING

A Research Concept By the Conflict Analysis Group (CAG) of the National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management (NSC);
Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security,
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

For a long time, Kenya has been considered as an island of peace in a region of turmoil. In sharp contrast to what was happening in the neighbouring countries such as Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda and the entire Great Lakes region, Kenya was truly an island of peace, a mediator and arbitrator of conflicts in its neighbourhood and continues to play such important roles especially in Somalia and Sudan.

Apart from sporadic and intermittent conflicts in the north and other arid areas of the country as well as some pockets within peri-urban informal settlements (slums) and gang-like activities (Mungiki in Central Province and the Sabaot land Defence Force in Mt. Elgon), Kenya has been largely peaceful with robust civil society and state agencies playing pivotal role in preventing and managing these pockets of conflicts.

Nevertheless, the pervasive nature of armed conflicts in these pockets of the country has largely inhibited efforts to improve economic capacity and performance and contributed to its underdevelopment.

But despite of this relatively favourable peace index in the region and continent at large, the post election violence of late 2007 and early 2008 was unprecedented both in scale and severity and at the same time confounding not only Kenyans themselves, but global audience as well. This violence that lasted for almost three months left over 1300 people dead with upwards of 500,000 internally displaced. The sad thing is that two years down the line, some people are still living in makeshift IDP camps despite of the concerted efforts of civil society and government to resettle the IDPs and promote national cohesion, healing and peace building programmes.

What confounded many is the fact that the ASALs, areas synonymous with armed violence, remained calm during this mayhem that almost brought the country to a standstill. Perhaps years of investment in peace building initiatives in the ASALs could explain this unexpected, but lauded, turn of events.

All in all, the PEV and armed violence in ASALs is a pointer to the fact that origins of conflicts are manifold and complex, and are rooted in international and national arenas encompassing economic, political, geographical, ecological, cultural and social parameters.

As a result, proactive conflict prevention should be enhanced with the aim to contain and reduce the intensity, the duration and the geographic spill-over of the violence. Conflict analysis will thus provide tools for proactive conflict prevention, which is a more cost-effective way of handling conflicts. After crossing the threshold of violence, the conflict dynamic becomes not only more destructive, but also very costly and difficult to transform. Prevention covers a range of activities also associated with gathering information on impending conflict (“early warning”), aid to relieve the effects of conflict, sanctions, and humanitarian intervention. Early action and conflict prevention reduce the number and scale of armed conflicts by finding solutions at an early stage through observing Early Warning signs, developing agendas for early action, summoning support, implementing particular measures and sustaining collective action thus increasing the chances of reducing suffering and optimizing on the synergies of peace building initiatives.

2.0 PROBLEM STATEMENT

At the continental level, conflicts constitute a major threat to African development in terms of loss of human life, destruction of property, displacement of people, sometimes across international borders, and diversion of resources meant for promoting sustainable development into arms purchase and funding of peace-keeping support operations.

The post-election violence in Kenya, quite similar to other conflicts in the continent, polarised our population by undermining interpersonal and social trust, consequently destroying the social norms, values and institutions that have regulated and coordinated cooperation and collective action for the common good of our country. It has been difficult for Kenya to recover its cohesion after hostilities ceased in the post-conflict situation. No doubt this has come at a huge cost for Kenya, and indeed our neighbouring countries, and we can't afford to go through violent conflict again if we are to promote the development and the wellbeing of our people. It has therefore become imperative that we examine both the indigenous and endogenous issues that contribute to the onset of conflict and its endurance and the peace and conflict resolution processes that can have a lasting impact in regards to promoting preventive and remedial action on the.

As part of this discourse, many peace building actors, including NSC membership, have been asking themselves this question, “Has a national conflict analysis or survey been done in Kenya”? The immediate and informed opinion suggest that peace actors have been doing conflict analysis on known conflict hotspots and

some regions e.g. reports on PEV in Rift Valley by PeaceNet; Isiolo triangle conflict analysis by NSC; analysis of the Mt. Elgon and Mandera conflicts by UNDP/UNOCHA; armed violence in Karamoja cluster by World Vision; Oxfam GB's experience in North Eastern Kenya and many others. Some of the analyses have been focusing on specific issues like Prof. Philip Alston's report on Extra Judicial killings in Kenya, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights PEV analyses and so on.

What is clearly unfolding is that we have piecemeal, regional or issue specific conflict analyses and surveys. Yet as a country and after the PEV, we have embarked on national level reconciliation activities. As a good practice, the foundation for our work should be anchored on an analysis, which also lays out the strategic imperatives that should be addressed. Obviously, such an analysis should start with a literature review to capture the plentiful work that has already been done by many NGOs and government agencies, including distinguished writers on the subject of conflict in Kenya, and then try to fill the gaps through field work.

Some of the existing literature might be old enough to merit revalidation. For instance, a lot of literature on conflict in Northern Kenya amongst the various pastoralists groups infer that competition over access and control of water and pasture is the main cause of conflict in the region. This might still be the case in such areas but emerging scenarios also point to other factors such as political supremacy, commercialization of cattle rustling and disputes over administrative and political boundaries as the issues currently precipitating conflict in ASALs. This is why a revalidation of the existing knowledge needs to be undertaken in addition to generating new and emerging knowledge on conflict in the country.

In order to realise an effective national Early Warning and Response System, there is need for an accurate format for assessment and prediction of behaviours in a larger framework within which conflict resolution is understood and practiced. There is a need therefore to identify and deal with the causes of conflict, generation of scenarios, trends and corresponding prevention, response and management initiatives to prevent further escalation both in terms of scope and severity.

To achieve this accurate prediction of behaviours, it is important to carry out a comprehensive national analysis of conflict trends and processes. Although there are a number of common indicators that can be used, there are a number of specific or unique factors that need to be identified and taken into consideration for each conflict situation. It is on this background that the National Steering

Committee on Peace Building and Conflict Management (NSC) has conceived this idea, which seeks to analyse both manifest and latent conflicts and identify conflict indicators in the different parts of the country.

Such a national conflict analysis could also be used in generating key peace indicators that can go a long way in developing a national peace index and corresponding award system (peace dividends). The index will point to the indicators, with the intention of laying out the strategies to enhancing peace, where it exists, and best workable strategies of resolution where conflict is prevalent. Annually, and preferably during the International Day of Peace, relatively peaceful regions, districts, constituencies, as well as individuals and peace structures who performed extraordinarily for in search of peace would be recognised and awarded. Government and development partners including CSOs could also play a catalytic role of promoting good behaviours by investing in infrastructural developments within communities or areas that were peaceful. A number of organizations including Pact Kenya and UNDP are already supporting various peace dividends projects as one way of promoting peace in society.

3.0 GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Goal: To undertake a national conflict analysis and mapping in order to achieve sustainable peace in Kenya.

Objectives

- a) Identify conflict systems, trends and dynamics in Kenya
- b) Identify political, social, economic, security and environmental indicators of conflict in Kenya
- c) To generate conflict scenarios for the next three to five years and design a mechanism that will, in a timely manner, inform relevant actors on the various preventive and interventionist measures to be taken, particularly in development planning, to avert looming or possible crisis and to consolidate peace in the country.
- d) Identify key stakeholders in conflict prevention including their respective comparative advantages and possible synergies
- e) Evaluate ongoing peace efforts including structures in place (peace architecture), peacebuilding gaps and synergies

4.0 JUSTIFICATION

Conflict analysis provides just a snap-shot of a highly fluid situation. It is therefore important to combine an in-depth analysis with more dynamic and

continuous forms of monitoring to provide up-to-date information from which to measure the interaction between the context and the intervention. Indicators are useful in this respect, as they help reduce a complex reality to a few concrete dimensions and represent valuable pointers to monitor change. The conflict analysis will have looked at the relationship between specific actors, causes/perceptions and profile, in order to gain an understanding of the conflict dynamics. Conflict analysis will generate indicators that will reflect these relationships and how they evolve over time.

The generation of possible conflict scenarios will be vital in generation of appropriate conflict prevention and management response systems. Such a knowledge will also be vital not only in designing new interventions but also in evaluating existing and coming interventions by providing a kind of baseline to measure results.

This analysis will also be important in informing the ongoing national reconciliation and healing initiatives especially the political, social and economic reforms under Agenda 4 of the NARA, the work of TJRC, National Cohesion and Integration Commission amongst others especially as the country moves closer to 2010 General Elections.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

This national conflict analysis and mapping exercise will use both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods for optimum objectivity of the analysis. These will include literature reviews and field visits where personal interviews, focus group discussions and generalized surveys will take place among others.

The specific steps and methods to be used in gathering research will be as follows:

5.1 National Conflict Analysis Conference

It will be imperative to share this concept with stakeholders in a national conference mainly to find out if this is a viable and important activity to be undertaken. The conference, hoping it will support the idea, will; also make amendments and suggest the best methodology and process to be used to undertake the exercise.

5.2 Thematic Approach

The national conflict analysis and mapping exercise will be undertaken on the basis of the key thematic factors of conflict in the country. Under this approach, thematic groups will be formed to focus on the various themes that inform conflict, with each thematic group being the reference group, ensuring that they key thematic issues are identified and analyzed accordingly.

The thematic groups so far identified include political, socio-cultural, security, economic and environmental.

The research tool (questionnaire) to be administered for this purpose will have provision for each of the five key thematic issues to be investigated. Basically, each of the thematic group will be tasked with:

- Identifying the convenor and secretary to the group including NSC Secretariat's focal person. The NSC focal person will be tasked with assisting the convenors in convening meetings, drafting and dispatching invitation letters and other thematic literature and generally keeping the thematic group members abreast of the group's activities and milestones.
- Come up with a guiding timetable for undertaking the exercise indicating dates for key thematic group meetings to review milestones and field surveys if necessary
- Identify and or recruit a consultant/researcher who will take lead in data collection and analysis in as far as the thematic issues are concerned. The researcher/consultant will be the focal person in terms of literature review, data collection, analysis and presentation and will from time to time and especially before proceeding to the next step, report to the reference group that is basically the thematic group.
- The thematic group will collect all the relevant literature/publications on the theme, share it with the researcher/consultant for the purposes of taking into cognizant what has been done and recommending what needs to be done to fill the gaps.
- The reference group will be meeting regularly to review progress and data collected including reaching out to the other thematic reference groups to ensure that the exercise is undertaken in a coordinated manner and optimize synergies.

5.3 Literature Review

This analysis will benefit from a wealth of literature already in the domain of the NSC membership and other organizations. The various thematic groups, researchers/consultants will review all the existing literature and reports on conflicts in Kenya with the view of pointing out conflict zones and indicators

identified by other researchers. This review takes into cognizance the fact that already a number of actors have done quite a lot in analysis and mapping conflicts in the country and that what needs to be done is to either update and or revalidate the existing information and also to fill glaring gaps.

5.4 Reference Group Review workshop

Each thematic group will discuss the findings of the literature review pertaining to their respective themes and most importantly recommend the gaps that need to be filled through field surveys. After all groups have reviewed their literature, a larger reference group comprising of the NSC Conflict Analysis Group (CAG) will review and consolidate all the review by the thematic groups. This Group that will co-opt the Chairpersons of the constituent NSC Sub-Committees and other technical persons from the thematic groups will look at the “bigger” picture in terms of the existing conflict analyses and mapping and validate field surveys aimed at filling the gaps.

Field visits, where necessary, will be undertaken through geographical stratification by partitioning the country into different strata in order to identify specific and thematic conflict indicators for different conflict systems. These divisions will take a cluster approach and run along provincial and sub-regional lines as follows:-

1. North Rift
2. Central Rift
3. South Rift
4. Western
5. Nyanza
6. Nairobi
7. Central
8. Lower Eastern
9. Upper Eastern
10. Coast
11. North Eastern

5.5 Field Surveys

A research team, comprising of the various thematic groups researchers and under the leadership of the lead researcher, will make field visits to the eleven strata/clusters identified above or locations recommended by the reference group in order to come up with perception-based and objective indicators, involve communities and other actors in identifying these indicators.

A team of consultants or personnel seconded by the various organizations working in the said regions' or addressing particular conflict issues will be facilitated to collect field data using a tool that will be developed by the lead consultant and approved by the reference group.

The field survey will utilize a combination of methodologies including key informant interviews, random sampling and focused group discussions to generate the requisite data. At minimum, this field survey will ideally try to answer the following key questions in conflict analysis:

- What are the key conflict issues/indicators?
- What factors or issues can put a break to the conflict (peace agents)?
- What are the possible scenarios if things remain the same (middle case/muddling scenario), change for the better (best case scenario) and worsen (worst case scenario) let's say for the next 3 – 5 years?
- Who are the key actors in the conflict or peace process including their respective agendas, actions and alliances?

5.6 Data analysis

The collected data will be analysed both qualitatively and quantitatively using a variety of methods including statistical methods such as SPSS. A special data base supported e-analysis programme will be used to process, analyse and generate quantitative and qualitative information summarising the conflict trends, dynamics and processes in the country. It is through this programme that analysed information on specific geographical areas of the country will lead to the production of the draft National Conflict Analysis and Mapping report and also a National Peace Index to be shared with stakeholders for further improvement and validation.

5.7 National Stakeholders Conference

A national stakeholder's forum will be convened to share the draft research findings and trigger discussion on how to improve the same.

5.8 Final Presentation of the Report

The research team will make a final presentation of the Comprehensive National Conflict Analysis and Mapping Report to NSC for validation and adoption. A national strategy on CPMR will then be developed based on the findings and recommendations of the Report. Once adopted, both the report and strategy will be published by NSC and disseminated to the various stakeholders.

6.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REPORT

NSC will form a sub-committee that will be tasked to monitor the implementation of the recommendations. This is to ensure that the final product (report) will not just gather dust somewhere but will inform national and regional conflict management and peacebuilding programmes.

6.1 The Research Team will be composed of the following;¹

6.1.1 Lead Researcher (1)

Responsibilities;

- Develop the research/data Collection tools
- Train Regional researchers (individuals seconded to the research team by various organizations or those hired to undertake regional data collection)
- Develop the research programme of Activities
- Provide regular briefs to both the CAG and the main NSC on the progress
- Monitor and supervise the data collection process
- Facilitate the validation workshops
- Review the regional reports
- Develop the final Report

6.1.2 Thematic Groups (5);

Their responsibilities will be;

- Thematic data collection (Both primary and secondary)
- Train research assistants, enumerators and map filed surveys
- Facilitating focused group discussions
- Carrying out in-depth interviews
- Generating the region or theme specific reports
- Briefing the Lead Researcher and the thematic reference group especially at the completion of each milestone

6.1.3 Research Assistants (22, 2 per Region/Cluster)

Personnel, nominated by the various participating organizations and preferably working in the said regions, and responsible for;

¹ With sufficient funding, this research could hire and engage a team of consultants/researchers/field data collections to execute the research. Nevertheless and in the event that participating organizations are willing to second some of their staff to help in the research, the cost of the entire exercise will greatly be scaled down. However and at minimum, this research activity should engage services of a lead researcher who will be tasked with undertaking the initial literature review, design tool for field data collection, train the field data collectors, manage and coordinate the whole research exercise including ensuring quality control of the resultant product.

- Mobilizing for Key Informants Interviews and Focused/Group Discussions
- Administration of questionnaires
- Conduct interviews and focus group discussions
- Advising the Regional and thematic researchers on the prevailing situation in the research area

6.1.4 IT Expert;

His/her responsibilities will be;

- Develop a computer based programme to facilitate analysis of information to be updated on a day to day basis.
- Liaise with the Lead Researcher in ensuring that the Computer programme is responding to the needs of the NSC.
- Monitor the performance of the programme to ensure that it achieves its intended purpose for a specific period of time

7.0 EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- 7.1 A National Conflict Analysis and Mapping Report with actionable recommendations (action research)
- 7.2 Cluster and thematic Specific Conflict indicators and possible scenarios

8.0 PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 The project will be housed within the NSC secretariat with a special Project Coordination team set up to steer the process.
- 8.2 The NSC Coordinator will be in charge of the overall process and responsible for quality assurance and timely delivery of results.
- 8.3 The Coordinator will be assisted by a smaller team of NSC's Conflict Analysis Group (CAG) comprising a representative from NSC Secretariat, National Research Institute (NRI), Arid Lands Resource Management Project (ALRMP), Development Alternative Inc (DAI), Pact Kenya and Oxfam GB. This group will assist the NSC Coordinator in ensuring that the national conflict analysis exercise is undertaken in the most empirical way possible.
- 8.4 The lead consultant will be reporting progress to the NSC coordinator including emerging issues or geographical areas that merits further attention.
- 8.5 At the thematic group level, the thematic researcher/consultant will be reporting progress to the thematic group.

9.0 *Timeline*

This exercise is expected to take at least three months and should ideally be completed before end of May 2010.

10.0 *Research Ethics*

All the researchers/consultants participating in this national exercise should conduct themselves, during the course of the exercise, in a manner sensitive to the various cultures, ethnic groups, religions and world views in the country.

11.0 *Financial Resources*

The successful undertaking of this process will depend upon sufficient funds among other practical considerations. In this regard therefore, funds for this process will be sourced from participating organizations. A realistic budget will thus be developed for resource mobilization.