

# CONFLICT AND PEACE BUILDINGS IN NORTHERN KENYA

KENYA PASTORALIST JOURNALIST NETWORK is a community media organisation that uses community media, outreach and awareness campaigns in educating, imparting and disseminating information to marginalised pastoralist communities in northern kenya

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# ACTIVITIES AND WORK OF THE ORGANISATION

THE ORGANISATION ADDRESSES:

- COMMUNITY PEACE BUILDINGS
- WOMEN PEACE BUILDINGS
- ERADICATION OF SMALL ARMS
- REHABILITATION OF EX-COMBATANTS
- NON-VIOLENCE PEACE BUILDINGS
- HUMAN/WOMEN RIGHTS
- INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AMONG OTHERS

# PASTORALIST COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN KENYA

- The Northern Kenyan pastoralists are nomadic ethnic groups that are highly mobile. These are mainly Ajuran, Degodia, Ogaden, Murulle Garreh, Borana, Burji, Gabra, Sheykal and Sharmoge. They move from one area to another in search of pasture and water for their livestock. Their movements are not restricted to one area or even country as they move into and out of neighbouring countries such as Somalia and Ethiopia. ***These movements are one of the major sources of misunderstanding and conflict between them and their neighbours.***

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- The region is highly marginalised and underdeveloped as essential infrastructure such as water, livestock market, health, roads and education facilities are either too scarce or totally absent to be relied on. **The vastness and remoteness of the area, inadequate road networks and scarcity of resources goes hand-in-hand with *lapse in security occasioning frequent misunderstanding and conflicts among these pastoralist communities.*** This is normally over resources especially water and grazing land.

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- *The conflict situation in this area is further complicated by two major issues, the regional dimension (neighbouring with other countries of East and Horn of Africa); and most importantly easy availability and continuous in-flows of small arms and light weapons from these neighbouring states.*

# CAUSES OF CONFLICT IN NEP

- Scarce resources e.g. water, pasture, salt licks etc.
- Frequent droughts that occasion migrations.
- Historical rivalries between the ethnic communities.
- Disputes over territorial boundary claims.
- Traditional / customary practices.
- Proliferation of small arms and light weapons (show of power of the gun).

# CONT...

- Weak state security and governance structures (especially the neighbouring countries).
- State politics.
- Lack of clear land ownership policies.
- Lack of clear land ownership policies.



# TYPES OF CONFLICT IN NEP

- Fights over natural resources such as pasture and water points.
- Livestock rustling.
- Banditry.

## ***Raids***

- Highway robbery.
- Politically instigated violence.
- ***Boundary /land dispute***

# TYPES OF ARMS FOUND IN NEP

- There are varieties of lethal weapons found in this area. These range from small arms to light weapons such as
- AK-47, G3, M-16, Uzi, American Carbine, patchets,
- Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPG),
- hand grenades, land mines.
- many brands of pistols.

# EFFECT OF CONFLICT ON COMMUNITIES

- Destruction of life (deaths).
- Frequent livestock rustling.
- Destruction of property.
- Rising poverty levels among the communities of Northern Kenya.
- Sophistication of conflicts and crime incidences.
- Attracted many businessmen in to commercial trading and deals in arms.

# CONT...

- Disruption of social harmony and co-existence among the ethnic groups.
- Rapes and maiming of people victims.
- Constant fear and feeling of vulnerability is instilled in the communities.
- Destruction of infrastructure / facilities such as schools, health centres,

# STATE RESPONSE TO CONFLICT

- The government responses to conflict is wanting
- As they supplied arms to one clan against each
- Government sponsored peace initiatives flopped due to lack of implementation of the resolution passed
- Government allowed certain clans to procure arms along the border

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- The government used conflict as diversionary tactics to advance its direct marginalisation policies
- Government failed to act on intelligence that could avert conflict

# EXTERNAL INFLUENCE

- SOMALIA– Clans living in Somalia assist their cousins in fighting other clans
- Business interest and control of trade routes by Somalis from Somalia
- Arms markets are located some 20 kilometers from Kenya/Somalia border
- Somalia has exported young fighters into nep

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- ETHIOPIA
- Ethiopian forces and militia allied to Ethiopia carries cross border raids in search of OLF rebels
- They attack communities perceived to support the rebels
- They supplies arms to other communities against others



# WACC/KPJN PEACE INITIATIVES

- COMMUNITY PEACE BUILDINGS WORKSHOPS WAS HELD IN WAJIR, MANDERA AND GARISSA
- The workshop brought together representatives from warring clans, elders, youth, women, journalists, and government officials
- The warring clans used the workshop as platform of sharing their concerns, and problems against each other.

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- They agreed suggested various solutions that will stop violence in the areas affected
- The government took responsibility of offering community policing and address various issues that were raised.
- The workshop formed a peace network that brought together all stakeholders in the workshop
- The network was dubbed NORTHERN KENYA PEACE NETWORK

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- The network was formed to address,
- 1 Small arms mapping and control
- 2 peace education and outreach
- 3 Rehabilitation of ex-combatants
- 4 non violence peace buildings
- 5 sport for peace program
- 6 demobilisation of armed combatants

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- During the first two months the network managed to demobilize 150 armed youths in the clashes prone Modogashe area.
- Each representative in the network convinced their community to give peace a chance .  
Negotiation between communities took place
- The socio-economic activities started after the negotiations
- Schools were re-opened

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- Northern Kenya Peace Network received second support from WACC GLOBAL toward peace education program
- The program took peace messages, songs, poetry ,training to pastoralist at watering points and grazing areas in the remote areas.
- The program intends to create social cohesion, eliminate mistrust and communities sharing same watering points and grazing areas

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- Peace education has reached 16 hotspots in Garissa, 13 hotspots in Wajir and 21 hotspots in Mandera district of Kenya.
- Village peace committees were formed. The committee comprises of all clans in respective village.
- The committee is charged with dispute solving over resources and community differences.

# REHABILITATION OF EX-COMBATANTS

- KPJN received support from GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY ALLIANCE, U.S.A toward rehabilitation of ex-combatants project in Garissa and Modogashe town.
- 50 rehabilitated ex-combatants from Garissa were trained on business training and opportunities in northern Kenya.
- Another 50 rehabilitated ex-combatants from Modogashe town were trained on business training and opportunities in Northern Kenya.

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- Rehabilitated ex-combatants were divided into groups with 1 group having ten members.
- Each group opened their bank account and they registered their youth groups with the government.
- They applied for loans from government managed youth fund. They received the funds and now they are establishing their business
- KPJN with support from G.P.A. intends to train 200 rehabilitated ex-combatants in Wajir and Mandera districts



# SMALL ARMS MAPPING /CAMPAIGNS

- Small arms mapping and campaign was done in northern Kenya through support from Alert Netherlands.
- Small arms master plan was developed and handed over to the government.
- Community driven policing of small arms proliferation was established along the borders with war torn somalia

# NON-VIOLENCE PEACE BUILDINGS

- Non – Violence peace training program trained 200 pastoralist on basis of T.O.T so that they can train their communities
- The training has assisted peace workers and community workers at remote villages in mitigating conflict and empowering communities in sorting out their differences through other non-violent means

# SPORT FOR PEACE

- KPJN intends to use sport for peace program in advancing peace education, reconciliation, community tolerance to a big constituent of pastoralist youths in northern Kenya.

# CONCLUSION AND THANKS

- KPJN wishes to thank WACC GLOBAL for its kind support that opened doors of peace in volatile northern Kenya. Also we thank Global Philanthropy Alliance for their kind supports toward business training for rehabilitated ex-combatants.
- Without training the youth can go back to conflict zones so that they can make end met through community raid and armed thuggery

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- KPJN wishes to thank WACC AFRICA for inviting us to the peace journalism training and also giving us a platform of sharing with other participants ,our work, challenges and achievements.

- **THANKS**