

NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ON PEACE BUILDING AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

ISIOLO DISTRICT PEACE COMMITTEE INDUCTION AND TRAINING

04TH – 05TH NOVEMBER 2009

SPORTSMAN'S ARMS HOTEL, NANYUKI

Compiled by:

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Opening Remarks – District Commissioner, Isiolo

In his opening remarks, the District Commissioner (DC) thanked the participants for taking time to come for the workshop as well as the organizers for availing the resources. He stressed on the importance of learning not only for the self but also to teach the communities they were representing. There is a lot of expectation from the community on the DPC members regarding peace building in Isiolo. Touching on some expressed negative feelings on the co-opted DPC members, the DC stressed that it is his mandate as per the NSC guidelines to co-opt members in consultation with the district security group. In this they looked at factors such as gender, faith, minority groups as well as the work that people had done in the district. The DC noted that invitation to meetings does not warrant an extension of the same to others who were not initially included in the invitation list. He stressed that if the DPC will be able to work with the police, other DPCs Arid lands and other stakeholders, then issues in the district such as cattle theft, resource conflict etc will be tackled.

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Also included in the DC's remarks was the need for effective and transparent use and accountability of resources received by the DPCs. He stated that some money for the DPC has been received in the past quarter and that the NSC has also allocated some resources to help in the running of the DPC office. He urged the members to liaise with ALRMP so that they benefit from other available resources such as trainings and capacity building programs. With these few remarks, the DC declared the workshop open.

INTRODUCTION

This workshop was organized by the National Steering Committee on Peace Building and Conflict Management (NSC), Pact Kenya, ALRMP and UNDP as part of a follow-up process to the Isiolo Triangle Consultative Peace Forum in September 2009. It was supported by Pact Kenya under the Kenya Civil Society Strengthening Program (KCSSP) and facilitated by NSC, Pact Kenya, ALRMP and Saferworld.

In light of the recent spates of armed violence witnessed in Isiolo - with the recent killing of a 22 year-old man - there has occurred the need to effectively deal with the peace building challenges in the district. Consequently, the NSC has given Isiolo district special attention with the organization of the above peace forum, rapid response meeting in October 2009.

The district has also recently elected a new peace committee to deal with conflict and peace issues locally. Consequently, there arose the need induct the new DPC into the NSC structure and processes as well as equip them with basic conflict management and peace building skills. This was the basis for the induction and training workshop for the Isiolo DPC. It achieved the following objectives;

- Instructed the DPC members on the NSC structure and guidelines for DPC
- Conducted a skills assessment of the DPC
- Introduction to conflict EWER and the Rapid Response Framework
- Conflict analysis and mapping
- Examination of the DPC engagement with other stakeholders

- Development of the district action plan

The workshop began with a self-introduction process, as well as outlining of workshop rules to guide interaction, as part of climate setting. Participants were taken through the program in which the first day involved an induction to the DPC guidelines as well as general conflict analysis and peace building concepts.

WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS AND OUTPUTS

Skills Assessment

The workshop began with a skills assessment of individual and DPC capacities. Although the instituted DPC is still new, it is recognized that some of the members and the DPC itself possess different abilities that could benefit the process of peace building in the district. It is hence imperative to assess the local so as to build on what is available in addition to filling the gaps that exist thereof. The assessment came up with the following:

Individual Peace Building skills

- Good communication – there is good interaction skills, advocacy, team work and community mobilization,
- Security intelligence – with the presence of ex-security personnel, the DPC is equipped with people who have the ability to advice on the cattle theft routes as well as carry out investigations.
- Leadership qualities – a number of the members expressed their ability to lead and bring people together and well as plan for activities
- Conflict management – though not many, a number of the members expressed confidence in having conflict analysis and problem solving skills.
- Peace building – the majority of the DPC members expressed ability to engage in negotiation processes, community peace building, facilitation skills, engagement of different level of the community (elders, youth and women); mobilization of women for peace building activities.
- Conflict early warning – although an important aspect, only one person has been trained on early warning and response

Strengths of the DPC

The participants expressed satisfaction with the election process for the DPC members and the overall feeling was that it represented all sectors and communities in Isiolo district. Other DPC strengths are;

- Multi-ethnicity - All the ethnic groups in Isiolo have been included in the DPC. This is also in two-fold as it could easily be a dividing factor in the DPC.
- Some members have been involved in peace building for a number of years
- There is faith and trust between the committee members
- Proper representation of the sections and divisions of the community; 'it is the face of Isiolo'

- There is commitment from the members to change and boost peace building in Isiolo
- Leadership – the chair of the DPC is considered neutral and is hoped will be impartial

Weaknesses/threats of the DPC

Broadly challenges/threats for the DPC's work are ethnicity, political interference, lack of financial resources negative cultural practices, insufficient skills amongst communities and a tendency to perpetrate and rely on rumors. Others were;

- Gender imbalance in the DPC and wholly in the peace building process – in the election, only one woman was elected to the DPC, and hence the DSG co-opted a few more to ensure the inclusion of women in peace work. The question that remains to be answered is how best to engender the peace processes not only in Isiolo but nationally.
- Probability of having work plans but no human or financial means to implement it. Although the NSC guidelines outline peace work as being voluntary, this inadvertently, poses the challenge of lack of committed personnel to oversee the implementation of activities.
- Negative individual conduct of the members – the tendency to enhance propaganda is a challenge not only within the DPC but also in the community especially regarding conflict incidents. For example a truck was attacked along Gambella road where four people died but it was reported that six people lost their lives.
- No code of conduct between the DPC members to guide how they work and interact together.

Guidelines for Peace Structures

The new Standard Guidelines and Terms of Reference for Peace Structures in Kenya, revised in June 2009, was presented to the participants. The key areas highlighted were the structure of peace work in nationally from the NSC down to the village peace committee level. Key DPC issues addressed by the guidelines are the terms of reference (ToR) for formation of DPCs, its governance and leadership structures e.g. selection criteria, constitution, composition, membership, incentives, tenure of office, termination of membership and decision-making.

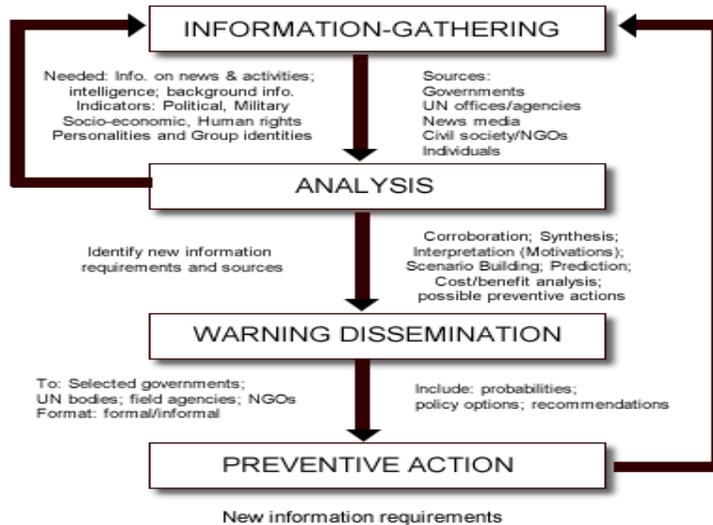
Clarifications on the guidelines

- *To what extent is the DPC covered and recognized by the law?* – Although the draft has been approved by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Internal Security and the attorney general. It is at the cabinet level before it is taken to parliament to be passed to law. For the NSC structure, it has been formed by the Office of the President and hence all its constituent structures are covered under the law.
- *Do politicians have the authority to disband DPCs* – there have been cases where the politicians with political clout have disbanded DPCs. This is wrong since such authority rests with the NSC. However, in cases where there is infighting or abuse of the DPC office, the DC in consultation with the NSC can dissolve the DPC and recommend counteractive measures.

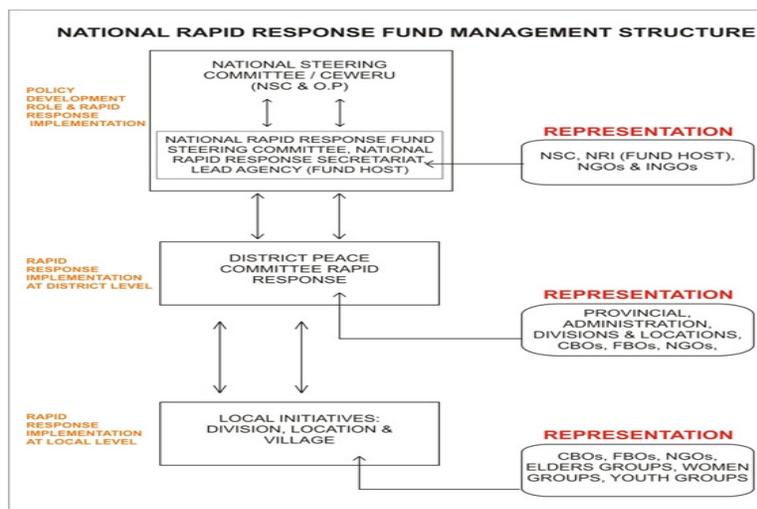
EARLY WARNING AND RESPONSE (EWER)

“The systematic collection and analysis of information coming from areas of crisis so as to anticipate the escalation of violent conflict; collect information using specific indicators; analyze information i.e. attach meaning to indicators, set it into context, recognize crisis development; formulate best and worst-case scenarios and response options; communicate to policy-makers for decision-making and action. Early Response occurs at the following levels respectively – (1) information, (2) verification, (3) planning / scenario development and (4) response (by DPC members, DPC/DC/DSG, RRF and CEWARN).

The steps for EWER were discussed as presented in the diagram below:



Participants were also taken through the developed National Rapid Response framework and discussion revolved on how the fund is managed and its access by the DPCs. The structure is presented below:



Clarifications on RRF

- How long does the process take? – the maximum time is 48 hours for the NRF to approve the requested funds
- Role of DPC in managing RRF - the money is not yet at the district level. However when this is actualized, then the DPC will have a significant role in how the fund is used.
- Can the DPCs source for and receive other funding for rapid response apart from RRF? – it is okay to receive other funding as long as other stakeholders are informed such as DC, NSC for transparency purposes.

INTRODUCTUION TO CONFLICT AND CONFLICT ANALYSIS

Drawing reference to the NSC training manual, a participatory session was conducted, that leveled the participants understandings of what conflict is, discussing whether all conflict is bad and agreeing that conflict is part of human relationships, thus the challenge of peace building lies in learning how to manage conflict and eradicating violence in the scenario that occurs following the incompatibility of goals.

Participants were taken through the inherency and contingency theories of conflict, and the implications for each theory. It was discussed and agreed that for effective conflict management, it is important to understand the theory that drives each intervention.

Participants also discussed structural and violent conflict, and the various mechanisms that exist for the management of the two types of conflict. There was a lengthy discussion about negotiation, mediation and problem solving, and the skills required for each of these interventions.

Having had an introduction to the theories that underpin conflict management, participants discussed practical ways in which the peace committee would undertake its conflict management work, including understanding the local context, the actors to specific conflict, their interests and degree of influence. This session connected easily to the next session on context analysis.

Conflict Analysis

Is a continuous practical process of examination and understanding of the reality of conflict from a variety of perspectives. Conducting a conflict analysis process is important to (1) to understand the background & history of the situation, (2) to identify all the relevant groups not just the obvious, (3) to understand the perspectives of all these groups and know how they relate to each other, (4) to identify factors & trends that underpin conflicts

The tools for conflict analysis are timelines; conflict Mapping; conflict Tree; the ABC (Attitude, Behavior, Context) Triangle; and the Onion (or Doughnut). The tools can be used interchangeably and choice is based on the context of conflict. Two types were discussed in light of Isiolo district.

(a) The Conflict Tree

The three key aspects to uncover are the core problem, the root causes and the effects that have resulted from this problem. A district conflict analysis exercise by the group yielded the following as presented in the diagram below;



Figure 1: Isiolo Conflict Tree

(b) Conflict Mapping

Conflict mapping is a technique used to represent a conflict graphically, placing the parties in relation both to the problem and to each other. When people with different viewpoints map their situation together, they learn about each others' experiences and perceptions.

Mapping a conflict entails (1) bringing out clearly the relationships between parties; (2) clarifying where the power lies; (3) seeing where the allies or potential allies lie; (4) identifying openings for intervention or action and (5) mapping issues between parties in a conflict.

WORKING WITH OTHERS AND BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Given the central role that the DPC occupies as well as its subsequent crucial mandate of enhancing and achieving peace, the importance of engaging with other stakeholders at the district and national level was discussed. The table below shows the relationship between different stakeholders and the DPC as well as the expectations of both thereof.

	DPC Expectations of Other Stakeholders	Stakeholder expectations of DPC
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -participatory participation in peace issues -cooperation in activities -Provision of correct information -mutual trust -contributions (in-kind or otherwise) -appreciation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -transparency -Efficiency -accountability -delivery of outlined goals and objectives -education on peace issues
Government -Provincial Adm, -ALRMP,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -cooperation in EWER facilitation – resources, security, skills, logistics -guidance -appreciation and recognition -Good public relations with the local administration e.g. D.C., D.O., Chiefs -good governance -rapid response to emergencies monitoring and evaluation of peace work in the district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -develop a communication strategy -develop conflict resolution strategy for use amongst members -correct & timely information -commitment to the work -transparency in use and dissemination of received funds -impartiality in dealing with disputes -unity among the members at all times
Local CBOs & FBOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Facilitation – trainings, logistics, research and data collection -commitment and cooperation in activities at district level -networking and coordination amongst themselves and the DPC -information sharing and openness in terms of activities they are undertaken -transparency in their use of funds -impartiality especially in dispute resolution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -accountable on resources received -transparency on resource use -cooperation in peace activities -delivery of good results
National NGOs & other agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -facilitation - trainings, logistics, research and data collection -networking -guidance and mentoring -rapid response to emergencies -monitoring and evaluation of peace work in the district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -impartiality in dissemination of funds and activity implementation -accountability on funds -honesty and transparency -delivery of results -commitment to enhancing peace in the district -credible and timely information
Devolved Public funds -CDF -LATF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -committed to peace in the district -impartiality -transparency in dissemination and use of funds -livelihood support programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -impartiality in carrying our peace activities -transparency

WAY FORWARD

Isiolo DPC Action Plan

From the Nanyuki Consultative forum in September, representatives from Isiolo district outlined the following activities to be carried out;

1. Organize meetings to campaign against small arms
2. Organize multi-ethnic peace forums to promote peaceful co-existence
3. Strengthened DPC through provision of equipments and personnel
4. Create awareness on conservancies and community involvement.
5. Speed up formulation of NRCM and ethnic relations draft policy
6. Reduce cattle raids through - review of Modogashe declaration; early warning; regular stakeholder forums

The action planning session therefore was based on the earlier outlined activities, whose outcome was the following;

WHERE	WHAT	HOW	WHEN	LEAD PERSON/ORG	SUPPORT BY
Isiolo Town	-Workshop for DPC consensus -trust building -operations of DPC -code of conduct -developing of DPC ToRs	Workshop	December 2009	DPC Chairman	Saferworld
Isiolo Town	-intra-community meetings	-10 elders per community identified by residents and not politicians or government administrators	CJPC to liaise with	-Borana – DPC Chair -Turkana – Gabriel -somali – M. Mohamed -Meru – Mwendwa -Samburu - albert	CJPC
Isiolo Town	-Inter-community meetings from the above	Bringing together the above groups and elders – Samburu, Meru, Somali, Turkana, Borana facilitated by NSC	Report to NSC on progress by Nov. 30th	Coordinated by DPC Chair	CJPC
Dhaba Mulango; Burat; Ngaremara; Gambela /Afir; Isiolo Township	DPC chair to meet D.C supported by ALRMP				ALRMP
Dhaba Mulango; Burat; Ngaremara; Gambela /Afir; Isiolo Township	To enhance visibility of committee capacity to build capacity / enhance unity				Pact Kenya

Flagged Issues

From the discussions, the following issues were flagged for future attention.

- Need for in-depth training on early warning – in the skills assessment, only one person in the committee has been through an EWER trainings, and although this was covered briefly in the training, the context of Isiolo required a deeper understanding of the concept.
- Code of Conduct for DPCs – currently, there is no guidance for the interaction between the DPC members. Possibilities developing such guidelines should be explored and likely included in the NSC guidelines.
- Simplification of RRF guidelines – given that the RRF will be disseminated for use at the local level (district, division, village), the participants expressed the need to be further exposed to the concept and its guiding principles. It is hence important that the guidelines outlined in the concept paper be simplified and disseminated not only Isiolo, but other DPCs as well.
- Exchange visits – since the Isiolo DPC is still new, exchange visits could be organized with their experienced counterparts to promote learning and lessons sharing.

Closing

In closing, the order to enhance the work of the DPC, the following handouts will be sent to the chair for use in carrying our peace building activities.

1. Guidelines for DPC engagement
2. Workshop presentations
3. Training manual – one per division
