



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Electoral Violence Response Initiative (EVRI) is an extension of the 2008 PeaceBuilding Fund (PBF) supported project dubbed, “Emergency Volunteer Scheme – EVS” and later on “Neighbourhood Volunteer Scheme – NVS”. EVRI sought to consolidate the gains made while remaining relevant and true to the changing context of the country thereby necessitating its integration into the national Consolidated Peace Programme (CPP) as recommended in the 2009 project assessment.

Having being consolidated into the national peace framework, EVRI purposed to contribute towards promoting coexistence and peaceful conflict resolution by enhancing national conflict early warning and early response; strengthening capacities for coordination and conflict prevention; and enhancing operational capacity of local peace structures.

The overall thrust of EVRI was to enhance technical support and capacity at the national level and consolidate coordination capacity at the grassroots towards peaceful coexistence. Towards this goal, the initiative has made significant contributions.

At the national level, integration of the project team that successfully implemented the EVS/NVS was critical in enhancing the National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management (NSC) capacity for coordinating an effective and efficient national peace framework – particularly operationalization of the national policy on peacebuilding and conflict management and the *UWIANO*<sup>1</sup> Platform for Peace.

At the County and grassroots level, the initiative has directly enhanced coordination capacity through engagement of county focal persons that are the nexus for local, county and national initiatives. This support alone has directly contributed to the national peace structures’ effectiveness, efficiency and relevance. This has been to the extent that the National Peace Secretariat has increased this presence to cover the entire country. From past experiences, this enhanced presence is expected to correlate directly to an effective early warning system; enhanced grassroots coordination; as well as accountability of structures.

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<sup>1</sup> *UWIANO* is Swahili for Cohesion.

## I. Purpose

The Electoral Violence Response Initiative (EVRI) was designed as a conflict prevention strategy following the 2007/8 electoral violence witnessed across many part of the country. As a strategy, it was founded upon the achievements and lessons of the 2008 Emergency Volunteer Scheme (EVS).

The overall objective was to promote coexistence and peaceful conflict resolution.

## II. Assessment of Programme Results

The EVRI has had the most efficacious effect on the national peace framework since its inception in 2008 and redesign in 2011. These results can be linked directly to numerous national results that have directly contributed to peaceful coexistence. Being implemented within the Consolidated Peace Programme (CPP) the initiative worked in close collaboration with various national actors such as the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC); Kenya National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons (KNFP); Partnership for Peace and Security (PfPS); Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MOYAS); National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management (NSC); National Drought Management Authority (NDMA); *Maendeleo ya Wanawake* Organization (MYWO)<sup>2</sup>; Security Research and Information Centre (SRIC); and Picha Mtaani<sup>3</sup>.

### i) Narrative reporting on results:

- **Outcomes:** The EVRI outcome was for national strategies, policies, legislations and institutions for peace building and conflict prevention established at national, county and community levels and capacity for conflict prevention and coordination strengthened.

Overall the program contributed to the finalization of the National Policy on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management that provides strategic direction and guidance on peace processes in Kenya. Consultations with the civil society on the peace policy were concluded and the policy document approved by the cabinet for implementation. The policy provides for establishment of the National Peace Council, entrenchment and legitimization of the Local Peace Committees and processes and their linkage with other County and National institutions and processes.

A national conflict prevention and response strategy dubbed “Uwiano Platform for Peace” was implemented. This Platform enhanced coordination among a wide range of partners both at the County and National level; improved information sharing across agencies with regard to early warning and response; enhanced conflict sensitive reporting by the media; increased mediation capacity among various actors including the political parties; and also led to the realization of a peaceful, credible and transparent electoral process.

- **Outputs:** To achieve this outcome, EVRI focused on the following key outputs critical in contributing to the national peace agenda:
  - a) establishing a national conflict early warning and early response mechanism;
  - b) strengthening County capacity for coordination and conflict prevention;
  - c) enhancing operational capacity of local peace structures.

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<sup>2</sup> *Maendeleo ya Wanawake* is Swahili for Women’s Development.

<sup>3</sup> *Picha Mtaani* loosely translates to local pictures.

- **Qualitative assessment:** The results of EVRI must be linked to those of PBF funded Emergency Volunteer Scheme. Following integration of the EVS into the national peace architecture, the gains and lessons learnt have positively influenced and shaped national peace structures.

With regards to enhancing national capacity for conflict prevention, management and resolution – the EVRI has contributed towards operationalizing the national early warning system at the County and grassroots level. This contribution is made following the lessons learnt during implementation of the EVS whereby tapping into the inherent capacity of communities and individuals to contribute towards peace and cohesiveness was harnessed to achieve certain goals. The national early warning system success lies in its capacity to collect information and link credible threats to relevant response mechanisms.

One of the flagship contributions to the national peace architecture has been the integration of focal persons at County and grassroots levels to be the locus for coordination and support of local level peace structures. Referred to as Peace Monitors, their integration has continued to enhance the frameworks' effectiveness and relevance as they are the technical link among local actors and stakeholders; state organs; and the National Secretariat for Peace. Their role has been significant to the extent that various peace actors and stakeholders have begun to mirror the strategy in a bid to strengthen their programmes and enhance coordination. Examples are the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) who have integrated Cohesion Monitors to enhance their mandate as well as Peace Net, a local Civil Society Organization, who engage Peace Monitors to implement their programmes. It suffices to say that the EVRI has had both vertical and horizontal impact on both state and non-state actors by demonstrating how to enhance coordination of peace activities.

The crux of peace work in Kenya's peace agenda are the local peace structures that serve as beacons of peace. The local peace committees constitute influential traditional and contemporary structures for peace. Key to these structures are how relevant, efficient and effective they are in conflict prevention and early response. Much therefore lies in their capacity to execute their mandate. It is in cognizance of this potential that the EVRI supported Peace Committees by facilitating their early response mandate through grants that operationalized their work and capacity building strategies that enhanced their effectiveness and ultimately their relevance. Specifically, the EVRI advocated for financing local structures through small grants and establishment of an emergency response kitty that could be accessed within 24-48 hours for early response.

At the national level, the integration of the EVRI has strengthened the National Secretariat for Peace in undertaking its mandate of coordinating all peace work in Kenya. Through this initiative, the Secretariat has been able to improve coordination of national actors such as *Maendeleo ya Wanawake* Organization – a women lead organization that focuses on building capacity of women to play an active role in development issues; Partnership for Peace and Security – an umbrella civil society organization that brings together numerous peace organizations working on peace and security; and the National Cohesion and Integration Commission that focuses on matters of national cohesion. By supporting the establishment and operationalization of the National Conflict Early Warning and Early Response System EVRI has raised the profile of the National Secretariat as center for coordination of early response. The initiative has also been instrumental in ensuring the national peace programme is result oriented in its implementation and documentation. To this end, a results framework was developed that lays great emphasis on results reporting by partners.

## ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

|  | <b>Achieved Indicator Targets (Cumulative over funding period)</b>   | <b>Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)</b>   | <b>Source of Verification</b>  |
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| <p><b>Outcome 1:</b> National strategies, policies, legislations and institutions for peace building and conflict prevention established at national, county and community levels and capacity for conflict prevention and coordination strengthened.</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> Enhanced conflict resolution activities at local levels; strengthened capacities of local structures.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> Limited activities in peace committees across the country</p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b> Operationalize peace committees in at least 100 districts.</p>  |  | Support from the Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security;  | Government of Kenya Consolidated Peace Programme Annual Reports.   |
| <p><b>Output 1.1</b> Established national conflict early warning and early response mechanism</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1.1</b> Number of actors operationalizing the system</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> One (1) national early warning system working in isolation.</p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1.2</b> Linkages and coordination between local structures and regional mechanisms</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1.3</b> Use of the Rapid Response Fund.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1.4</b> Scope of coverage</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1.5</b> Level of national awareness</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> Approximately 5,000 SMS during the 2010 referendum</p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b></p> | <p>Increased collaboration with national actors such as <i>Uchaguzi</i>; <i>Sisi ni Amani</i>; <i>Ushahidi</i>; KECOSCE; and Global Veterans and Peace Ambassadors on matters relating to early warning.</p> |  | National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management (NSC) in the Office of the President. |
|  | <p>Enhanced linkage with national security agencies to facilitate early response as well regional mechanisms such as the IGAD-CEWARN.</p>  |  | Government of Kenya; Consolidated Peace Programme Reports  |
|  | <p>Institutionalization of a national rapid response kitty dubbed “Emergency Response Fund”.</p>   |  |  |
|  | <p>Currently having a national coverage i.e. 47 counties.</p>  |  |  |
|  | <p>Approximately 1,000 SMS during the 2013 General Elections.</p>  | Drop replaced by increase in number of alerts through local peace structures; change in Short code also a contributing factor. | Government of Kenya; Consolidated Peace Programme Reports.   |

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| <p><b>Indicator 1.1.6</b> Number of issues timely reported and responded to.<br/><b>Baseline:</b><br/><b>Planned Target:</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1.7</b> Fully operational Early Warning Early Response center.<br/><b>Baseline:</b><br/><b>Planned Target:</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1.8</b> Operational toll-free SMS platform.<br/><b>Baseline:</b><br/><b>Planned Target:</b></p>   | <p>All alerts prioritized and escalated to national security agencies for rapid response.</p> <p>Establishment and operationalization of early warning center – National Early Warning System designed and equipped with short code 108 for easy access by public.</p> <p>Operational 108 short code but not toll-free. Code attracts a small fee.</p> |  |   |
| <p><b>Output 1.2</b> Strengthened county capacity for coordination and conflict prevention.<br/><b>Indicator 1.2.1</b> Number of Peace Monitors engaged.<br/><b>Baseline:</b> 11<br/><b>Planned Target:</b> 22</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2.2</b> Inductions and capacity building trainings<br/><b>Baseline:</b><br/><b>Planned Target:</b></p>   | <p>47 Peace Monitors engaged and integrated in the 47 counties.</p> <p>Sensitization forums by Peace Monitors and various partners.<br/>50 Peace Committees operational in 2008;<br/>100 Peace Committees operational in 2011;<br/>150 Peace Committees operational by end of 2012.</p>  | <p>Impact and role of Peace Monitors necessitated integration of technical persons across the 47 counties to strengthen coordination, early warning, support early response and documentation.</p> | <p>Government of Kenya; Consolidated Peace Programme Reports.</p> <p>Government of Kenya; Consolidated Peace Programme Reports, partners reports.</p> |
| <p><b>Output 1.3</b> Enhanced operational capacity of local peace structures.<br/><b>Indicator 1.2.1</b> Number of District Peace Committees (DPC) supported<br/><b>Baseline:</b> 50<br/><b>Planned Target:</b> 100</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.3.2</b> Equipment purchased<br/><b>Baseline:</b><br/><b>Planned Target:</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.3.3</b> Number of small grants to operationalize DPC activities<br/><b>Baseline:</b><br/><b>Planned Target:</b></p> | <p>70 Peace Committees access grants to operationalize their work. 22 Counties targeted for support to enhance local peace initiatives.</p> <p>Emergency Response Fund accessed by Peace Committees to facilitate early response.</p>  | <p>Focus shifted to operationalizing Peace Committees and County Response structures.</p>  |   |

### iii) Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

The EVRI roots began in 2008 through the Emergency Volunteer Scheme. In 2009, an assessment of the EVS was commissioned with the overall objective of assessing the projects relevance and achievements; drawing lessons and making recommendations. Apart from being a successfully implemented project, the EVS documented the following key lessons:

- *involvement of volunteers; actors; community members in actively resolving their local issues results in creation of a sense of ownership in projects.* The EVRI has further established that direct involvement of beneficiaries guarantees durability of gains made and ultimately sustainability of structures and systems established;
- *involvement of political leadership in project implementation critical.* EVRI has within the national peace programme created linkages with various stakeholders and actors at national, county and local levels to promote national consensus and confidence around the peace infrastructure to ensure it remains a relevant structure.

Implementation of the EVRI laid much emphasis on grassroots as entry points for its contribution to the peace agenda. The most evident result of this approach can be linked to how effective and efficient conflict prevention has been across counties leading up to the 2013 General Elections and period after.

### iv) A Specific Story

In early 2008 Kenya witnessed one of its most widespread political violence since independence. In response to the destruction of property; loss of lives; and displacement of communities – a response project was initiated that sought to harness positive attitudes within conflict areas towards reconciliation, national healing and peaceful coexistence. The success of the EVRI must therefore be pegged on its contribution genesis of the electoral violence in 2008 to the 2012. There are numerous success stories resulting from the PBF support such as communities forestalling violence in 2008 when a political ceasefire agreement had not been reached; role the initiative had in engaging both victims and real/perceived perpetrators of violence resulting in restoration of relationships and conversion of perpetrators; or even the stories of communities rebuilding destroyed property in a bid to mitigate the negative impact the violence had left in its wake. This report however will focus on the story of how one young man moved from being a victim of violence to becoming a model for youth in his community.

Over 600,000 persons displaced internally; 1,300 killed as a direct result of the violence; and property worth millions destroyed and looted. This is the context within which many found themselves in 2007/8. For Jereimah Mzee, a young man of 27 years, he too lost his family business and was forced to relocate from Mathare North.

In February 2008, the EVS/NVS was launched and it targeted both victims and perceived/real perpetrators of the violence to jointly work towards addressing the core issues affecting them as community volunteers. Jeremiah was identified by the Government of Kenya's administrative structure to serve as one such volunteer. Through training and facilitation, Jeremiah and other community volunteers contributed to reconciliation and healing through facilitated dialogue processes.

Following successful implementation of the project, the EVS was redesigned and integrated into the national peace architecture as the Electoral Violence Response Initiative (EVRI). This transition saw the integration of numerous neighbourhood volunteers into Peace Committees and even Provincial Administration

structures in capacity of Chiefs, District Officers and even District Commissioners. This confidence in the skills and experience of the EVS team also befell Jeremiah as he was appointed to be a Peace Monitor in the new design. His contributions along with counterparts in the Nairobi North area were establishing inter-civil society organizations collaborations for peace; sensitization of over 5,000 beneficiaries on negative effects of gender based violence; and mobilization of community members for joint participation in social activities such as environmental clean ups.

Within the national peace structure, Jeremiah has continued to mobilize communities and organizations for peaceful resolution of disputes. Using his skills and experiences, the region under his support has marked the highest corporate support for peace activities and a strong early warning network that has resulted in mitigated incidences of violence.

Leveraging on the lessons learnt from the EVS project, a critical lesson learnt is that enhancing capacity of local/grassroots structures significantly raises the chances of a successful intervention and sustainability. The initiative has also noted that various partners at the national and local levels are now increasingly investing their trainings heavily in Peace Committee structures across the country. This investment has in turn seen increased relevance of Peace Committees. Ultimately, this results in a strong early warning systems driven by local community.

The story of Jeremiah is one of many volunteers and peace coordinators who have continued to vindicate the EVS/NVS/EVRI approach of strengthening local capacity for national impact. Future interventions geared towards promoting peaceful coexistence must be centered around beneficiaries of the initiative to have local level impact.