

FINAL PROJECT NARRATIVE REPORT

You will need to refer to your Project Application Form and the Agreement with WACC. Please answer the questions as fully and concisely as possible to help us learn about your completed project. The report should not exceed 15 pages, excluding appendices. Please return the report with any supporting documents and materials to WACC. We welcome stories about how individuals benefitted from the project, with photos. We also welcome case studies. Please place stories and case studies, if any, in an appendix.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Project Title: (as in the Agreement)	Parched Voices: Increasing the capacity of Eastern African journalists to cover those affected by drought
1.2 Project Reference Number: (as in the Agreement)	1891
1.3 Full Name of Organisation:	PANOS EASTERN AFRICA (PEA)
1.4 Country:	Uganda
1.5 Full Postal Address:	P.O.Box 34033, Kampala, Uganda
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1.11 Website:	www.panosea.org
1.12 Period the project was implemented: (from month/year to month/year)	9 months (January – September 2012)

2. OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

2.1 What was the project's long-term goal?
Reduced stigma and discrimination against poor and vulnerable women, men and youth who are refugees because of poverty, food insecurity and famine in Eastern Africa.
2.2 What was the project's immediate purpose and to what extent was it achieved?
Increase and offer different dimensions of voices and stories of vulnerable women, men and youth refugees in Eastern Africa about their lives, to help break the stereotypes driven by pity and lack of information.
The 6 journalists commissioned by Panos Eastern Africa were supported under the project to travel to two refugee camps in Kenya to write and publish articles that bring out the stories of the struggles and successes of the refugees, stories that show their resilience and the ability to fight back against the vagaries of refugee life. Four of the journalists went to Kakuma refugee camp while the other 2 went to Dadaab all In Kenya. Therefore the project largely achieved its goal and purpose.

All the 6 journalists interviewed women, men and the youth on a diversity of issues regarding their lives in the refugee camps. The 6 journalists produced 7 feature articles. Two have been run in different international print outlets in Europe, 3 have been published locally in Kenyan media and 2 await publication in the Kenyan media as well. All the 7 articles focus on different topics. *See table below.*

Name of journalist	Name of newspaper	StoryTitle/Idea	Status of publication	Date of publication
Maureen Adiwuor	The Standard	1. Getting many children to replenish numbers. 2. Young girls in refugee camps becoming mums	Published	Tuesday July 10 th , 2012
Samuel Otieno	The Star	Living on the edge: The hopes and fears of Kakuma refugees	Published	Tuesday, 03 rd July 2012
Dann Okoth	Guardian, El-Mundo, Gazeta, TRO OCH POLITIK	IT Entrepreneurs find surprise success in Kenya's Dadaab refugee camp	Published	May 14 th , 2012
Ochieng Ogodo	Think Africa Press, El-Mundo, Svenska Dagbladet	Dadaab: Enterprise in Exile	Published	July 15 th , 2012
Daniel Otieno	Daily Nation	1. The Melting g point of cultures, how people rejected in their homes, meet in the camp and start a life afresh.	Unpublished	
Nancy Kijana	REJECT	Women and Social life in Kakuma	Unpublished	

All the articles, except the two international ones, have multiple interviewees/voices (over 10) in total, 6 of whom are women.

2.3 To what extent were the expected outcomes and outputs achieved?

Expected outcomes and indicators	Achieved outcomes (disaggregated by sex)
<p>1. Strengthened voices of residents in up to four refugee camps in Eastern Africa who can speak out on issues that affect their daily lives.</p> <p>2. 6 journalists will feature the voices of those most affected by the food crisis in Eastern Africa and enable audiences in Africa and Europe to link these experiences with national and international policy</p>	<p>1. At the outset, it was conceived that the project would enable 6 journalists reach 4 refugee camps in Kenya to file stories on the lives of refugees who are setting out on their own and conquering adversities or vagaries that afflict refugees. It was only possible to send the 6 journalists to 2 refugee camps of Dadaab and Kakuma due to several constraints. It is important to point out though, that while only 2 camps were reached, this did not affect the variety of issues covered (<i>see table 1</i>) and the diversity of opinions/voices that have informed the stories. For example, about 10 people were interviewed, 6 of them women. Some of the constraints included the cost of hiring a 4x4 to take the journalists to the camps and related costs such as accommodation and meals, security advise by authorities to reach only Dadaab and Kakuma which were relatively safer and the sheer bureaucracy involved in securing travel permits and securing contacts at the different camps.</p> <p>2. Six (6) journalists were commissioned, 2 of whom have been women. 2 of the articles commissioned were published in 6 leading newspapers in different European countries, taking the stories to audiences in the North. As is evidenced in the articles, O'Chieng Ogodo was published in Think Africa Press, El-Mundo, Svenska Dagbladet and Dann Okoth was published in Guardian, El-Mundo, Gazeta, TRO OCH POLITIK, all major news outlets that reach millions of international readers, including policy makers.</p> <p>The stories all touch on issues of both national and international policy e.g</p>

<p>Expected outputs and indicators</p> <p>1. Feature articles published in national and European media outlets</p> <p>2. Six (6) Eastern African journalists have the opportunity to write features that draw directly</p>	<p>family planning and entrepreneurship and IT, three critical areas in the life of a refugee. It is reasonable to conclude that a large refugee family, as tends to be the case, affects the ability of such a family to break out of the vicious cycle of poverty, destitution and helplessness buttressed by hopelessness. Yet a small family is likely to be innovative and has a good chance to be entrepreneurial and start an income generating activity like the young man using software to earn a decent living.</p> <p>The articles contain voices of men, women and young people talking about issues pertinent to them in their refugee life.</p> <p>For instance, in the story ; Getting many children to replenish numbers, the journalist describes a 37 year old Sudanese refugee woman over burdened by the weight of a big family as she waits at the Dadaab refugee camp registration room. Iyan Maker says,“ no one told us about birth control methods in my village; that is why I gave birth to many children”.</p> <p>"I borrowed \$300 from a friend to buy a domain from a US-based company and was soon in business," says Mohammad Bashir Sheik,a refugee in Dadaab refugee camp who is making money as an IT specialist by designing and hosting websites. (See <i>“IT entrepreneurs find surprise success in Kenya's Dadaab refugee camps”</i>.)</p> <p>Highlights of specific outcomes: 7 articles produced, 5 published, so far. All contain diverse voices on a diversity of issues ranging from family planning to entrepreneurship to social life and culture in refugee camps</p> <p>Achieved outputs (disaggregated by sex, if applicable)</p> <p>1. Six (6) articles were commissioned. And 7 have been developed, 5 have been published while 2 remain pending in Kenya. 2 of the 5 published articles were published in European press while the other 2 were run in the Kenyan media. For details see the links below;</p> <p>1. IT Entrepreneurs find surprise success in Kenya’s Dadaab refugee camp http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/jul/04/entrepreneurs-kenya-dadaab-refugee-camps http://mundonegro.com/?q=content/las-tic-llegan-los-campamentos-de-refugiados-somalies-de-la-mano-de-los-propios-refugiados</p> <p>2. Dadaab: Enterprise in Exile http://www.mundonegro.com/?q=content/la-cara-desconocida-de-un-campamento-de-refugiados-en-kenia http://thinkafricapress.com/kenya/dadaab-enterprise-exile</p> <p>3. Getting many children to replenish numbers –see pdf attached</p> <p>4. Younger girls in refugee camps becoming mums-see pdf attached</p> <p>5. Living on the edge: The hopes and fears of Kakuma refugees http://www.the-star.co.ke/lifestyle/128-lifestyle/83088-living-on-the-edge-the-hopes-and-fears-of-kakuma-refugees</p> <p>2. The 6 journalists have all reported on issues crucial in refugee life, telling stories of inspiration and resilience (e.g Dadaab: Enterprise in exile) and</p>
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<p>on their expert national contextual knowledge and commitment to reporting voices and perspectives missing in national and international news</p>	<p>demonstrating the continued split of opinion on the sensitive issue of family planning (e.g Getting many children to replenish numbers). The issues covered are contemporary ones affecting refugees in camps in Kenya and across the region. As demonstrated in the stories, voices of women and young people doing extraordinary things like seeking family planning services or the young man developing IT software, bring out stories of hope, successes and aspirations by refugees. This is a break from the stereotypical image planted on refugees as people with begging bowls stretched out for hand outs, or as people defeated and unable to stand up for themselves in their own little ways. Yes, some of the stories still raise important issues of suffering and despair among the refugees, but such stories are balanced out by the stories of innovation and thirsting for a better life, motivated by self drive and a clear focus on building a different future, on their own sweat. All these stories and voices have more often than not featured in the national or international news pieces or features.</p>
<p>2.4 What other observations did you make? Please mention anything that may illustrate the benefits arising from the project.</p>	
<p>The project provided opportunity for exposure to the journalists especially the two journalists who wrote the international pieces. They got the opportunity to improve on their skills by working with an editor in London to get their stories to international standards.</p> <p>The journalists, through the project, got the financial support they needed to get to Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps in order to get powerful human stories. Ordinarily, expenses for such a trip are a barrier to the publication of good stories as media outlets seldom send their reporters far away unless there is a major catastrophe or a free ride from, say, a government official or and NGO.</p> <p>In addition to these the journalists and media houses came to appreciate the real life experiences in term of food security and livelihood patterns faced by double tragedy of being a refugee living in a camp and their struggles to survive.</p>	
<p>2.5 If you observed any unintended positive outcomes arising from the project, please describe.</p>	
<p>Whereas we commissioned for only 6 stories, the journalists used the opportunity to gather material for other stories beyond the assignment, but all related to the refugees. Or instance, Samuel Otieno of The Star wrote other stories beyond what we commissioned. The journalists also took photographs that they have used in their publications.</p> <p>Beyond the content, the journalists on this assignment built new contacts in the refugee communities and among refugee agencies and security circles that will be useful for future stories and sustained coverage of the life of refugees in the camps.</p>	
<p>2.6 If you observed any negative outcomes arising from the project, please describe.</p>	
<p>There were no negative outcomes resulting from the project. The project actually acted as an eye opener to the media.</p>	
<p>2.7 Did you observe any long-term impact (positive or negative) in the wider context that might be related to the project interventions?</p>	
<p>The journalists made vital contacts in the refugee camps among the refugees but also with officials from the UN, the ICRC, and other agencies working to address refugee concerns. Such contacts will clearly be vital in their future work on similar stories.</p> <p>The project also gave the journalists opportunity to build expertise on refugee reporting, such skills will be useful for a long time given that refugees in the region are likely to be around for a long time. Finally the stories published internationally afforded the journalists opportunity to get international exposure and that will enable them get more stories published in future.</p> <p>On the part of the refugees, the exposure given to their issues and concerns such as demand for family planning facilities and the quest to develop their businesses e.g the IT entrepreneur may attract interests and business opportunities from players in Kenya and other places.</p> <p>We also noticed that during the same period after some of the articles ran in the local print media in Kenya, the Kenyan largest media outlet “The Royal Media’ also commissioned journalists to do feature in Dadaab refugee camp, which in itself was a sign that the project had a spill over effect to other media outlets.</p>	

2.8 What methods did you use for assessing outcomes and impact?

The journalists who were commissioned were interviewed after their return from the camps about their experiences through out the assignment. The assessments ranged from securing travel permits from government for the trip and the actual writing and publication of the stories. We have also undertaken cursory assessment of the articles so far published and examined the email communications we had with the different players in the process, detailing the procedures, some of the challenges and alternative approaches to successful implementation of the project. These give us an indication of the immediate outcomes of the project.

2.9 Please describe the actual direct beneficiaries and indicate the number of women and men. Please also mention any indirect beneficiaries.

The six journalists who benefited from the grant to travel to the refugee camps are young mid level journalists; some of them could be editors soon. The skills they acquired through coaching by the editor in Panos London and the exposure gives them the clout to be knowledgeable on refugee issues. There were 6 journalists, 2 of whom were female and 4 were male.

The interviewees: out of 10, 6 were female and 4 were men. The refugees are people from different countries with diverse backgrounds but united in their current plight. They are a people with a similar story of struggle, lack and aspirations; they yearn to be doctors, nurses, IT professionals. The refugees live in Dadaab refugee camp (for the international features) and Kakuma refugee camp (for the local features). Among those interviewed are Congolese, south Sudanese and Somalis. They are all young people who have told their stories of adversity, successes and yes, raising a family.

2.10 What is the likelihood that the project outcomes will be sustained over the medium and long term? Please explain.

In the medium term the stories published have contributed new information and new perspectives to the debate on the current situation and future of refugees. It is too early to assess the impact of the stories on policy.

In the long term, the skills acquired by the journalists in terms of sourcing, interviewing and writing will enable the journalists write better stories in future and can make a huge contribution to the reporting of refugee issues from a more inspirational perspective. Furthermore, the contacts the journalists made in the Dadaab and Kakuma, and among local leaders who facilitated their access to the refugee camps, and also with officials in government who facilitated the acquisition of the necessary travel permits remain important networking partners and sources of information regarding refugees. Such contacts remain vital because even when they may change jobs or move to other camps or agencies, the relationship is not broken and can open new opportunities wherever they may be.

2.11 What has been the most important change brought about by the project and what is the key evidence for this change?

The biggest achievement or change brought out by the project is the ability of the journalists to access the camps, put a human face the lives of the people in the camps as well as change the image/portrayal of the refugees as hopeless and non useful citizens. All the stories published attest to this.

3. ACTIVITIES

3.1 Please provide a summary of the major activities carried out in comparison with those planned. In the case of significant changes, please explain the reasons. If applicable, please report on specific activities for women and men respectively.

Planned activities	Actual activities (state if they were specifically for women, for men, or for all):	Explanation of change
1. Identification of story issues and angles with commissioning editors	1. This was done successfully. For the international pieces we had a tripartite arrangement with editors in London, the team at PEA and the journalists in Nairobi	The project was executed according to plan, with no noticeable changes worth reporting about.
2. Identification of high-calibre journalists in Eastern Africa who have covered food security and famine issues and crises, demonstrating	2. The journalists sent out are seasoned reporters who are heavily relied upon by their editors. They have a clear grasp of development issues related to gender, the environment, displacement and human rights. The selection procedure was largely by out sourcing.	

<p>knowledge of how gender and inequality fuel poverty and vulnerability to displacement and its consequences</p>		
3. Commissioning of articles with journalists on food insecurity in Eastern Africa	3. Six articles were commissioned but 7 have been produced, five of which have already been published.	
4. Trip to refugee camps; meeting communities and camp residents; identifying story ideas and interviewees	4. The journalists travelled to Dadaab and Kamkuma refugee camps and interviewed the refugees, employees of relief agencies, women, young people and opinion leaders. The journalists spent about one week travelling and conducting the interviews	
5. Recording stories and images	5. The stories were recorded; photographs were taken and are all part of the articles already published, and those that remain to be published.	
6. Writing features	6. The stories/feature have been written and published	
7. Editing Features	7. The editing has been done by the commissioning editors in London, in Kampala and the in-house editors of the various publications that have carried the stories.	
8. Feedback to Journalists and discussion on lessons learned.	8. Feedback was given during the editing process. This helped to improve the stories to the level where they could be published.	
9. Publishing features	9. Of the articles commissioned, 5 written by 4 journalists have been published. Two substantively commissioned articles remain to be published in October.	

3.2 How did the beneficiaries react to the programme activities?

The journalists are excited about the opportunity they got to travel to the camp and write stories about “real” people, stories of hope and resilience. The refugees have been ecstatic as they got their stories told and their voices heard in the hope that their stories will bring change about how they are perceived and that it will be realised that they are normal people, aspiring for a better life, but willing to work for it on their own.

3.3. If the project is primarily purchase of equipment, please describe what kind of impact / change the equipment is bringing to the beneficiaries.

The project did not involve procurement of equipment.

3.4. If the project included a workshop, seminar, or consultation, please attach the list of participants, the themes/topics of their speeches/papers, and any statement, declaration, or other material published.

The project did not involve workshops and seminars but online and telephone mentorship for the journalists.

4. CHANGES IN THE ORGANISATION

4.1. Please note any important changes or events that took place that directly affected the project. These can relate to management, planning, staffing, or other matters.

The plan management and implementation team did not change during the project period. Therefore no effect to the delivery of the project outcomes.

5. CONTEXT

5.1 Please note any important changes in the following contexts since the project began and summarise the implications for the relevance of the project.

Political:	As the project was underway, the Kenyan government sent troops to Somalia to fight the Al-Shabaab rebels. The government says this was meant to restore peace and order in Somalia and to eliminate a security threat to Kenya. The Kenyan soldiers have now joined AMISOM, the African Union force in Somalia. This intervention could restore peace to Somalia-which is a good thing as the refugees would return home, but at the beginning it exacerbated the refugee situation as more people fled into the camps in Kenya and increased insecurity in the camps as suspected rebels also “fled” to the camps.
Social:	Problems rooted in the ethnicity remain real given the cocktail of ethnicities and nationalities in the camps.
Natural environment:	The weather patterns remain unpredictable, rendering planning for crop planting difficult. This means the food security situation remains precarious as well. Refugees already uprooted from the communities remain dependant on aid as their ability to produce their own food remains curtailed.

5.2 To what extent is the project still relevant in the present-day context? Please explain.

An intervention of this nature remains crucial as the refugee problems in the region look set to remain for a fairly long time. For instance, Somalia still remains a country at war, South Sudan remains unstable and volatile, the civil conflict in DRC remains persistent and unpredictable. The refugees need to have a voice, and the media remain the most viable option to get their issues out in to the public domain.

Given the unpredictable weather patterns in the region, famine remains an ever present concern and threat, constantly knocking at the door of millions of families in the region.

6. YOUR ORGANISATION'S LEADERSHIP ROLE AND NETWORKING WITH OTHERS

6.1 Has the project and the support from WACC helped your organisation be in a better position to provide leadership for further initiatives of your own or of others? If so, please explain.

The project by WACC has enabled PEA to make vital contacts in the Kenyan government as we sought permits and contacts for the journalists to travel to the refugee camps, in the UN and International relief agencies working with refugees in Kakuma and Dadaab. The project allowed us the opportunity to understand better the issues affecting refugees and our interaction with the issues and stories have challenged our own perceptions and views regarding refugees. The project is part of the broader Panos Eastern Africa strategic programme area of “governance, conflict and peace building” which is derived from an analysis of the eastern Africa region.

6.2 In what ways has your organisation articulated and shared good practices, lessons learned, and/or resource materials with other organisations working on similar or related concerns? If you have not done so, do you plan to do so? How can WACC assist?

We plan to undertake a detail analysis of the articles to learn lessons that we can share. We also plan to pick up and share the tools we used to gather in the information for the stories and share them with other journalists and students of journalism to give them the skills and tools they need to report effectively on refugee issues. This report shall be shared as part of the PEA annual report. All the article produced shall be linked to the PEA website. PEA plans to develop a follow up project to WACC to support the same or a new set of the journalists for a similar assignment but this time in south western Uganda where the DRC refugees have flocked.

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 What lessons and good practices have emerged from this project?

PEA and the journalists have networked not only among ourselves, but also with other actors like the government of Kenya, the UN and International agencies working on refugee issues in the region

The journalists involved were equipped with skills and tools that enabled them to access the camps and gather stories from the refugees which were then published. With resources, zeal and determination the issues of the voices can be brought to the public domain.

The project provided an eye opening opportunity for panos and the journalists as our perceptions and preconceived notions have been challenged.

The project should also be used to influence the coverage of the other media especially electronic and international media outlets. Perhaps PEA should produce a paper based on this experience and share.

7.2 What challenges and difficulties were encountered, and how did you address them?

The cost of hiring a 4x4 –the only means by road to the camps and other related expenses were fairly prohibitive. We had to search widely for a cheaper provider but most importantly, we cut down on the number of days the journalists wanted to spend in the camps from 12 down to about 6.

It was very difficult to find female journalists willing to travel to the refugee camps. We actually delayed the trip on more than two occasions as we sought female journalists. Often the few who were recommended to us were either too busy or outside the country. Eventually we commissioned two female journalists (one of whom returned from Kakuma straight to the labour ward to have her baby) and 4 male journalists.

7.3 Did the project have any impact on gender equality issues?

In the articles published gender dimensions of family planning come out clearly with divergent views straddling the gender lines. The role of women in sustaining the families and ensuring the sustainability of their cultures and holding the families together can be clearly seen.

The stories address gender concerns in that it fairly balances the interviewees but also tackles issues that touch on gender questions such as family planning where the journalists brings out the quest for the refugee women to have control over the number of children they would like to have but that runs against a strong cultural tide which demands for women to have as many children as the husbands want. The stories on enterprenuership speak to the human aspiration to “never say die”, the desire to earn a decent living and show the refugees getting creative to generate small businesses in the camp in order to earn a decent income. There was also a deliberate effort by the journalists to interview at least 60% of women in order to tap up their unheard voices.

7.4 What further work needs to be carried out or follow up steps taken, if any?

It would be great if addition funding for further reporting and journalists mentorship is available.

7.5 Other comments, if any.

The project delivered according to plan and there is need a follow intervention.

7.6 We would like to receive digital copies of materials produced such as manuals, training materials, and other products to share them with others. We would also appreciate digital copies or internet links to photos, video or audio recordings produced by or about the project. Please indicate below what you are sending us.

Digital photos

Links to the articles produced

1. IT Entrepreneurs find surprise success in Kenya’s Dadaab refugee camp

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/jul/04/entrepreneurs-kenya-dadaab-refugee-camps>

<http://mundonegro.com/?q=content/las-tic-llegan-los-campamentos-de-refugiados-somali-de-la-mano-de-los-propios-refugiados>

2. Dadaab: Enterprise in Exile

<http://www.mundonegro.com/?q=content/la-cara-desconocida-de-un-campamento-de-refugiados-en-kenia>

<http://thinkafricapress.com/kenya/dadaab-enterprise-exile>

3. Getting many children to replenish numbers –see pdf attached

4. Younger girls in refugee camps becoming mums-see pdf attached

5. Living on the edge: The hopes and fears of Kakuma refugees

<http://www.the-star.co.ke/lifestyle/128-lifestyle/83088-living-on-the-edge-the-hopes-and-fears-of-kakuma-refugees>

Name and position of person submitting the report.

Okubal Peter James Ejokuo



Signature:

Date: 10th October 2012

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