



NSC/PBCM

National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management (NSC/PBCM) anchored within the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government is a multi-agency that brings together both state and non-state actors in Kenya in its role to facilitate, coordinate, harmonize, monitor and evaluate peacebuilding and conflict management initiatives in the country.

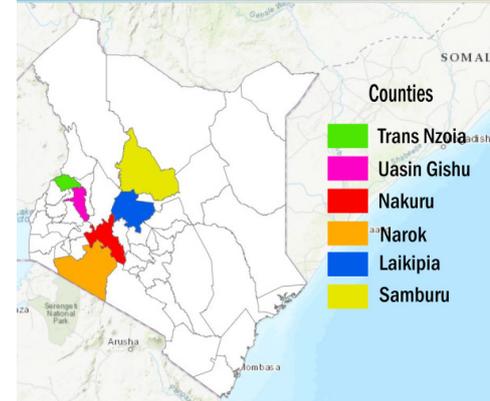
Bruce House, 14th Floor, South Wing
Standard Street
P.O Box 30510 - 00100
Nairobi, Kenya

6

Number of Counties the Forum took place

118

Number of beneficiary Participants at the Forums



DIRECTORATE OF PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

KENYA'S CONFLICT EARLY WARNING AND RESPONSE UNIT FOR IGAD-CEWARN

CAPACITY BUILDING FORUMS FOR PEACE COMMITTEES

September - October
2020

Capacity Building and Training Sub-Committee is one of the joint sub-committees at NSC

Introduction

Conflict prevention is a major focus of peacebuilding and conflict management frameworks in Kenya. The establishment and implementation of effective prevention mechanisms such as local peace committees, a grassroot-based, community-driven and owned structure has enabled the empowering of communities in dealing and mitigation of conflicts. The huge challenge with partners in the peace and security sector has been early prevention and resolution and the quickness of the rapid response mechanisms to conflicts.

Each County in Kenya is riddled with various conflict trends and dynamics, both in geographical spread and intensity. Nakuru, Uasin Gishu, Narok, Trans-Nzoia, Laikipia and Samburu Counties have unique experiences and challenges as manifested in the potential and real conflicts.

The proposed forums for Peace Committees comes at a time when the Country is facing various unique peace and security challenges in various Counties. The impact of Covid-19 has also adversely affected the peace and conflict situation in most parts of the country especially at the county levels due to unanticipated shocks. This has been exacerbated by the high risk of entrenched poverty levels due to the loss of economic, social and political assets.

NSC in partnership and support of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Civil Peace Service, embarked on capacity building forums in the select counties to boost and strengthen peace and security architecture in Kenya as the country heads into the Electioneering period.

Envisioned Outcomes

1. Strengthen the capacity of the peace committee members to respond to conflict issues.
2. Improve and strengthen coordination among the peace and security stakeholders.
3. Enhance Peace Committees capacity on Early Warning and Early Response (EWER), conflict transformation and community dialogue.
4. Reconstitution of Peace Committees at grassroot level and promote ownership and efficiencies in decision making in matters peace and security
5. Modalities for effective engagement with the National and County Governments and other stakeholders in the peace and security sector.



www.nscapeace.go.ke

nsccsecretariat@nscapeace.go.ke

[@NSCpeace](https://twitter.com/NSCpeace)



Trans-Nzoia

Forum Findings

On the State of Peace and Security Coordination in the County:

1. Delay in the passing of the National Peace Policy bill into law by the National Assembly creates a vacuum in the peace structures.
2. Efforts are underway to engage with Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) to strategize on how best it can play an enhanced role in peace building and conflict management across the county.
3. Sustained community dialogue was highlighted as one of the most effective ways used to end conflicts.
4. There is misinterpretation of roles and responsibilities between peace committees and community policing in matters peace.
5. Need to revisit the Mabanga Peace Accord were raised to reflect the current dynamics as times have changed since the last agreement.
6. Implementation of the 2/3 gender rule in the peace committees and engagement of women in leadership roles has delayed.



Arturkan Hotel - KITALE



Observation

Gender issues emerged to be a critical component for mediation with the need to in cooperate women in mediation processes at the local level. Also noted was that lack of information sharing was attributed to low level of women engagement in early warning and response at the local level. This was confirmed by the low number of women in the peace committee structures.

What Next?

Capacity build and train peace committees on resource mobilization and access to Rapid Respond Funds (RRF).

Reconstitution of peace committee at the Ward/village, Division, Location and Sub-counties levels.

Lessons learnt

- 01 Need for continuous trainings and downscaling it to division, location and sub location level.
- 02 Facilitation of peace committees to enable them to effectively carry out their mandate i.e. direct channeling of funds to peace committees for better and faster rapid response to conflicts.
- 03 More engagement with the youths on stress management and capital/business management.
- 04 Increased efforts should be channeled to address land conflicts between land owners and squatters.
- 05 The legal framework for alternative justice systems needs to be rolled out and mainstreamed at national and county level. This mechanism will assist in solving the many land disputes and perceived historical land injustices.



Top Right: Trans Nzoia County Commissioner Mr. Samson O. Ojwang together with county security team at the training.

Top and Bottom Left: Trans-Nzoia County peace committee members at the training



Forum Findings

On the State of Peace and Security Coordination in the County:

1. Land and boundaries conflict related issues together with heightened political tensions were on the rise in many parts of the county.
2. Political goodwill from the county's political elite has also gone a long way in changing the resident communities' mindset on how to resolve conflicts.
3. Incitement and hate speech from some political leaders still hampering peace building efforts in the county.
4. Continuous trainings and capacity building for Peace Committees, needs to be downscaled to division, location and sub location level.
5. Interventions from peace committees and religious leaders have helped to maintain the prevailing peaceful coexistence in the county.

Uasin-Gishu



Nobel Hotel - ELDORET

Observation

Gender misrepresentation: Limited women representation - a situation attributed to lack of women representatives in the chairman and vice chair position.

What Next?

Capacity build peace committees on resource mobilization and reporting for Rapid Respond Funds (RRF).

Peace committee reconstitution at the Ward/village, Division, Location and Sub-counties level.



Lessons learnt

- 01 Adherence of the Standard guidelines and Terms of Reference is crucial when reconstituting peace committees.
- 02 The mediation guidelines provided a criterion for identifying and capacitating the participants with skills and knowledge on undertaking mediation efforts at local level. This was critical in the management of local level issues that are likely to escalate into conflict scenarios.
- 03 Continuous undertaking of peacebuilding and conflict management activities by various peace stakeholders have helped maintain a peaceful coexistence in the county.
- 04 Enhanced working relationships between peace committees and county administrators and security personnel in ensuring criminal activities do not compromise the peace status.



Top Left: Uasin Gishu County Commissioner Mr. Steven Kihara addressing peace committee members.



Top and Bottom Right: Uasin Gishu peace committee members at the training

Nakuru

Forum Findings

On the State of Peace and Security Coordination in the County:

1. Procedural reconstitution changes of peace committees leadership should be all inclusive to avoid any disunity and confusion.
2. The training helped the sensitization of gender mainstreaming of peace committees and the participation and engagement of women in and leadership roles.
3. Inadequate feedback mechanisms between the community and peace committees to initiate meaningful response to conflicts.
4. Need for strategic actor mapping to enhance collaborative partnership and resource mobilization for sustained funding of activities.
5. The county experiences a wide range of historical conflicts ranging from land, resource allocation, presence of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) of 2007 and those between Farmers and Herders.



Observation

The peace committees agreed that they need to engage youths in activities and trainings like peacebuilding and entrepreneurship as they make up a large population within the county. Such activities include sports and environmental programs.

What Next?

Election and reconstitution of peace committees at the sub-county and location level.

Introduction of peace committees to all NGAOs at the county level.



Top Right: Nakuru County Commissioner Mr. Erastus Mbuyi at the training



Top and Bottom Left: Nakuru County peace committee members following deliberations at the training

Lessons learnt

- 01 Funding of peace committees should be done directly to them to enable quick response and how the funds should be utilization.
- 02 There is need for continuous trainings and dialogue forums on peacebuilding for peace committees and the community done at the village level.
- 03 More engagement with county administrators whereby they should have a peace committee member present decision making on matters peace.
- 04 As a metropolitan county with diverse communities and cultures, Nakuru has seen the rise of negative ethnicity which especially due to increase in political temperatures.



Narok

Forum Findings

On the State of Peace and Security Coordination in the County:

1. The peace committees had issues of no valid identification gadgets for members i.e., ID Badges, Peace Identity Jackets and reflector jackets .
2. Rising incidences of early/teen pregnancies and the emergence of female genital mutilation(FGM) reported cases are a big concern.
3. Gender Issues/Inequality. It was noted that the women felt they had been left behind in decision making and their opinions do not matter.
4. Neglect and non-recognition of Peace Committee members by the county government.
5. Rising cases of land sales to persons unknown by the community. It was also noted that incidences of land grabbing was on the increase.



Observation

Narok county peace committee office has been fully operational recently engaged in the disarmament of warring groups.

Most of the participants were not aware of the containment measures put in place by the ministry of health regarding Covid-19 prevention.

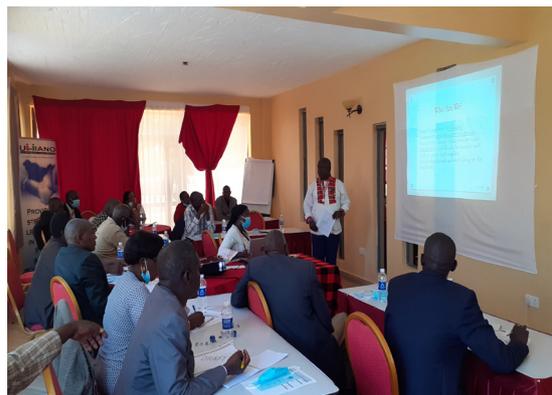
What Next?

Election and reconstitution of peace committees at the sub-county and location levels.



Lessons learnt

- 01 Peace committees need to undergo paralegal training to better of their roles and understanding in their mandate in relationship to the law.
- 02 Long serving members to seek state recommendation through NSC as recognition for their work.
- 03 Need for incentives and community enriching programs to motivate the youths.
- 04 Youth engagement in decision making is critical to the welfare of the future generation.
- 05 There is need for transparency by the national government in the handling and management of land sales in the county to prevent land theft.



Top Right: Narok County Commissioner Mr. Evans Achoki engaging the peace committee members



Top and Bottom Left: Narok County peace committee members following deliberations at the training

Laikipia

Forum Findings

On the State of Peace and Security Coordination in the County:

1. Peace Committees feel neglected by both the national and county governments and not consulted on peace activities.
2. Strained/Poor working relationships amongst the community peace and security structures (Nyumba Kumi, Community Policing and Peace Committees) and NGAOs (chiefs and assistant chiefs).
3. Non-facilitation of peace committee members through funds in undertaking of peacebuilding and conflict management activities.
4. Inability to enforce peace accords and/or alternative dispute resolutions previously agreed upon thereby zero progress being archived in the disputes mediation.
5. Poor/weak follow-up mechanisms on peacebuilding and conflict management activities.



Sportsman's Arms Hotel - NANYUKI



Observation

Participants dot to interact with the County Governor and County Commissioner present on how they may work and partner in future activities for peace prosperity

Way on how to actively engage with girls and women and give them more prominent seats in decision making in community activities was discussed

What Next?

Reconstitution of Sub-County peace committees

Continued community dialogue and discussions

Engament with local politicians on the National Peace Policy



Left: Laikipia County Peace Committee Members during the forum.

Bottom: From Left, Hon. Elias P. Mbau of NEPAD, Laikipia County Governor H.E. Ndiritu Muriithi, Secretary Peacebuilding and Disaster Response Mr. Peter Thuku and Laikipia County Commissioner Mr. Daniel Nyameti



Lessons learnt

- 01 Most peace committee members have forgotten their roles and responsibilities as per their terms of reference.
- 02 Peace committee members require regular capacity building programmes to keep them motivated as their work is voluntary.
- 03 Peace committee members require badges and identification to enable them conduct their work more productively.
- 04 It was also noted that peace committees were not engaged during awareness programs on the mitigation of COVID-19 pandemic by most government entities, private agencies and institutions.
- 05 The national government should embark on a disarmament exercise to stop the emergence of small arms.

Samburu

Forum Findings

On the State of Peace and Security Coordination in the County:

1. Confusion in roles and responsibilities between Peace Committees and Community Policing/Nyumba Kumi initiatives.
2. Rise in reported incidences of political incitement.
3. Mistrust between the community and security organs in the county.
4. Peace Committees face the challenge of inadequate funds. This leads to Non-facilitation of peace committee members in undertaking of peacebuilding and conflict management activities.
5. Corruption in the selection and allocation process of vulnerable persons supposed to benefit from government COVID-19 cash transfer programs leading to conflicts as some felt cheated out.



Observation

Most peace committee members have forgotten their roles and responsibilities as per their terms of reference in the Standard Guidelines and Terms of Reference for Peace Structures in Kenya

Whats next?

Reconstitution and election of peace committees at the sub-county and location levels.

Peace committees' members to be present and vocal in the local Chiefs Barazas/meetings on matters peace



Lessons learnt

- 01 Members noted the need for them to band together and always be in communication to encourage each other.
- 02 Through the training, members were encouraged to engage with local politicians to ensure the Peacebuilding and Conflict Management policy is passed in the National Assembly and County Assembly governments for adoption .
- 03 Need for consultative forums with leaders of the inter-generational morans together with elders and security teams to address the emerging trend of in-house cattle rustling/banditry activities amongst the Samburu community.
- 04 Youth empowerment programs on alternative sources of income and the provision of peace dividends is vital for the status of peace.



Top: Samburu Central Deputy County Commissioner Mr. John Otieno with NSC/PBCM Programme Manager Ms. Milka Chepkirui

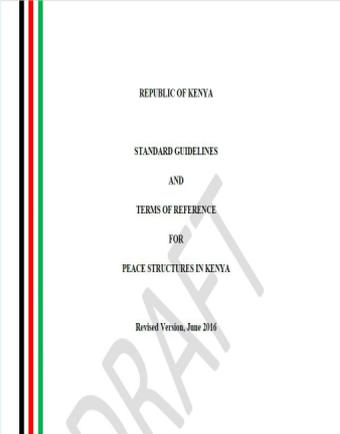


Top and Bottom Right: Samburu County Peace Committee members during the deliberations

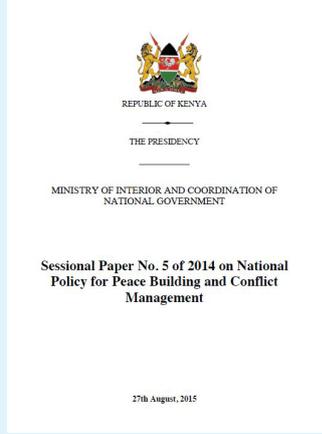


Materials Distributed

1. Standard Guidelines and Terms of References for Peace Structures in Kenya



2. Sessional Paper No. 5 of 2014 on National Policy for Peace Building and Conflict Management



3. Guidelines for Mediators and Mediation



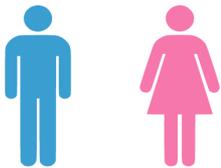
Peace Committees

Peace Committee is an all-inclusive voluntary committee with membership comprising of community elders, representatives of youth and women organizations, faith based organizations, civil society, private sector organizations, trade unions, and representatives of county governments with national government administrative officers acting as patrons.

The model framework was inspired by traditional dispute resolution mechanisms, such as the Alfatah Council of Elders in Wajir. Peace Committee are established at various levels from county, sub-county, ward and village level (or adakar/Manyatta)

Peace Committees act on defined guidelines which serve as their operational guide when they conduct their activities.

Participants Breakdown



Male - 90

Female - 28

Youth - 19

12 Days of Training
96 Hours of Training

Each County had 2 days comprising of 8 hours per day

Methodology Used

Panel discussions/Seminar
Group discussions
Plenary



Adherence to COVID-19 Regulations.

During the capacity building forums for peace committees, participants were able to adhere to the Covid-19 protocols given by the Ministry of Health. This was achieved through the procurement of a large hall which allowed the 1.5 m rule on social distancing to be achieved, provision of masks and hand sanitizers on a regular basis and the regular temperature checks of the participants.

The Capacity Building Forums were done in partnership and with the financial assistance of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Civil Peace Service. This document details does not necessarily reflect their views.



german cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

zfd Ziviler Friedensdienst
Civil Peace Service
We don't shy away from conflict.



National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management

EDITORIAL TEAM: Marlin Kirubi; Veronicah Jepkemboi; Winnie Wairegi