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**PEACEBUILDING FUND**

**Kenya**

**ANNUAL programme NARRATIVE progress report**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 january – 31 December, 2009**

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| *Submitted by:*UNDP-KenyaDraft by: Laban Chiko |  | *Country and Thematic Area**PBF Emergency Window – W3* |
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| *Programme No:00066702****MDTF Office Atlas No:00060363*** *Programme Title: PBF/EMER/7 Emergency Volunteer* |  | *Participating Organization(s):* |
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| *Implementing Partners:* * *United Nations Development Programme*
* *United Nations Volunteers*
* *Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security through the National Steering Committee on Peace Building and Conflict Management (NSC) in the Office of the President.*
 |  | *Programme Budget (from the Fund):$1,000,000**For Joint Programme provide breakdown by UN Organization*UNDP TRAC - $1,175,110UNV SVF - $428,051 |
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| *Programme Duration (in months):*Start date: 25 June 2008End date:* *Original end date: 31 July 2009*
* *Revised end date: 31 March 2010*

Budget Revisions/Extensions:*Budget revision and extensions:**Septemeber 2009*  |

**NARRATIVE REPORT**

# Purpose

The Neighbourhood Volunteer Scheme (NVS) was set up by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Volunteers (UNV) in collaboration with the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security and Ministry of State for Special Programmes. It was set up in response to the violence that erupted following the December 2007 Presidential Elections. The project was initially called the Emergency Volunteer Scheme (EVS) and was first launched in Nairobi in February 2008.

The project was expected to achieve the following objectives:

1. Engage volunteers and through orientation and training, instil a sense of responsibility and equip them with skills and necessary tools to provide counselling, peace, reconciliation and recovery services in their affected neighbourhoods;
2. Harness positive attitude in the neighbourhoods so as to enable reconciliation and the recovery process;
3. Supplement human resource capacity for distributing food and non-food items; and
4. Monitor and evaluate the impact of the Emergency Volunteer Scheme so as to inform national level strategies for conflict resolution, peace building, early recovery and service delivery through volunteer action.

The outputs were:

1. Volunteers engaged and trained on volunteerism, conflict resolution and transformation, peace-building, handling trauma, counselling community security, control of proliferation of small/crude arms, humanitarian response and early recovery.
2. Sensitisation and training undertaken at neighbourhood level by the volunteer as a mechanism of harnessing the community towards reconciliation, peace building and recovery.
3. Neighbourhoods that are in need supported to access food, non-food items and offered with counselling services.
4. Impact of the project documented to inform national level strategies for conflict resolution peace building early recovery and service delivery through volunteer action.

The project intended to cover 21 districts in Kenya. These are**: Nairobi North, Nairobi East, Nairobi West, Nakuru, Uasin Gishu, Koibatek, Kipkelion, Marakwet, Molo, Naivasha, Lugari, Kakamega Central, Mombasa, Kericho, Kisumu East**, **Trans-Nzoia East**, **Trans-Nzoia West**, **Kwanza**, **Mt. Elgon**, **Sotik** and **Borabu**. It is important to know that some the district names have since changed following the creation of new districts by the Government of Kenya.

To have a quick turnaround positive effect on the tension created during the post election period, the scheme was designed to tap on the inherent resources and capacity of the people within the affected communities ranging from youth leaders, retired professionals, community opinion leaders, elders and women groups. Influential community members were identified, trained, sensitised and subsequently engaged as volunteers. These volunteers were then charged with the responsibilities of promoting and guiding the processes of self healing, harnessing reconciliation, peace building and recovery within their neighbourhoods. Anchoring on volunteerism presented a distinctive contribution to facilitate inclusion and participation of stakeholders starting from the neighbourhood level. The neighbourhood volunteers were identified by the District Commissioners while the UNV office was responsible for the day to day oversight of the project. The National Steering Committee for Peace Building and Conflict Management (NSC) in the Office of the President in collaboration with UNV was responsible for training and mentoring. UNDP was the fund manager.

# Resources

*Financial Resources:*

In February 2008, the project was allocated US $955,110 from UNDP TRAC funds. Subsequently, US $220,000 was made available to the project in 2009 to facilitate transition of the project from direct implementation (DIM) by UNV/UNDP to national implementation (NIM) by Government of Kenya through the NSC.

In June 2008, the Peace Building Support Office (PBSO) in New York approved US $1,000,000 to support the EVS/NVS project in seven districts (**Trans-Nzoia East**, **Trans-Nzoia West**, **Kwanza**, **Mt. Elgon**, **Kisumu East**, **Sotik** and **Borabu)** for a period of one year.

In December 2008, the UNV Special Voluntary Fund (SVF) committed US $800,000 to cover project management oversight. As a result of the Project Steering Committee’s recommendation to review the project, US $428,051 was advanced in 2009 to support project activities.

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*Human Resources:*

* National Staff:

The project was directly implemented by the UNV office. So as to manage the finance, administration and day-to-day running of the project, a team of national staff was recruited to provide the much needed support. The team constituted:

1. Information and Communication Officer (1) in programmes,
2. Procurement Assistant (1) in operations,
3. Finance Assistant (1) in operations,
4. Project Support Officers (2) in programmes and
5. Project Manager (1) in programmes.
6. District Coordinators (11) for both programme and operations.

* International Staff:

The project was further supported with technical and overall oversight by the UNV Country Coordinator whose main role was quality assurance.

# Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

UNDP was the fund manager of the project resources and the UNV unit was directly implementing the project. As such, the UNV unit undertook the day to day oversight management of the project through continuous monitoring of the district work plans and monthly reports.

The neighbourhood volunteers prepared work plans that were subsequently reviewed by the District Coordinator. The Coordinator then prepared monthly reports based on the activities undertaken by the volunteers in the district. These reports were then forwarded to District Commissioner for verification and then to the UNV office for progress reporting.

At the district level, the project was being coordinated and supervised by the District Commissioner who was the overall patron of the project. The District Commissioner provided the overall guidance to project through the District Coordinator who was National UNV Specialist. The District Coordinator supervised and coordinated the activities of the volunteers at the community / neighbourhood level.

Monitoring was also carried out through the Project Steering Team (PST), Project Tripartite Team (TPR) and the Project Technical Team (PTT). The PST is responsible for policy level oversight of the project whereas the TPR which constitutes the project main donors (UNDP, PBF and UNV) reviews progress of the project and informs the PST meeting. The PTT reviews progress of the project and shares experiences, provides information through reports, review and advise on the training content as well as suggest tools and methodology for project monitoring. Three PST meetings have been held – June 2008, February 2009 and September 2009. One TPR meeting has been held in August 2009 and two PTT meetings have been held in November 2008 and September 2009.

In the third quarter of 2009, a participatory review process was carried out in all the 11 districts where the project had been implemented. Resulting from the review process were district reports and a consolidated report that were validated at district and national level. Subsequently, the reports were disseminated.

# Results

**Output 1:**

***Volunteers engaged and trained on volunteerism, conflict resolution and transformation, peace-building, handling trauma, counseling community security, control of proliferation of small/crude arms, humanitarian response and early recovery***.

* 280 neighbourhood volunteers have been identified and trained on three main thematic areas of peace building and reconciliation, psychosocial support and humanitarian assistance. These are from the 7 PBF districts.
* Project has been launched and implemented in 6 (Sotik, Borabu, Kisumu East, Trans-Nzoia East, Trans-Nzoia West and Kwanza) districts.
* Training guide constituting 12 modules[[1]](#footnote-1) prepared for the training of trainers, District Coordinators and the neighbourhood volunteers. Training lead by the NSC.
* Recruited 77 trainers to cover the training and mentoring of the volunteers in the 7 PBF districts.
* UNV project team has been put in place in the UNV unit to offer administrative support.
* UNV District Coordinators have been engaged to supervise and coordinate the work of the volunteers as well as support the District Commissioners office in managing the project.
* Project equipment and logistical support to assist in documentation, monitoring and coordination of the project was procured for the districts.  This included computers, printers, desks and chairs for District Coordinators and identification gear for the neighbourhood volunteers i.e. jackets and identification card.

**Output 2**:

***Sensitisation and training undertaken at neighbourhood level by the volunteer as a mechanism of harnessing the community towards reconciliation, peace building and recovery***;

* Through community dialogue and networking with CBOs, FBOs and the provincial administration the neighbourhood volunteers continued to identify causes of the conflict within their neighbourhoods.
* Dialogue geared at sensitizing communities on peaceful co-existence have been facilitated through *barazas*.
* Neighbourhood volunteers have actively participated in the recovery of arms and promotion of agricultural activities by distribution of seeds.
* As a result of the dialogue that is being facilitated by the neighbourhood volunteers, tenant and landlord relations have improved, some IDPs have returned to their homes and thereby contributing to a reduction in number of IDPs in camps, business has resumed and people of various ethnic backgrounds can trade in the same neighbourhood.

**Output 3**:

***Neighbourhoods that are in need supported to access food, non-food items and offered with counseling services.***

* By having the neighbourhood volunteers work together with the district officers such as the Chiefs and District Officers, ensured that Government rationing s reached those in need of it. The volunteers supported the officers in identifying legitimate needs and assisted in distribution of relief.
* In some districts, the volunteer worked well with the Kenya Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations to access those in need.
* In the areas that thrive on agriculture, the IDPs in transit camps were encouraged to work on their farms to support their livelihoods.

**Output 4**:

***Impact of the project documented to inform national level strategies for conflict resolution peace building, early recovery and service delivery through volunteer action***.

* Various project monitoring meetings were held to discuss the project progress and future plan i.e. Project Steering meeting, Tripartite meeting of donors, Project Technical Team meetings and field visits. Overall consensus was the integration of the project into the national peace architecture being rolled out by Government through the NSC. This general consensus meant that the project had to be
* A participatory project review was carried out with the overall objective of assessing the relevance and achievements of the project, draw lessons and make recommendations to inform the project sustainability and integration into a comprehensive peace building strategy.

The review report concluded the following regarding the project:

Achievements:

* Instilled a sense of responsibility in neighborhood volunteers
* Harnessed positive attitudes in neighborhoods
* Supplemented human resource capacity for distributing emergency relief
* Demonstrated the importance of neighborhood approach to volunteerism

Gaps and constraints:

* Insufficient time for training of the volunteers
* Inadequate consideration for the root causes of the violence such as unemployment
* Poor coordinated linkages with other stakeholders delivering services in the same communities
* Limited coverage of the project – only 11 districts covered
* Lack of adequate resources for structural and logistical support such as office space, transport etc.
* Biased recruitment of the volunteers in some areas
* Too many training modules (12 modules of training programme)

Lessons learnt:

* Need for community leaders (political) involvement in project implementation
* Recruitment of volunteers from the neighborhoods;
	+ Creates a sense of belonging and ownership in the project
	+ Empowers members of a given community especially when training or service delivery is involved
	+ Enhances community members participation in finding solutions to local problems

# Future Work Plan (if applicable)

Following the project review recommendations and the resolutions of the TPR and PST meetings, it was agreed that the project be integrated into the national peace structure under the NSC in 2010.

To facilitate integration of the project into the national peace architecture, a transition schedule was prepared in consultation with the Government and the project donors. The projected activities included carrying out community scans/analysis, documentation of the project achievements and lessons learnt, continued community engagement in the peace process, partnership building meetings and engagement of the project team. This transition would see the utilization of US $400,867 from the donor fund balances.

The major adjustment to the project focus is the support to the national peace structures particularly the District Peace Committees.

# Abbreviations and Acronyms

*CBO – Community Based Organizations*

*DIM – Direct Implementation*

*EVS – Emergency Volunteer Scheme*

*FBO – Faith Based Organizations*

*IDP – Internally Displaced Person*

*NGO – Non Governmental Organization*

*NIM – National Implementation*

*NSC – National Steering Committee on Peace Building and Conflict Management in the Office of the*

*President*

*NVS – Neighbourhood Volunteer Scheme*

*PBF – Peace Building Fund*

*PBSO – Peace Building Support Office*

*PST – Project Steering Team*

*PTT – Project Technical Team*

*SVF – Special Voluntary Fund*

*TPR – Tripartite Team*

*UNDP – United Nations Development Programme*

*UNV – United Nations Volunteers*

1. Volunteerism, Nationhood & Nation Building, Small Arms & Light Weapons, Self Awareness & Emotional Intelligence, Understanding Conflict, Early Warning & Early Response, Humanitarian Services, Trauma Healing/Basic Counselling, Group Dynamics, Youth Issues, Advocacy and Human Rights with focus on Gender Mainstreaming. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)