

Nakuru County Report

Rapid assesement on the Status of Peace and Conflict Architecture – The sub County Approach



Gilgil Sub-County Peace Committees

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Table of Contents

1.0 Background and Context	2
1.2 Methodology and Scope of the Study	2
2.0 Key Findings.....	3
2.1 Potential for Politically instigated ethnic clashes- BBI Question	3
2.2 Prevalent of Drugs, alcoholism and Substance Abuse	3
2.3 The risk of Social Media in Amplifying inter communal relation.....	4
3.0 Capacity Gaps –Challenges for an effective CEWER.	4
4.0 Recommendation	5

1.0 Background and Context

This report highlights the assessment findings of the recently concluded rapid scan on the status of the Nakuru Peace and Security Architecture, conducted by the National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management. The rapid assessment was aimed at establishing the effectiveness and status of the institutional and structural framework for the National Early Warning Early Response, as defined and characterized by the already established Local level Peace Committees structures. In retrospect, the local peace committees refers to grassroots structures that have been in existence since 2002 that form the National Early Warning and Early Response in Kenya-CEWERN.

The operationalization of the CEWERN was presided by the placement of the NSC secretariat in the Office of the President, under the ministry of Provincial Administration and Internal Security in 2002. With its main mandated being to coordinate all peace related activities in Kenya, the NSC secretariat doubled up as Kenya's Conflict Early Warning and Response Unit. As such the NSC's with the support from the UNDP-Kenya have been at the center of establishing and institutionalizing the local level peace committee. This has been achieved through the capacity enhancement of local level peace structures in promoting their functional and effective role as National Conflict Early Warning and Early Response system (NCEWERS). In particular, government and other stakeholders have utilized these structures in monitoring violence risks to inform timely response actions, through the continuous enhancement of NCEWERS.

The Assessment of the Local Peace Structures in Nakuru County was informed by the following objectives;

- a) To establish a brief overview of Peace and Security situation at the Sub-county levels.
- b) To examine and understand the conflict patterns and actors dynamics at the Sub-County levels
- c) To evaluate the effectiveness of the local peace committees in light of the changing conflict patterns and dynamics.
- d) To establish capacity gaps for the local peace committees to enhance the EWER at the Sub county levels.
- e) To map out rapid action points and recommendations to inform programming on conflict prevention at the Sub county levels.

Therefore, this report presents the assessment findings of rapid Peace Architecture on the status of Local Peace Structures Committees and their effectiveness as CEWERN in Nakuru County.

1.2 Methodology and Scope of the Study

The Assessment applied targeted group discussions with members of the local peace committees at the Sub –County levels. This entailed a participatory grass root approach that engaged all the sub county peace committees' members in their respective areas. A total of ...sub county meetings were held in accordance

with the ministry of health guidelines with the facilitation from the team from the NSC. In this regard the scope of the assessment was defined inline with the objective four main objectives towards establishing the context and nature of the EWER at the sub county levels. The mission team facilitated targeted discussions at the sub county headquarters with the following peace committees during the assessment;

- 1) *Gilgil Sub county Peace Committees*
- 2) *Naivasha Sub county Peace Committee*
- 3) *Subukia Sub county Peace Committees*
- 4) *Naivasha North Sub county Peace Committees*
- 5) *Rongai Sub County Peace Committees*
- 6) *Nakuru East Sub county Peace Committees*
- 7) *Nakuru West Sub county Peace Committees*
- 8) *Kuresoi South Sub county Peace Committees*
- 9) *Kuresoi North Sub county Peace Committees*
- 10) *Molo Sub county Peace Committees*
- 11) *Njoro Sub county Peace Committees*

2.0 Key Findings

The assessment findings are informed by the sub county peace committee's discussions on peace and conflict issues and the status and effectiveness of local peace structures. Consequently, the following cross cutting issues were highlighted to prevalent risk factors inline with peace and conflict question and on the challenges faced for effective operationalization of local peace structures efforts towards sustaining peace.

2.1 Potential for Politically instigated ethnic clashes- BBI Question

This assessment established that the likelihood for inter communal clashes in some sub counties was very high due to the current political situation in the country. The areas and divisions previously earmarked as hotspot zones were reported to be experiencing some tensions among the communities. For example, peace committees in Kuresoi, Molo ,Rongai and Nakuru West Sub counties expressed concerns over the simmering tensions among the different communities. The BBI-Politics and its impacts on grassroots political realignment were noted to be causing ethnic suspicion and tensions in largely heterogeneous areas. Compounded with other structural issues and long-term grievances in the hotspots areas of the county, the risk of exploiting political differences to instigated clashes in some parts was noted to be a concern. For instance, land issues at Oljoro and border disputes in Molo, Njoro and Kuresoi is a case in point.

2.2 Prevalent of Drugs, alcoholism and Substance Abuse

The prevalent of substance abuse in many urban sub counties especially among the youths was noted to be an early warning indicator for their vulnerability to

political mobilization and involvement in organized crimes. According to most of local peace committees, there has been a drastic rise in the use of drugs and alcoholic cases in many sub counties, a situation that is dare among the youth and has been interpreted as due to their desperation and poverty for lack of employment. Further, the upsurge of drugs and alcoholism in most sub counties was attributed a number of political and non-political factors including actors benefiting from the lucrative trade. Poor enforcement of the regulatory framework couple with numerous interests was noted to be compounding the efforts towards addressing the drugs and alcolism issues in most affected sub counties. The huge number of youths hooked on drugs and substance abuse in the county was said be a potential direct threat to peace due to their ease in political mobilization through elite manipulation.

2.3 The risk of Social Media in Amplifying inter communal relation

The availability and easy access in the use of social media platforms, coupled with the rampart cases of misuse in the form of hate speech was noted to be a potential threat to peace in the county. Of concern, it was noted that the social media platforms had became the new frontline for ethnic and political mobilization with political elites and interest groups capitalizing on social platforms to achieve the agenda. At the local levels, it was established that the community and ethnic based platforms had provided and ideal setup for discussions and agitation for community interests. The prevalent of communities, ethnic based social media platforms that are beyond any formal regulations to monitor and check the misuse¹. For instance, the utilization of What's App, Facebook and twitter platforms as a medium for political engagement-tribal and communal-remains a potential trigger factor due to the ease of mobilization². In addition, it was also established that the local media stations and other actors had inadequate skill especially on conflict sensitive reporting. The inadequacy and lack of capacity by numerous actors engaging in social platforms called for the need to initiate programs that will build their capacities at all levels.

3.0 Capacity Gaps –Challenges for an effective CEWER.

This assessment established a number of capacity gaps that largely informed some challenges affecting the effectiveness of the local peace committees.

Among the challenges include;

- 1) The lack of adequate training on conflict prevention techniques especial on Early Warning and Early response, since the conflict issues have continued to change.
- 2) Poor facilitation that have resulted into slow and ineffective response by the local peace committees during conflict situations, especially on

- a) Lack of transport, they cant afford to travel from one point to the other.
 - b) Office Space – only a few local peace committees have been provided with an office space sub
 - c) Lack of Airtime – the cost of communication is high to maintain especially among the Local peace committees who operate on voluntary basis
 - d) Lack of accreditation and identification credentials – majority believed that issuance of ID or rather jackets would promote their recognition
- 3) Lack of proper coordination among the local informal peace and security structures capacity – despite their complimentary roles, there remains unclear terms of engagement among them
 - 4) Lack of proper coordination on information sharing between the local peace committees and other informal peace security structures at the sub county levels.
 - 5) Poor public awareness on the role of the Local Peace Committees as an alternative ADR mechanism in conflict management- majority of the people didn't understand the importance of local peace and security committees in some area.
 - 6) Lack of resource for the local peace committees to facilitate their operations within the sub counties, especially in responding to crisis and in implementing community dialogue.
 - 7) Lack of adequate capacity building training due to the transient and evolving nature of conflict issues, especially on conflict prevention related to Political, gang related, small arms and light weapons surrender and drugs and alcohol related issues, all these to include enhancement of information sharing

4.0 Recommendation

The following highlighted recommendations were made towards addressing the above capacity gaps and in enhancing the effectiveness of the local peace committees.

- 1) The need for enhancing synergy among the informal peace and security structures operation ad the sub county levels.
- 2) There is a need of constant capacity building trainings for the local peace committees.
- 3) Develop modalities to enhance coordination among the various states and non state actors at the grassroots levels on matters peace and security, through
 - a) Resource sharing
 - b) Information sharing
 - c) Capacity building targeted programs at the local levels

- d) Mapping of peace and security structures for synergy building
- 4) Enhance the operationalization of the local peace committees by addressing the critical human and institutional capacity gaps at all levels.

Photo Gallery



Nakuru West Sub-County Peace Committees



Kuresoi North Sub-County Peace Committees



Kuresoi South Sub-County Peace Committees



Maasai community peace elder from Oljororai disputed land



Chair- Gilgil Sub-County Peace Committees



DCC- Gilgil Sub-County addressing Peace Committees



Maasai community peace elder from Oljororai disputed land