



End Term Evaluation Report for the Project on Enhancing Early Warning and Prevention to Counter Hate Speech and Incitement Ahead of the 2022 Elections in Kenya

July, 2023

Project and Evaluation Information Details

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¹ It is the entity that has overall responsibility for implementation of the project (award), effective use of resources and delivery of outputs in the signed project document and workplan.

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

| | |
|---------|--|
| ACC | Assistant County Commissioner |
| ADR | Alternative Dispute Resolution |
| AI-K | Amnesty International - Kenya |
| CAG | Conflict Analysis Group |
| CfA | Code for Africa |
| CPCs | Community Policing Committees |
| CSOs | Civil Society Organizations |
| CUCs | Court Users Committees. |
| DAC | Development Assistance Committee |
| DCC | Deputy County Commissioner |
| DCI | Directorate of Criminal Investigations |
| EW | Early Warning |
| GPF | Global Peace Foundation |
| HA | Haki Afrika |
| IEBC | Independent Electoral & Boundaries Commission |
| IPL | Isiolo Peace Link |
| IRCK | Inter Religious Council of Kenya |
| KASH | Keeping Alive Societies Hope |
| LCPI | Local Capacities for Peace International |
| LNOB | Leave No One Behind |
| MWADO | Marsabit Women Advocacy and Development Organization |
| MWMN | Marsabit Women Mediation Network |
| NCEWERS | National Conflict Early Warning System |
| NCIC | National Cohesion and Integration Commission |
| NGAOs | National Government Administration Officers |
| NSC | National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management |
| OECD | Economic Co-operation and Development |

| | |
|-------|--|
| OHCHR | Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights |
| ORPP | Office of the Registrar of Political parties |
| PBF | UN Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund |
| PBSO | Peacebuilding Support Office |
| PfT | Pamoja for Transformation |
| PLWDs | People living with Disabilities. |
| RCO | Resident Coordinator's Officer |
| SCPCs | Sub County Peace Committees |
| SRIC | Security Research and Information Centre |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNRCO | United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office |
| UNSCR | United Nations Security Council Resolution |
| WWfP | Wajir Women for Peace |

Executive Summary

Project context

The context of the project was shaped by various factors such as polarized politics, socio-economic inequalities, climate-related crises, and regional instabilities during Kenya's 2022 general election. As seen in previous elections, the nexus between violence and elections in Kenya has been fueled by hate speech and incitement to discrimination, hostility, and violence. An increase in incidents of hate speech and incitement commonly manifest itself during the electoral period.

During the 2022 elections, there was a particular and growing concern over the use of media, especially social media, for misinformation, disinformation, and incitement, exacerbating political and intercommunal tensions, and barriers to the participation of women in electoral processes. Platforms used to spread incitement and hate speech include traditional mechanisms, mainstream media (TV, radio, print), social media, political rallies, and community gatherings. Social media has increasingly become an indispensable with youth at the nexus, serving as both recipients and amplifiers of false information, propaganda campaigns, and hate speech. The risk of online hate speech was and continues to be heightened in the Kenyan context due to the high degree of digital connectivity among its population, especially young men and women who live in urban areas and regions most affected by ethnopolitical tensions.

In support of the UN's overall mandate for conflict prevention, the project aimed at enhancing the national and subnational capacities on early warning and prevention response ahead of, during and immediately after the elections of 2022, with a particular focus on countering incitement and hate speech that have typically escalated and triggered electoral violence much of it to be found online and in social media. Through equipping national stakeholders with credible, inclusive, gender-sensitive and innovative tools, the project aimed at informing and supporting stakeholders' early warning engagement and prevention responses during the electoral period. It further provided the UN Kenya, government and non-government actors access to multidimensional risk assessments and response tools to enable them to quickly respond to risks identified.

The evaluation purpose, scope, and criteria

The evaluation aimed to assess the contribution of the "Enhancing Early Warning and Prevention to Counter Hate Speech and Incitement" project in establishing effective early warning and response systems during the electoral period in Kenya. It evaluated the project's impact on creating a conducive environment for peaceful elections by enhancing capacity, identifying preventive responses, and targeted interventions. The comprehensive evaluation covered the period from January 10, 2022, to April 10, 2023, engaging all project stakeholders as well as assessing early warning systems strengthened by the project to violence reduction strategies employed and partnerships created. It focused on relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, gender equality, social inclusion, coherence, conflict sensitivity, catalytic impact, risk tolerance, innovation, and timeliness.

Evaluation methodology

The evaluation methodology employed both quantitative and qualitative approaches, utilizing data from project documents and reports, project partner's documentation, interviews, and independent research. Data collection involved document review, online surveys, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions. The gathered data was analyzed using Excel, SPSS, and Atlas-ti software, providing insights on project performance and impact. Additionally, case studies were conducted on MAPEMA's consortium intervention on social media listening, Wajir Women for Peace, and Isiolo Peace Link to derive lessons learned and recommendations in countering hate speech and incitement in the online and offline spaces. Ethical considerations were considered, ensuring

voluntary participation, and maintaining confidentiality. However, limitations were faced in reaching all project counties, obtaining representative perceptions, and achieving high response rates for online surveys. To address these limitations, the data collection period was extended, alternative methods were used for remote areas, and a larger sample size was included for diverse perspectives. The consultant also updated the monitoring and evaluation result matrix for cross-checking against the program narrative.

Findings

Relevance: The project was highly relevant as it recognized the risks posed by hate speech, online incitement and mis/disinformation during elections and the challenges faced by NCIC in countering these such as the lack of cyber forensic tools to analyse cases on social media, slow determination of identified online cases and limited staff capacity to conduct online media monitoring. It was aligned with peacebuilding goals in Kenya which include addressing conflict drivers, promoting social cohesion, and employing preventive diplomacy as it effectively countered hate speech and incitement thus fostering peaceful and inclusive elections. It engaged target groups and beneficiaries, addressing their needs and involving them in project design. The project also demonstrated its relevance by addressing conflicts in areas like Chemelil and Isiolo County. The project's theory of change focused on enhancing early warning systems and coordination, leading to reduced violence during elections. Finally, the project aligned with the UN Kenya Prevention and Integrated Analysis Platform, the primary early warning and response mechanism in Kenya i.e., the UWIANO Platform for Peace that launched its election violence strategy in 2022, supporting collective prevention efforts.

Effectiveness: The use of Artificial Intelligence tools to listen to the various social media platforms that Kenyans use led to the identification of over 800 cases of online toxic content that were eventually brought down by various agencies including global tech companies and 60 cases were investigated for prosecution. Through the support of the project, a fully functional UWIANO platform was revitalized, and the response framework operationalized. This framework facilitated continuous receipt of early warning information from communities, the UWIANO 108 SMS platform, sub-national situation rooms in Mombasa, Kisumu, and Isiolo and the periodic community perception surveys that were conducted in seven hotspot counties. Reports were verified, collated, and disseminated to UWIANO members, mediation teams, and peace and security actors to inform their response. Consequently, dialogue, mediation sessions, youth outreach forums, Rapid Response Funds activation, intensified security patrols, and peace messaging were conducted to address emerging issues. The project effectively managed over 90% of reported incidents, resulting in a decrease in conflicts.

Efficiency: The project demonstrated efficiency in terms of staffing, planning, and coordination. It effectively utilized resources, but some funds remained unutilized. The implementation approach benefited from diverse partnerships, from the international, national, county and grassroots level however some key partners were left out, leading to challenges. The project's management and coordination mechanism that comprised of the project steering committee and the project technical committee coupled with the established data management mechanisms were effective in facilitating implementation and monitoring emerging project risks. Collaboration with UN agencies, implementing partners, and other complementary projects showed alignment and resource sharing. The project received significant support from the local government, highlighting its importance in addressing hate speech before the 2022 elections.

Sustainability: The project strategically aimed to create lasting positive changes in peacebuilding by aligning with national frameworks, engaging stakeholders, and promoting financial self-reliance. It collaborated with government bodies and civil society actors, enhancing their capacity in early warning and prevention. The project

revitalized key platforms and institutions, improved national capacity through mediation training, and promoted financial sustainability. There is strong government commitment to sustain project interventions, with substantial financial support and civil society actors seeking funding for continued activities. Efforts are coordinated for early warning and response, and capacity is enhanced for peaceful elections and intercommunity coexistence.

Coherence: The project capitalized on an established national peacebuilding infrastructure involving governmental and non-governmental entities. It responded to the demand for civil society organizations to engage in conflict prevention, resolution, reconciliation, and development. It effectively complemented the work of various entities, including other UN actors and initiatives by UNESCO, the Women's Mediation Network, and OHCHR. Strategic partnerships were established to avoid duplication and maximize the peacetech/innovation ecosystem. The project ensured alignment of design, implementation, monitoring, and reporting with other projects, leading to enhanced coordination among partners, actors, and stakeholders engaged in early warning and response. Regular consultations with stakeholders, including the Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative, and civil society organizations, were conducted during the project's design and implementation.

Gender equality: The project prioritized gender equality by ensuring at least 60% of the primary beneficiaries were women and integrating gender considerations throughout its design, implementation, and monitoring stages. It focused on marginalized counties, actively involving women in decision-making and peace processes. The project exceeded the gender marker requirements and had a significant impact on enhancing women's roles in decision-making, challenging patriarchal norms, and promoting women's electoral rights. Positive changes in gender equality and women's empowerment were observed, with women gaining more space in decision-making structures. The project achieved its objectives, mainstreaming gender, and targeting beneficiaries. Its interventions effectively addressed reported incidents and contributed to the reduction of violence, including gender-based violence in the offline and online space. The project's comprehensive geographic coverage and strategic use of online platforms and radio further enhanced its impact.

Conflict sensitivity: The project employed conflict-sensitive approaches by conducting a comprehensive conflict analysis and integrating conflict considerations into its design and implementation. It focused on mitigating and preventing conflicts through dialogue, mediation, and fostering social cohesion. Project staff and partners were capacitated in conflict analysis and sensitivity. However, there were unintended negative impacts, such as dissatisfaction among some civil society groups in Mombasa regarding the funding process and concerns raised by men in Isiolo about the high number of women project staff.

Catalytic effect: The project achieved catalytic outcomes by securing additional funding from the German government and the Government of Kenya. This funding supported activities such as risk assessments, monitoring of social media, and provision of communications support. The Government of Kenya funds were utilized to deploy additional NCIC cohesion monitors to support the collection and cross referencing of early warning information across the 47 counties of Kenya. At the county level, the project interventions received in kind and financial support from various organizations, including Kenya Red Cross and Champions of Peace. Additional resources were mobilized by Women Mediators in Wajir, resulting in food assistance for drought-affected families. Several UN Missions and African countries have held learning sessions with the project stakeholders to learn from the innovative social media monitoring, reporting and response framework that had been established by MAPEMA consortium to counter toxic content in the online space.

Time sensitivity and Risk tolerance: The project was well-timed to address potential electoral conflicts in Kenya and utilized the funding effectively to engage with relevant implementing and collaborating partners as well as beneficiary groups. However, some of the civil society organizations that were being funded by the project expressed frustration with short implementation timelines, limiting the project's full utilization of available time. Risks and assumptions were properly identified, and mitigation measures were implemented when needed. The involvement of grassroots civil societies helped mitigate risks at the community level. No new risks were identified during implementation, except for some challenges during the announcement of presidential results and the actions of social media influencers.

Emerging trends and challenges: Some counties had little to no engagement with youth while others had a high level of engagement indicating disparities in the participation and involvement of youth in conflict/electoral violence prevention interventions. Resource allocation, and the design of interventions need to be reconsidered to promote more inclusive and effective youth engagement in conflict prevention and electoral violence mitigation efforts across different counties.

The project faced several challenges, including limited time for implementation of activities. However, the No Cost Extension that was granted to the project enabled the completion of all the project activities. Another challenge was the delay in recruitment of the project staff resulting to a delayed start of the project. The level of funding provided to grantees was insufficient, impacting targeting and coverage of activities. Additionally, there was no specific framework for engagement with county governments, and the presence of multiple peace programs created confusion among citizens.

Key Lessons

Timing: Electoral violence prevention interventions should be continuous process based on the electoral process cycle so that they intensify six months to the elections to address emerging challenges like post-election *maandamanos* (peaceful demonstrations), enabling proactive responses.

Engagement: Multistakeholder and sectoral partnerships are very key in projects on hate speech, incitement. Collaborating with regulatory bodies and county governments provided the support, resources, and a conducive environment for project success. The project supported women led organizations in Wajir, Isiolo and Marsabit in dispute resolution mechanisms. This strengthened the capacity of women to help in bridging divides and promotes peace and reconciliation.

Grassroots CSOs: Working with experienced grassroots organizations promotes dialogue and peacebuilding, fostering community-level engagement and coexistence during elections.

Grassroots CSOs and Government Ownership: Collaborating with grassroots CSOs and involving government entities, like NCIC, is crucial for impactful early warning and response initiatives, ensuring effective engagement and successful implementation of peacebuilding activities.

Reporting and Early Intervention: Creating awareness about reporting suspected danger signals early leads to timely interventions and conflict resolution, especially in border areas.

Key Recommendations

1. Sustainability: Design projects that span the entire election life cycle to ensure long-term impact and avoid "knee-jerk" interventions. Address capacity and dormancy issues faced by national and sub-national institutions involved in early warning and response.

2. Capacity Building and Resources: Allocate budget for capacity building of grassroots organizations to enable them to receive funds directly from donors and partners, enhancing their peacebuilding activities in grassroots and urban areas.
3. Role of social media: The use of Artificial Intelligence tools to listen to the various social media platforms should be strengthened by exploring and establishing more efficient mechanisms in early warning and response strategies, considering its effectiveness in monitoring, reporting, and counter-messaging.
4. Gender Inclusivity: Develop further programming to promote gender inclusivity and women's empowerment, particularly in pastoralist communities, building on the success of the early warning and response project.
5. Timing and Continuity: Initiate projects early to cover anticipated activities in a timely manner and ensure post-election continuity to sustain achieved targets and goals.
6. Stakeholder Engagement: Involve more government agencies and departments as stakeholders to enhance the project's success and broaden its reach to beneficiaries.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project context

Kenya's general election in August 2022 was shaped by polarized politics, socio-economic inequalities, climate-related crises, and regional instabilities, significantly impacting peace and conflict dynamics. With a growing digital economy and high internet penetration, Kenyans heavily rely on mobile wireless communication, internet access, and social media to communicate and seek information on various issues. However, online hate speech and incitement to violence, as highlighted in reports by the NCIC, were prevalent during the 2022 elections. Ethnicity continues to play a major role in Kenyan politics, influencing power dynamics, resource allocation, and discrimination and this was evident during the political campaigns and post the elections period. Elite pacts among ethnic groups shaped election outcomes which exacerbated tensions in various counties. Women, youth, and marginalized regions faced higher risks, including climate-induced conflicts and gender-based violence. Despite efforts to address violence against women, gender-based hate speech and violence persisted, hindering women's equal participation. A United Nations led analysis emphasized the need for preventive interventions due to the increasing fear of election-related violence in Kenya, which has an established national level peace infrastructure. However, the existing peacebuilding actors and platforms, that make up the peace infrastructure, faced several operational and technical challenges, leading to the infrastructures that have limited capacity to effectively respond to emerging challenges.

1.2 Project description

To empower the peace infrastructures, the project aimed to strengthen the early warning and response systems for enhanced collaboration with national and subnational stakeholders to counter hate speech and promote peaceful and inclusive elections. It also focused on enhancing prevention efforts through the dissemination of positive narratives and engaging with key actors to mitigate identified risks. The project was jointly implemented by UNDP and OHCHR, with support from the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO). The National Cohesion and Integration Commission was the project's national level implementing partner. Through the UN implementing agencies, Amnesty International Kenya and MAPEMA consortium were contracted to support the project in the strengthening the early warning and response mechanisms to effectively respond to hate speech, incitement and mis/disinformation during the 2022 electioneering period. . Project interventions comprised of providing national and county level stakeholders with credible, inclusive, innovative, and gender-sensitive tools to support their early warning and prevention efforts targeting NCIC, NSC, UWIANO Platform for Peace, Civil Society Organizations amongst other key actors.

1.3. Scope and Objectives the Terminal Evaluation

1.3.1. Scope of the Terminal evaluation

The evaluation is comprehensive and forward-looking, focused on utilization and assessing the achievement of intended and unintended outcomes. It highlights lessons learned, best practices, and recommends strategies to improve operational and programmatic effectiveness in current and future peacebuilding projects. Following the OECD-DAC criteria, the evaluation analyzed relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and potential sustainability and ownership of the project. It also assessed whether the project was coherent, promoted gender equality, conflict sensitive, catalytic and risk tolerant and innovative. It covered the period from January 10, 2022, to December 31, 2022, across various regions in Kenya (Nairobi, Coast, Eastern, Nyanza, Rift Valley and Western). All project stakeholders were engaged in evaluating the project's conceptualization, design, implementation, monitoring, reporting, and results.

1.3.2. Objectives of the Evaluation

1.3.2.1 Overall Objective of the Evaluation

The evaluation aimed to assess the project's impact on creating a favorable environment for peaceful and inclusive elections by strengthening early warning and response systems. It examined the effectiveness of the early warning systems that were instituted as well as the prevention measures and campaigns that were conducted.

1.3.2.2 Specific Objectives of the Evaluation

The specific objectives of the evaluation were as follows:

1. Determine the relevance and strategic positioning of the project to the peacebuilding needs in communities and the priorities of the national peace architecture.
2. Assess a) the progress made towards project planned results and whether there were any unintended results and b) what can be derived in terms of lessons learned for ongoing and future UN support towards peacebuilding initiatives in Kenya.
3. Review the frameworks and strategies that the UN and partners devised to deliver the project and whether they were well conceived for achieving planned results.
4. Analyze the extent to which the project enhanced application of a rights-based approach, gender equality and women's empowerment, social and environmental standards, and participation of other socially vulnerable groups such as disabled, youth, persons living in the informal settlements.
5. Determine to what extent the project worked in synergy with existing interventions and partners towards peace building and community/national cohesion in Kenya.
6. To determine the extent to which the project interventions are likely to be sustainable beyond the project life.

1.3.3 The Evaluation Criteria

The key criteria used in the end term evaluation were as follows:

Relevance– The evaluation examined the relevance of the project by assessing whether its activities were appropriate and strategic in relation to the main peacebuilding goals and challenges in the country at the time of its design. It also considered the extent to which the project addressed identified conflict drivers and factors for peace. Additionally, the evaluation investigated the project's alignment with the UN's peacebuilding mandate and the SDGs, particularly SDG 16. It assessed the project's relevance to the needs and priorities of the target groups/beneficiaries and whether they were consulted during the design and implementation phases. Furthermore, the evaluation analyzed how the project supported peacebuilding priorities in Kenya and its level of responsiveness to those priorities.

Effectiveness – Here, the evaluation investigated the extent to which the project achieved its intended objectives and thus contributing to the project's strategic vision. It also sought to assess the extent to which the project achieved gender mainstreaming and supported gender-responsive peacebuilding. Finally, effectiveness assessed how appropriate and clear were the project's targeting strategy in terms of geographic and beneficiary targeting was; and the extent to which monitoring system adequately captured data on *peacebuilding* results at an appropriate outcome level.

Efficiency – This focused on assessing the value for money by examining the efficient utilization of project resources, including budget, assets, and staff, in relation to planned activities, outputs, and outcomes. It evaluated the coordination within the project, both between the two UN implementing agencies and with

stakeholders. It also sought to determine whether project funds and activities were delivered in a timely manner as well as the efficacy and success of the project's implementation approach, including procurement processes, the involvement of implementing partners, and other activities. The frequency of meetings held by the project steering committee was considered. Furthermore, the evaluation analyzed how well the project collected and utilized data to monitor results, as well as the effectiveness of communication between the project team, implementing partners, stakeholders, and project beneficiaries regarding the project's progress.

Sustainability – The evaluation here assessed the project's contribution to broader strategic outcomes outlined in national strategic plans, legislative agendas, and policies. It also examined whether the intervention design included a suitable sustainability and exit strategy, such as promoting national/local ownership and utilizing national capacity, to support positive changes in peacebuilding beyond the project's completion. The evaluation further investigated the commitment of the Government and other stakeholders to sustaining the results of PBF support and continuing initiatives, particularly women's participation in decision-making processes. Lastly, the criteria analyzed how the project enhanced and contributed to the development of national capacity to ensure the suitability of efforts and benefits.

Coherence - Under this criterion, the evaluation addressed three UN-related issues. Firstly, it assessed the extent to which the project complemented the work of various entities, particularly other UN actors. Secondly, it investigated whether the project was part of a broader PBF package and to what extent its design, implementation, monitoring, and reporting aligned with other projects. Lastly, the evaluation examined the level of stakeholder involvement in the project's design and implementation.

Gender equality - The evaluation investigated the extent to which the issue of gender equality and the empowerment of women was considered in the design, implementation, and monitoring of the project. In addition, the evaluation analyzed whether the gender marker data assigned to the project was representative of reality. Finally, through the case study of Wajir Women for Peace, the evaluation assessed the extent to which the project promoted positive changes in gender equality and the empowerment of women and if so, whether there were any unintended effects.

Conflict Sensitivity - The summative evaluation assessed the project approach to conflict-sensitivity and investigated whether implementing partners' internal capacities were adequate for ensuring an ongoing conflict-sensitive approach. Conflict sensitivity also investigated whether the project was responsible for any unintended negative impacts and if a process of context monitoring and a monitoring system that allowed for monitoring of unintended impacts was established.

Catalytic - The evaluation analyzed whether the project funding had been used to scale-up other peacebuilding work and/or has it helped to create broader platforms for peacebuilding i.e., was the project financially and/or programmatically catalytic?

Time-Sensitivity - The evaluation here sought to find out if the project timelines were well-placed to address existing conflict factors or capitalize on a specific window of opportunity. In addition, the evaluation was also to determine whether PBF funding was used to leverage political windows of opportunity for engagement.

Risk tolerance and innovation – Here, the task was to assess how identified risks were mitigated and lessons that could be drawn from the experience to inform similar approaches elsewhere.

2.0 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

2.1 Approach

This evaluation was a participatory process that used both quantitative and qualitative methods to assess the impact of the project interventions. The findings have been informed by information the project documentation, partners' reports and discussions, interviews with the UN project management team as well as the project beneficiaries, and desk review research conducted by the consultant. The consultant specifically reviewed various sources of information, including project document, situation, and progress reports by the MAPEMA consortium that comprises Code for Africa, Aifluence and Shujaaz Inc, Community Perception Survey reports, Project Progress reports submitted to the PBF, progress reports from NCIC and Amnesty International Kenya among others.

2.2 Data Collection Methods and Implementation

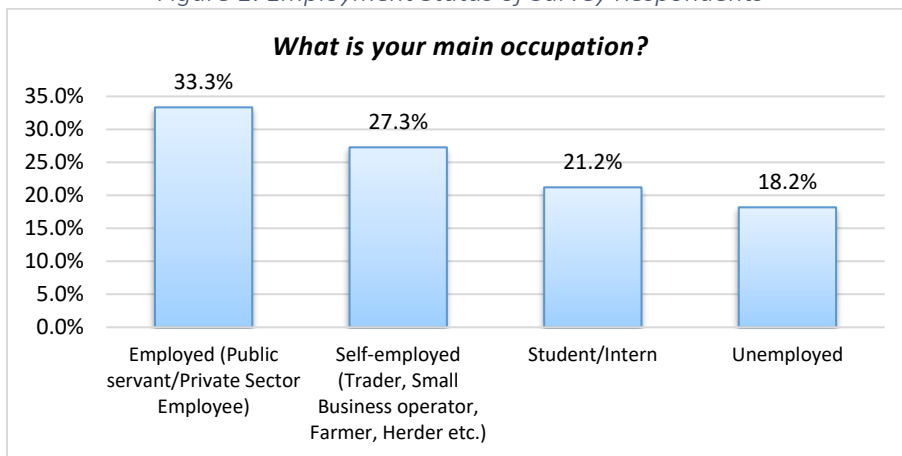
The evaluation used three main methods of data collection. The first of these was a review of various project documents and project progress reports to understand the project and further gather information for measuring project indicators for impact. Secondly, primary data was collected through interviews with Key Informants and Focus Groups Discussions targeting selected counties where the project activities were implemented. Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were conducted with internal and external stakeholders, including officials from the various UN and non-UN organizations involved in the project. This comprised of the members of the Project Steering Committee representing UNDP, OHCHR, the RCO and the NCIC. Additionally, representatives of the Project Technical Team comprising of Amnesty International – Kenya, selected members of the UWIANO platform for peace, representatives of MAPEMA consortium, representatives of the Conflict Analysis Group, select representatives of Civil Society Organizations that received grants from the project. Moreover, representatives of the National Police Service and the National Government Administrative Officers (NGAOs) and selected project beneficiaries were conducted. The KIIs gathered information on project outcomes, implementation challenges, and lessons learned.

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were also conducted with project beneficiaries and relevant stakeholders to obtain their perceptions of project implementation and potential impact. Twelve FGDs were conducted in six counties with women, youth, PLWD, ethnic minorities and others reaching over 120 community representatives, 60 percent being female. Out of the 12 FGDs conducted, two were exclusively targeting women in Isiolo and Wajir counties.

Thirdly, online surveys were conducted targeting the social media influencers, digital disruptors, and community perception survey researchers that were working under the project, to assess their perceptions on their peace messaging and counter narrative campaigns on peaceful elections. An online structured survey questionnaire was shared and administered using Kobo Collect software for efficiency and data quality control. The response rate of the survey questionnaire stood at 97 percent out of which 69.7% were male and 30.3% female. Majority of the respondents (37.9 percent) were in the 18-25 age group, followed by 26-30 (21.2%) and 31-35 (25.8%) age groups. This indicates a higher participation of youth who are typically more active on social media. Respondents aged 36 or above accounted for only 15.2%. With an internet penetration rate of about 80% in Kenya, this survey confirms that the youth are the most active internet users.

The survey sought to establish the occupation status of the respondents as indicated in the figure below. 33.3%, are employed either as public servants or private sector employees, 27.3% are self-employed 21.2% are students and intern and 18.2% being unemployed, indicating that joblessness is also a notable concern within the population.

Figure 1: Employment Status of Survey Respondents



A combination of virtual and in-person approaches were used, ensuring equal participation across gender and age groups. The gathered data was disaggregated by gender and social group where possible. Triangulation helped assess capacity enhancement, prevention responses, and engagement with positive change agents in addressing identified risks. Overall, these methods were employed to gather comprehensive data and insights on the project's implementation and outcomes.

2.3 Data analysis and interpretation

Quantitative data analysis involved calculating frequencies and means using Excel and SPSS software. This analysis described the project's design, coherence, achievement of objectives, and intended results aligned with SDG targets and project outcomes. Data from KIIs and FGDs were transcribed, reviewed, and coded using Atlas-ti software. Themes and emerging patterns were identified and compared. The content analysis integrated information from desk reviews, interviews, and discussions, facilitating comparisons and identifying common trends. The interpretive analysis aimed to derive meaning and establish patterns from the descriptive analysis.

Case Studies: Two mini-case studies of the Wajir Women for Peace organisation and Isiolo Peace Link were undertaken with a view to providing empirically-driven feedback on key lessons learnt and recommendations for consolidating the gains achieved, as well as the positive influences arising from the project.

2.4 Ethical considerations

The evaluation was carried out in accordance with good practices for ensuring ethical data collection and accountability to participant communities. The evaluation was guided by UNEG 'Ethical Guidelines for Evaluators' for more information).² Prior to the start of each interview and FGD, the consultant explained

² UNEG, 'Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation', June 2008. Available at <http://www.uneval.org/search/index.jsp?q=ethical+guidelines>.

the objective of the evaluation and data to be collected and the purely voluntary nature of participation, which was not have any bearing on an individual's or household's eligibility to receive assistance of any sort in the future. The participants were also made aware of the length of the interview or discussion, how the data collected will be used, how long the data collected will be kept and how participant confidentiality would be maintained.

2.5 Limitations and Challenges

Several challenges were encountered during data collection. While most of the key stakeholders were adequately consulted during data collection, those in distant counties such as Marsabit were not consulted due to the limited time available for the data collection as well as geographic expanse of the county. In remote counties like Wajir and Isiolo, FGD participants requested for higher transport reimbursements due to high costs and long distances that are characteristic of these counties. Additionally, there were limitations in the participation rate, particularly for the online survey questionnaires. Economic challenges in the country led some participants to request data bundles as an incentive to participate in the survey. Furthermore, the primary data collected from project partners and beneficiaries may not fully represent the overall perception of the masses regarding the project's contribution to a peaceful 2022 general election.

To address these limitations, the consultant extended the data collection period and reallocated resources to cover the remaining counties. Also, alternative methods for data collection, such as remote interviews and virtual consultations were relied on to overcome geographical limitations and ensure inclusion of stakeholders from unreached counties. To enhance representation and capture broader perceptions, additional interviews were conducted with to capture a more diverse range of perspectives. To manage the higher transport reimbursement demands in remote areas, the consultant budgeted for higher transport reimbursements in remote areas to accommodate the additional costs and longer distances travelled by participants. As well, the evaluator utilized local field researchers from the remote areas, to reduce the need for participants to travel long distances.

3.0 KEY FINDINGS

3.1. Introduction

This evaluation assessed the project's contribution to establishing effective early warning and response systems and reducing violence during the electoral period. The evaluation assessed the project's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and potential sustainability according to OECD DAC criteria.

3.2 Relevance

Based on the comprehensive assessments conducted during the evaluation, the project was found to be highly relevant. It demonstrated alignment with various factors crucial to addressing conflict drivers, peacebuilding goals, and challenges throughout the design and implementation phases. The project's alignment with the UN's peacebuilding mandate, SDG 16, and other relevant SDGs was also evident, highlighting its commitment to larger peacebuilding and sustainable development objectives. The evaluation recognized the project's relevance to the needs and priorities of the target groups/beneficiaries, emphasizing their active involvement in both project design and implementation. By examining the project's theory of change, the evaluation confirmed that it was based on evidence and clearly outlined the assumptions necessary to bring about the desired change.

3.2.1. Relevance and Appropriateness in addressing identified conflict drivers such as hate speech and incitement in online and offline spaces

The project acknowledged the conflict drivers in Kenya's political context, including polarized politics, socio-economic disparities, climate-induced conflicts, and regional instabilities. It recognized the risks posed by hate speech, online incitement and mis/disinformation during elections and the challenges faced by NCIC among them lack of cyber forensic tools to analyze cases on social media, slow determination of identified online cases and limited staff capacity to conduct online media monitoring.

Through the MAPEMA consortium, comprising of Code for Africa, Shujaaz Inc and Aifluence, the project established a social media monitoring, reporting and response mechanism to counter hate speech, incitement, and mis/disinformation. The framework was very relevant as it continually utilized Artificial Intelligence tools to listen to the various social media platforms that Kenyans were using to share and collect information. This led to improved capacity of the NCIC social media monitoring unit attributed to trainings provided by the consortium that led to identification of over 800 cases of online toxic content that were eventually brought down by various agencies including global tech companies and 60 cases under investigation.

To complement the social media monitoring and reporting, the project also ensured the collection of early warning information from the offline spaces through periodic community perception surveys that were conducted in 7 hotspot counties; collection, and collation of early warning information through the UWIANO platform for peace as well as other early warning mechanisms that were existent in selected counties. The early warning information collected from the online and offline spaces informed the project's actions as well as other peace actors ensuring that actions are relevant to the current context. Through county level dialogues that sought to address the political intolerance in several counties, targeted trainings on conflict resolution to enhance peace actors' capacities in addressing local conflicts, radio talk-shows, peace walks and sports tournaments seeking to raise awareness on the need for peaceful election the

project successfully fostered harmonious coexistence among communities in various counties the project was able to deal with off-line.

The project was extremely relevant for the people of Chemelil near the Kisumu/Nandi border area. It came when political tensions were high due to deep negative ethnic politics.

KII participant – Kisumu County, 14th March 2023

Isiolo county for instance has had periodic conflicts with neighbouring counties of Meru, Samburu and Garissa over boundaries and resources. Isiolo Peace Link (IPL) conducted several inter-county peace forums that addressed the problem. It also held three inter-county community and peace dialogues between Isiolo and Samburu.

Some of these activities like the sports tournaments that were supported by the project were very impactful and contributed significantly to a shift in opinion especially among the youth in relation to violent campaigns especially in some parts of the country.

It managed to shape people's opinions in relations to campaign violence which had taken Centre stage in most constituencies of Kisumu due to bungled party nominations. The NCIC approach of engaging grassroots organizations as sub-grantees helped in a big way in building capacities of the partners and the communities in the areas of the project. There is need to continue with the engagement in the face of new political agitations that are going on through Maandamanos (peaceful protests).

3.2.2. Appropriateness to the main peacebuilding goals and challenges in the country

The project aligned with the main peacebuilding goals in Kenya, which include addressing conflict drivers, promoting social cohesion, enhancing inclusive governance, ensuring justice and security, and employing preventive diplomacy. It also sought to address some key challenges in peacebuilding that include limited national and subnational institutional capacities and lack of sustained funding support.

By strengthening the early warning capacity of relevant institutions, such as NCIC, the NSC as well as other institutions within the UWIANO Platform, the project filled a crucial gap in the peacebuilding context. Considering the country's contextual factors in the context of the 2022 elections, the project sought to build the capacities of these institutions in countering hate speech and incitement. Prior to the elections, national capacities for peace in particular early warning and timely response to information was limited. The project addressed these gaps, through ensuring improved coordination among peace actors, and optimized the early warning and response systems at the national level and in identified hotspots.

Through the MAPEMA consortium, the NCIC's capacity in monitoring hate speech in the online space was enhanced. The consortium was able to conduct the most advanced social media monitoring, analysis and response activities around the Kenya 2022 election, contributing to reducing hate speech and incitement through online mediation, and to debunking of mis/disinformation through fact checking and counter-messaging. These efforts further contributed to realizing the objectives of the Kenya National Strategy on Hate Speech, launched in June 2022, further aligning with the UNCT Kenya Plan of Action on countering hate speech and incitement.

Existing peacebuilding actors and platforms in Kenya, such as Peace Committees and the UWIANO Platform for Peace, for instance faced challenges due to capacity gaps and weak coordination. Prior to the project, UWIANO Platform struggled with irregular meetings and a lack of qualified personnel resulting to parallel

early warning systems, eroding trust and collaboration. To address these challenges, the project provided technical support to the UWIANO platform through strengthening the human resources capacities as well as UWIANO's communications and visibility support. For instance, as result of the project support, UWIANO was able to report over 200 conflict incidences where 70 percent of these were addressed. Furthermore, at the peak of the elections, the platform was fully functional with regular meetings being held, scenario building exercises being conducted, coordinated messages and narratives being disseminated as well as other key prevention interventions. An UWIANO response framework was operationalized where communities and peace actors continuously EW information, through the UWIANO 108 SMS platform. The platforms were linked with sub national level situation rooms in Mombasa, Kisumu and Isiolo. Reports were then verified, collated and harmonized disseminated to UWIANO members, mediation teams, peace and security actors to inform their response.

As per the survey findings, 90.9 percent of the respondents acknowledged the project's positive influence on coordination as illustrated in the table below.

Table 1: Coordination of partners, actors and stakeholders

| <i>Did the project lead to enhanced coordination of partners, actors and stakeholders engaged in early warning and response?</i> | | | |
|---|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | No | Not Sure | Yes |
| <i>Bungoma</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Kakamega</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Kericho</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Kiambu</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Kilifi</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Kisumu</i> | 0.0% | 16.7% | 83.3% |
| <i>Machakos</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Migori</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Mombasa</i> | 0.0% | 7.4% | 92.6% |
| <i>Nairobi</i> | 6.7% | 6.7% | 86.7% |
| <i>Nakuru</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Siaya</i> | 0.0% | 100.0% | 0.0% |
| <i>Taita Taveta</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Trans-Nzoia</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Uasin Gishu</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>All Counties</i> | 1.5% | 7.6% | 90.9% |

Source: Online Survey

At the sub-national level, the project led to enhanced coordination and joint activities among critical actors and stakeholders, as demonstrated by their engagement and collaboration in various initiatives. For instance, in Isiolo, Isiolo Peace Link, the project supported revitalization of the Joint Operation Command Centre and Women Situation Room which coordinated early warning and response interventions in the county. The JOCC-WSR brought together national and county governments CSOs, community members, Kenya Red Cross Society amongst others to support election violence reduction and peacebuilding in Isiolo and neighboring counties. Through support provided to Isiolo county, conflicts over boundaries and resources were addressed through inter-county peace forums and dialogues that brought together community representatives and security officials. This has further fostered positive linkages between duty bearers and rights holders improving the lack of trust between communities and security agencies that had

been identified as a roadblock to peaceful elections. The housing of the JOCC - WSR at the Isiolo Police Station also contributed to the improved community security relations fostering the positive linkages. This was also observed in Mombasa County where through HAKI Africa, state and non-state actors were brought together to share and exchange increasing cooperation in election violence reduction.

Based on this assessment, it can be concluded that the project was highly appropriate to addressing some of the main peacebuilding goals and challenges in the country. However, to further enhance its alignment, it is recommended to continue strengthening coordination among stakeholders, ensuring data-driven monitoring and evaluation, and promoting sustained efforts beyond the specific election period. Additionally, continuous engagement with marginalized groups and targeted interventions to address underlying conflict drivers would be valuable in future project iterations.

3.2.3. Relevance to the UN's peacebuilding mandate and the SDGs, in particular SDG.

In line with SDG 16 the project worked with national and subnational peace actors in enhancing their capacities on early warning and prevention response during the elections of 2022. By fostering concerted action by NCIC, NSC, Amnesty International – Kenya and CSOs that received grants from the PBF to address identified risks and vulnerabilities, the project supported accountable institutions and inclusive approaches to prevention and sustaining peace. In particular, it contributed to Targets 16.1 and 16.a and by working closely with women led CSOs such as Isiolo Peacelink, Wajir Women for Peace, Marsabit Women Advocacy and Development Organization and Marsabit Women Mediation Network, the project also contributed to SDG 5 (gender equality), 10 (reduced inequalities) and 17 (partnerships). Further, the project contributed to a recommendation from Kenya's engagement in the Universal Periodic Review process which concerns combating hate speech during electoral periods.

The project further aligned with the UN Kenya Prevention and Integrated Analysis Platform, the primary early warning and response mechanism in Kenya i.e., the UWIANO Platform for Peace that launched its election violence strategy in 2022, supporting collective prevention efforts. Additionally, it aligned with Kenya's National Action Plan against Hate Speech whose objectives include providing a platform for synergy building among stakeholders who prevent and counter hate speech in Kenya and guiding the implementation of hate speech management in Kenya. In doing so, it supported UN Kenya's early warning and prevention efforts and contributes to implementing recommendations on combating hate speech.

“I would say that all would not be possible to deliver a peaceful election without the support of the UN in particular the elimination of hate speech. We worked with the UN and I'm happy that we were able to monitor the social media and the offline platforms for hate speech. We collaborated with the MAPEMA Consortium, and the Commission was able to identify over 800 cases. These cases were identified in some of them through also the partnership of global tech companies. We were able to withdraw some of those hateful messages and misinformation and disinformation.” **Dr. Skitter Ocharo - CEO, NCIC**

3.2.4. Relevance to the needs and priorities of the target groups/implementing partners.

The project aimed to provide national stakeholders with credible and inclusive tools for early warning and prevention during the electoral period. Prior to the project, there was an observable gap in the use of

technological and innovative tools to collect and respond to early warning information. Through the project, situation reports on online tactics and trends, community perception surveys in hotspot counties, online fact checking, and social media peace messaging and counter narratives were conducted by the project on behalf of the national and subnational stakeholders. These initiatives focused on countering hate speech, incitement and mis/disinformation involving collaboration between the UN, Government, and non-governmental actors, MAPEMA consortium, social media influencers, as well as Global Tech Companies. The project's multisectoral strategy, which involved collaboration with different organizations, proved effective in leveraging diverse experience and expertise.

Through the grants provided to the CSOs, through the NCIC, the project was able to amplify prevention and peace campaigns at the grassroots in selected counties. This support strengthened NCIC's as well as the CSOs capacity for conducting prevention campaigns as well as reciprocal procedures and disbursement mechanisms. It further addressed policy gaps, provided analysis support, and facilitated collaborations between the NCIC and CSO actors working in peacebuilding. The support provided was relevant, addressing technical, financial, moral, linking, learning, advocacy, and capacity-building dimensions.

Additionally, the project adopted a targeted approach by focusing on areas or communities most impacted by tensions and disputes. It addressed the specific needs and priorities of these communities, taking into account their cultural, social, and political contexts. By aligning with peacebuilding goals and employing a targeted approach, the project effectively contributed to sustainable peace and stability in Kenya by implementing various activities that fostered harmonious coexistence among communities and addressed political tensions. activities such as intra/inter-communal dialogues to address political tensions, hate speech/incitement trainings to counter the misuse of social media platforms for information pollution during elections, advocacy campaigns such as radio talk-shows, peace walks, sports tournaments to promote tolerance and cohesion during the period amongst other interventions. As per the FGD respondents engaged with in Kisumu and neighboring counties, the peace sports tournaments conducted had a significant impact on shifting opinions, especially among the youth, regarding electoral conflict. In Wajir county, the group of women mediators that went through the mediation trainings successfully contributed to the mediation processes to address the pre-existing conflicts in Eldas and Tarbaj constituencies that would have been a threat to peace during the elections period. Overall, the project demonstrated its relevance to the needs and priorities of the target groups/beneficiaries.

3.2.5. The project's theory of change

The project theory of change posited that by strengthening national early warning and response systems through capacity-building, clear strategies, skilled personnel, and appropriate technological tools, and by enhancing coordination and collaborative partnerships among key stakeholders, Kenya would have an effective early warning and response system. This system would be capable of gathering timely data, detecting and addressing hate speech, disseminating preventive and positive counter-narratives, designing effective interventions, and connecting national and sub-national actors. The expected outcome of this system would be a reduction in the scale and spread of violence during the electoral period and the creation of a conducive environment for peaceful and inclusive elections.

The project's theory of change envisioned a well-coordinated early warning system that addressed hate speech in Kenya, particularly in hotspots areas to reduce likelihood of violence mainly towards women who are deliberately targeted in electoral violence.

The Naming, shaming and monitoring of politicians by NCIC made it difficult for politicians to organize for violence – KII in Nairobi

The project Theory of Change and assumptions proved valid as there was a universal perception among respondents, the UN, implementing partners and beneficiaries alike – that there was a correlation between the implementation of the project and the peaceful political transition in 2022. The continuous information sharing among peace actors as well as the communities, through established/existing structures, heightened vigilance by state security agencies as well as monitoring of hate Speech, incitement and mis/disinformation in the online and off-line spaces. The project therefore successfully fulfilled its assumptions as its interventions resulted in the desired change, such as improved early warning and response capacities, enhanced coordination, and reduced violence during the electoral period. To a large extent, the project's activities align with the theory of change based on the evidence of their impact, effectiveness and success of the project's approach in achieving its objectives.

3.3. Effectiveness

Effectiveness refers to the extent the project has achieved its intended expected results and activities. Also, which changes can be attributed to the project, whether the activities brought out the expected results.

3.3.1. Achievement of intended objectives and contribution to the project's strategic vision

The project aimed to achieve one outcome: the establishment of effective early warning and response systems that connect national and sub-national actors, leading to a reduction in the scale and spread of violence during the electoral period and creating a conducive environment for peaceful and inclusive elections. As a result of the project, there was enhanced collaboration and coordination across a broad spectrum of actors working in the peace, security, and human rights sectors to contribute to a peaceful election. This was driven through the continuous information sharing by all the actors that were from both national and county levels. The project supported the NSC situation room with the technical support (human resources) to collect, verify, report, and disseminate early warning information from across the 47 counties. Furthermore, through the project, information was collected using perception surveys, complementing assessments and analyses by the UWIANO platform. Through the MAPEMA consortium, analysis of trends and tactics in the social media platforms was conducted utilising Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, flagging over 900 cases of hate speech, incitement, and mis/disinformation. All this information collected was shared through various platforms. For the project, the peace messaging hub, that brought together over 30 state and non-state actors to share the analyses from the various tracks informed a coordinated way of response and peace messaging. A week before and after the 8 August Election, the peace hub members formed a WhatsApp group with actors from 25 counties. Through this group, 114 incidences were identified where 77 of them were responded to collectively. Moreover, through the sharing of information, there were coordinated peace message campaigns pushed by over 200 social media influencers working on the project while the same message was also shared with 14 vernacular stations

reaching 10.4million people. From this 2022 electoral experience, it is evident that data and information sharing is very crucial in coordination and collaboration.

Strengthened linkages between mechanisms and actors between the national and sub-national levels as well as actors working in the online and offline spaces towards the quick response to emerging incidences of conflicts and incidences of violence. Through the project, county level mechanisms in Isiolo and Kisumu were linked to the UWIANO system to feed the system with real time early warning information from the counties. In the past, there has been a breakdown in these linkages. Furthermore, the project made it possible for global tech companies and companies working in the tech sector to collaborate to counter information pollution for peaceful elections.

The project contributed to the uptake in the use of technology to strengthening early warning efforts. Through the use of AI tools, the national peace infrastructures capacities on monitoring social media space was enhanced. The model that was used by the project has inspired several countries to learn from the project's approach. the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), have approached Code for Africa, part of the MAPEMA consortium for technical guidance or assistance with identifying and combatting digital incitement and coordinated mis/disinformation.

The project's efforts in capacity building, mentoring, and mediation training, along with its revitalization of key platforms and institutions, greatly enhanced national and subnational institutional capacities fostering the sustainability of peacebuilding efforts and benefits. As per the end term evaluation report, key actors, and stakeholders, including youth, women, local CSOs benefited from capacity building and mentoring interventions provided by the project. The project revitalized the UWIANO message reporting platform, which had been inactive prior to the election. The Conflict Analysis Group, a committee of the UWIANO platform saw a significant improvement in research capacity through the project's support. Mediation training, targeting women from Isiolo, Wajir and Marsabit counties made a substantial contribution to subnational capacities and the sustainability of efforts and benefits.

The achievement of the expected outcome and outputs demonstrates that the project has contributed to the desired outcome outlined in the project document. All activities related to supporting the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), Amnesty International - Kenya, and CSOs were implemented. The progress made in relation to the expected outputs is summarized in the table below, based on reports from project staff and project documents.

Table 2: Project Indicators and Targets

| Output | Output Indicator | Planned Output (target) | Actual Output/ Achievement (AC) | SPI = AC/PV ³ . | Comments |
|---|---|---|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Output 1.1: Enhanced capacity of early warning and response systems (monitoring, data collection, analysis, and reporting) to detect hate speech and incitement that could trigger violence, and to assess multi-layered risks, tensions and potential flashpoints in the electoral period | Indicator 1.1.1: Early Warning and Response System revitalized: monitors the situation, collects & analyses data and produces analytical reports | 10 monthly reports during 2022 | 5 monthly reports on early warning produced and Six community perception surveys conducted in 7 hotspot counties. Reports shared with various stakeholders guiding responses e.g. peace messaging and prevention efforts | SPI =12/10 = 1.2 | Exceeded target |
| | | 8 weekly reports during the elections period. | 4 weekly (during elections) reports on early warning produced. | SPI = 4/8 = 0.5 | Partly achieved |
| | Indicator 1.1.2: Number of social media analytical reports detecting hate speech and incitement. | 10 monthly reports during 2022 | Over 10 social media analytical reports produced & disseminated. Through MAPEMA EW tools developed to monitor online space and NCIC's capacity enhanced on social media monitoring | SPI >1 | Exceeded target |
| | Indicator 1.1.3: Number of hate speech incidents reported. Number of cases investigated and Number of cases prosecuted | Increased investigation of cases ⁴ | Over 800 cases were identified by September 2022. 240 identified as mis/dis information, 126 forwarded to relevant organisations & 60 cases under investigation by NCIC and ODPP. Global tech companies have also taken down harmful content. 159 fact checks done | SPI >1 | Exceeded previous record |

³ Schedule Performance Index (SPI) compares the project's Earned Value (Actual Achievement - AC) and the Planned Value (PV)

⁴ 106 hate speech cases reported; 12 prosecuted in 2017

| | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <p>Output 1.2: Enhanced timely prevention responses and targeted interventions in response to early warning assessments, including through the production and dissemination of positive counter-narratives and effective engagement with agents of positive change</p> | <p>Indicator 1.2.1: Social media monitoring/ analytical and response framework developed for addressing risks of hate speech and incitement, including gender analysis of risks</p> | <p>12 (monthly social media analysis reports by NCIC)</p> | <p>Over 800 cases were identified by September 2022. Reports identified number of cases of toxic content and discussions being held in the online space. Cases identified forwarded to NCIC and global tech companies for action</p> | <p>SPI >1</p> | <p>Exceeded previous record</p> |
| | <p>Indicator 1.2.2: Positive messaging and counter-narrative campaigns addressing hate speech and incitement, and promoting peaceful and inclusive elections, conducted through social media and other media (e.g. radio) to prevent and reduce violence, especially gender-based violence.</p> | <p>Monthly identification of joint prevention messaging for use in campaigns.</p> | <p>Peace messaging hub established with monthly meetings held to develop peace messages from EW reports.</p> | <p>SPI >1</p> | <p>Exceeded target</p> |
| | | <p>At least 100 influencers (50% female) engage in positive messaging campaigns for peaceful elections.</p> | <p>60 micro and nano influencers from over 10 counties engaged to push peace messages.</p> | <p>SPI = 60/100 = 0.6</p> | <p>Partly achieved</p> |
| | | <p>Media campaigns in 5 hotspot counties</p> | <p>14 vernacular radio stations engaged with peace messages.</p> | <p>SPI >1</p> | <p>Exceeded target</p> |
| | <p>Indicator 1.2.3: Preventive engagement by agents of positive change, in particular young men and women, to reduce violence, including gender-based violence.</p> | <p>Increase in no. of young people/ individuals engaged in UWIANO networks and project partners</p> | <p>Over 10,000 individuals reached through direct (dialogues, outreach, reflection forums) and indirectly (peace concerts, peace walks) through interventions by CSOs in Lamu, Mombasa, Kisumu, Nairobi, Isiolo & borders that received grants from the PBF.</p> | <p>SPI >1</p> | <p>Exceeded target</p> |
| | | | <p>Mainstream and social media campaigns reached 41,812,000 listeners on National TV and radio courtesy of UWIANO. Vernacular radio stations reached 10.4 million listeners with peace messages immediately after election. Through social media platform, over 7 million users have been reached with over 200,000 engagements.</p> | <p>SPI >1</p> | <p>Exceeded target</p> |

3.3.2 Geographic and Beneficiary targeting

The project covered all 47 counties in its early warning reporting and analysis, indicating a comprehensive approach to understanding the context and challenges across the entire country. This is evident through the national level early warning analysis conducted through the UWIANO platform and the presence of peace monitors across the whole country, courtesy of UWIANO and its partners. This were further complemented by the perception surveys conducted in select counties. At the national level, response interventions comprised of mainstream media and social media campaigns as well as targeted interventions that reached a broader audience and promoting awareness of the need for peaceful elections. For instance, through the MAPEMA and Amnesty International – Kenya peace messaging and counter narrative campaigns, which were also being conducted by the CSOs that were granted under the project, over 12 million audiences in Facebook, Instagram and other platforms were reached.

Table 4: Overall Engagement and Reach of Shujaaz Inc’s Peace Content in the month of July 2022

| PEACE PEKEE | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Character | Social Media Channel | Followers (Subscribers) | Hashtag | Total Reach | Total Engage | Deep Engage ⁵ | Video Views |
| DjB | FB | 1,013,187 | #PeacePekee | 434,740 | 10,162 | 3,504 | 1,413 |
| DjB | TW | 17,113 | #PeacePekee | 18,749 | 4620 | 2701 | 701 |
| DjB | IG | 83,070 | #PeacePekee | 7,087 | 476 | 19 | 0 |
| Kim | FB | 572,734 | #PeacePekee | 160,579 | 6,871 | 3,652 | 2,793 |
| Kim | IG | 21,752 | #PeacePekee | 2,093 | 434 | 269 | 260 |
| Pele | FB | 166,261 | #PeacePekee | 135,692 | 7,754 | 463 | 0 |
| TOTAL | | 2,186,114 | | 758,940 | 30,317 | 10,608 | 5,167 |

Source: Shujaaz Inc X UNDP Monthly update

The messages were disseminated through the project's over 60 micro and nano influencers. The same messages were disseminated through 14 vernacular radio stations reaching an audience of 10.4 million listeners across the country. Findings from both the online survey and Shujaaz Inc. monthly updates indicate that Meta (Facebook) was the most popular online platform the influencers used to disseminate the messages and counter narratives as shown in the bar chart and table below. The influencers were working in various counties across the country.

Table 5: Online Platform to Dissemination Information

| <i>Which online platform do you consider to have been most appropriate to disseminate information?</i> | | | | | |
|--|--------|-----------|-----------------|--------|---------|
| | Google | Instagram | Meta (Facebook) | TikTok | Twitter |
| <i>Bungoma</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| <i>Kiambu</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 50.0% | 0.0% | 50.0% |
| <i>Kilifi</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| <i>Kisumu</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| <i>Machakos</i> | 100.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |

⁵ Deep Engagement – comments, shares, replies, retweets, views

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|-------|--------|------|--------|
| <i>Migori</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Mombasa</i> | 7.4% | 0.0% | 74.1% | 3.7% | 14.8% |
| <i>Trans-Nzoia</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| <i>Uasin Gishu</i> | 50.0% | 50.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| <i>All Counties</i> | 9.1% | 6.1% | 66.7% | 1.5% | 16.7% |

Source: Evaluation online Survey

The evaluation revealed varying social media platform preferences across different counties. Twitter and Instagram were significant platforms in Kiambu and Uasin Gishu, while Kericho preferred Instagram and Machakos favored Google. In Nakuru, Google, Meta (Facebook), and Twitter had an equal split of approximately 33.3% among respondents. Overall, Meta (Facebook) was the most preferred platform across all counties, followed by Twitter and Google. Instagram and TikTok had lower preferences compared to other platforms. These findings highlight regional variations in social media platform choices and the dominance of Meta (Facebook) among surveyed counties. Geographic targeting ensured that the project's interventions were tailored to. While Facebook and Twitter are the most engaging online platforms among Kenyans, as supported by analytics from Code for Africa, it is important to note that these platforms also carried a significant amount of hate speech and incitement.

The responses and interventions targeted civil society organizations (CSOs) in hotspot counties as well as national level actors with national level programs. For the CSOs counties that had been identified as hotspot counties were targeted i.e., in Mombasa County, two CSOs (HAKI Africa, Pamoja for Transformation) were working on prevention campaigns that would address possible electoral violence. In Kisumu - Kericho - Nandi border, Keeping Alive Societies Hope were supported by the project to implement cross border interventions that were likely to trigger political violence due to the high levels of political intolerance. In Wajir, Isiolo and Marsabit the project ensured that the right participants were selected based on well-defined criteria and existing needs, allowing the project's interventions to have a significant impact on the targeted audience. For instance, in a bid to amplify youth's voices in elections, two youth pulses were conducted before and after the elections, focusing on the role and expectations of youth. This inclusion of youth perspectives and participation contributed to ensuring youth responsiveness and inclusion in the peacebuilding and elections processes.

By targeting specific areas and addressing the specific needs of the beneficiaries, the project maximized its effectiveness in promoting peace and cohesion in those areas.

3.4. Efficiency

3.4.1. Resource Efficiency

The project achieved a significant level of efficiency in terms of staffing, planning, and coordination. The collaboration between the two UN entities, NCIC/Amnesty International – K and engagement with stakeholders were deemed effective. Furthermore, the evaluation revealed that the project had successfully delivered project funds and implemented activities in a timely manner. The project was thus able to meet its objectives within the specified timeframes.

The evaluation found that the resources for project were appropriately allocated but not fully utilized by the planned end-time. The project design and development were initiated by OHCHR, UNDP and the UN

RCO in consultation with various national and subnational actors. National actors such as the NCIC, Amnesty International – Kenya, NCIC, NSC and other UWIANO Platform members as well as other CSOs were consulted in the design and implementation process.

At the end of the planned project period, some of the activities of the implementing partners had not been completed leading to a request for 3-month no-cost extension. This financial delivery indicates that either the resource allocation was not realistic or the utilization was not optimal.

3.4.2. Efficiency of the implementation approach, including procurement and partnerships

The involvement of multiple implementing partners was a positive aspect of the project's implementation approach amplifying the project's impact. Collaborating with different organizations and stakeholders allowed for a diverse range of expertise, resources, and networks to be leveraged. The partnership included representation from all key sectors, such as government agencies, the United Nations, civil society organizations (CSOs), communities, and Global Tech Companies. However, some partners who should have been included in the implementation were left out. For instance, the Communication Authority of Kenya (CAK) and the Media Council of Kenya should have been directly engaged in the implementation process. Their implementation through the UWIANO Platform was not sufficient. Their inclusion was important due to their respective mandates on social media and media regulation.

The partnership strategy for instance, collaboration with Global Tech Companies, demonstrated effectiveness in removing toxic content in their social media platforms. For instance, because of the virtual roundtables that were being conducted with the GTC, inciting videos were deleted on Twitter reducing incidences of incitement in the online space. Furthermore, Amnesty International, NCIC, Code for Africa were provided with access to partner support portals hastening the reporting and response time. Through the online fact checking that was being conducted by the project, over 300 fact checks were shared with the global tech companies resulting to Facebook labelling over 550,000 posts as misleading. This proactive action in countering harmful content on social media platforms contributed to maintaining a safe and conducive environment for conversations and information sharing.

By the project interventions, linking up to the NSC, the project tapped into the national infrastructures and the peace committees across the country for use in both the early warning and the early response contributing to strengthened and effective partnerships. The NSC co-chaired the UWIANO platform for peace and hosted the National Conflict Early Warning System (NCEWERS) and Situation Room, which were expected to produce regular early warning reports.

The sharing of reports for action was identified as another area of success in the partnership strategy. Early warning reports from UWIANO, social media reports and community perception surveys were shared with various state and non-state actors to inform peace messaging and prevention campaigns. By streamlining the reporting process and ensuring effective communication channels, the project facilitated the exchange of information between stakeholders, enabling timely and appropriate responses to emerging issues.

Nonetheless, the CSO grantees faced challenges in terms of their capabilities and resources, which hindered the successful implementation of the partnership strategy. Additionally, there were instances of conflicting opinions or disagreements among the partners regarding how to effectively communicate and engage with

stakeholders. Investing in continuous capacity building and resource allocation could have enhanced the partners' skills, expertise, and resources. Likewise, creating a culture of effective communication and collaboration would have enhanced a successful project partnership. Clear communication channels would facilitate the exchange of ideas and best practices among partners, stakeholders, and relevant actors.

The project demonstrated effectiveness in acquiring the necessary resources, goods, and services. It adhered to appropriate procurement processes, ensuring transparency, fairness, and value for money. The project thus demonstrated its commitment to efficient resource management. This not only ensured the smooth execution of project activities but also instilled confidence in stakeholders regarding the project's accountability and responsible use of resources.

3.4.3 Management and Coordination of the project.

At the management level, the project was coordinated by the project steering committee comprising of UNDP, OHCHR and NCIC, chaired by the UN RCO. The PSC met regularly to provide strategic guidance to the project. A project Technical Team that was led by the Project Manager also met regularly to discuss the progress of the project and identify possible risks to implementation.

3.4.4 Data Collection, Monitoring, and Effective Management

The project utilized robust information gathering mechanisms, especially in monitoring social media, analyzing trends, and tracking hate speech incidents. The use of lexicons for hate speech, actor watchlists, content scarping/monitoring tools, s=dashboards, online fact checking, community perception surveys as well as micro and nano influencers for peace and counter narratives was very innovative and ensured continuous monitoring and response. This comprehensive approach provided a clear understanding of hate speech prevalence during the election period. Updated data was effectively used to inform project activities, enabling the identification of emerging trends and hotspots. Prompt interventions were deployed based on real-time information, such as mobilizing resources and engaging stakeholders for awareness campaigns and community dialogues. This proactive and data-driven approach ensured effective response and targeted implementation of project activities.

3.4.5 Synergies within different programs of UN agencies and other implementing organizations

Collaboration with other UN agencies programs and those of implementing partners was evident, and efforts were made to align activities and share resources. For instance, the project supported the Transcending Foundations for Peace and Security Program led by UNDP that sought to contribute to a peaceful electioneering environment. For the NCIC, the project interventions informed further engagement with the youth, for instance through the social media reports that were being produced, alternative interventions were out in place to engage the youth in utilizing social media for peace. The early warning reports were further shared with the regional and international election observation teams that used the information to understand Kenya's electoral and political context.

3.5. Sustainability and Ownership

3.5.1. Project design and sustainability

The project's intervention design demonstrated a thoughtful and strategic approach to sustainability and exit strategy. By leveraging existing national frameworks, engaging with relevant stakeholders, and fostering financial self-reliance, the project aimed to create lasting positive changes in peacebuilding

beyond its implementation period. It incorporated a sustainable and comprehensive intervention design that promoted national and local ownership, utilized national capacity, and which will support positive changes in peacebuilding even after the project's conclusion.

The project ensured sustainability by aligning with existing national frameworks and prevention priorities in Kenya such as the 2021 UNCT Kenya Plan of Action on countering hate speech and incitement and the UNDAF Strategic Result Area on Transformative Governance; outcome 1.3: "People in Kenya live in a secure, peaceful, inclusive and cohesive society." It also contributed to UNDP's project *Transcending Foundations of Peace and Security for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Kenya, 2020-2023*, and the UN basket fund project *Consolidating Democratic Dividends for Sustainable Transformation in Kenya Project 2021-2023* jointly implemented by UNDP, UN Women and OHCHR. It complemented other UN interventions including UNESCO's Social Media 4 Peace Initiative, the High-Level Mediators Team and Women's Mediation Network and projects by UN Women and OHCHR addressing women's political participation and strengthening prevention of and response to electoral-related sexual violence. It collaborated with mandated government bodies such as NCIC, the national independent commission mandated to combat hate speech and incitement and promote cohesion and NSC among others and civil society actors such as Amnesty International - Kenya, Haki Afrika and Pamoja for Transformation by reinforcing their capacities and engagement in early warning and prevention beyond the project's duration. Additionally, the project complemented the UNCT Prevention and Integrated Analysis Platform for early warning and risk analysis. The platform was created in 2017 to support the UN's analysis before, during and after the elections.

Furthermore, the project established a granting mechanism through the NCIC to diversify the funding base and promote financial self-reliance among implementing partners. This approach empowered partners to finance interventions using their own mechanisms, reducing their dependence on the project's support. This financial independence was essential for partners to sustain and continue the project's ambitions and benefits even after the project's conclusion.

3.5.2. Institutional sustainability

The project's efforts in capacity building and mentoring, along with its revitalization of key platforms and institutions, greatly enhanced national institutional capacity and fostered the sustainability of peacebuilding efforts and benefits. Key actors and stakeholders, including DPCs, youth, police, ORPP, NGAO, IEBC, PLWDS, NCIC and religious leaders, benefited from capacity building and mentoring provided by the project. The NSC Secretariat and the UWIANO Platform played crucial roles, although their influence at the sub-national and grassroots levels had declined in recent years. The project revitalized the National Conflict Early Warning and Response System (NCEWER) based at the NSC situation room, which had been inactive for some time. Through the project and additional personnel were deployed to the situation room to operate the system. The Conflict Analysis Group, a sub-committee of the UWIANO platform, also saw a significant improvement in conflict analysis capacity through the project's support.

'It was frustrating that such an important peacebuilding infrastructure as the SMS reporting platform was in-operational so close to the general election. This should never be allowed to happen!'

A key informant and project staff from Nairobi

Alternative Dispute Resolutions trainings conducted in selected project sites such as Marsabit, Isiolo, Wajir, and Kisumu made a substantial contribution to sub-national capacities and the sustainability of efforts and benefits. Beneficiaries gained valuable exposure and knowledge from the trainings, and their capacity to report to donors and partners also increased.

3.5.3. Financial sustainability

The project promoted financial sustainability by giving the CSO grantees an opportunity to run activities that built their capacity in peacebuilding. This, coupled with capacity building on resource mobilization, enabled an increasing number of targeted CSOs to access funding through their own initiatives. The project also strengthened the capacities of NSC, NCIC, CAG, and the UWIANO Platform, contributing to their institutional capacity and the sub-national structures of the early warning early response system. Grantee grassroots organizations like Isiolo Peace Link, Wajir Women for Peace, and KASH demonstrated competence, visibility, and acceptance among stakeholders. However, some grantees expressed concerns about inadequate exit strategies, leading to activities coming to a halt after the implementation period despite the enthusiasm of project staff.

‘Some of us were so deeply engrossed by project interventions and there were such high expectations from the public that we struggled for some alternative sources of facilitation just help some of these expectations and not to be seen like we had been switched off’.

FGD participant from Likoni

3.5.4. Government Support and Sustainability

There was a strong commitment from both the government and other stakeholders to sustain project interventions after its completion. For the NCIC, this was the first time it was handling a project of such a design with an online system to address hate speech and incitement as well as a granting mechanism to amplify its prevention work at the subnational levels. The mentorship and peer support provided through MAPEMA and the development of a training manual including a syllabus detailing the systematic approach to conducting advanced social media monitoring using automated tools, alongside proposed systems to help NCIC automate its monitoring processes, will help in continuous monitoring. This will also contribute to realizing the objectives of the Kenya National Action Plan on Hate Speech launched by NCIC in June 2022. The project through the support of German funding, intends to contract a tech company to support building the capacity of NCIC and other actors in continuous social media listening. The support will be active until November 2023. The NSC is actively involved in coordinating efforts to revitalize the UWIANO Platform for early warning and response, as well as strengthening the capacity of county and grassroots-level DPCs to enhance response.

Civil society actors, like the Isiolo Peace Link, have expressed their intent to secure funding for continuing intervention activities initiated through the multi-sectoral Joint Operation Command Centre (JOCC), such as counter-messaging, hate speech monitoring, and mediation training in Isiolo.

The successful work that was done by all the national and sub national peace infrastructures, that led to a peaceful election, have prompted the UN RCO to initiate a national review of the Peacebuilding Architecture. The review has already started and will investigate gaps, strengths and thematic areas that need to be strengthened for a functional peace structure. This will inform future programming on peace and security at the national and sub-national levels.

3.6. Coherence

The project capitalized on an established national peacebuilding infrastructure involving both governmental and non-governmental entities. This infrastructure had been developed over time to address various aspects of conflict prevention, resolution, reconciliation, and development. Therefore, the project was a response to the existing demand for civil society organizations to engage in these vital issues.

3.6.1. Complementarity with other entities, especially with other UN actors.

The project effectively complemented the work of various entities, particularly other UN actors, in Kenya. It aligned with UN projects such as Deepening Democracy, Human Rights Defenders, Transcending Foundations of Peace and Security for Inclusive and Sustainable Development, and Consolidating Democratic Dividends for Sustainable Transformation. Additionally, it synergized with initiatives by UNESCO, the High-Level Mediators Team, Women's Mediation Network, UN Women, and OHCHR focusing on social media for peace, women's political participation, and electoral-related sexual violence prevention.

To avoid duplication and maximize the peacetechnology/innovation ecosystem, the project established strategic partnerships with related programs, such as the Kenya Electoral Conflicts Mitigation Civic-Voter Education Support. This involved engaging civil society groups through URAIA Trust, which was also a grantee under UNDP's Deepening Democracy Program. The USAID program supported civil society and youth in democratic processes through voter and civic education, while the project ensured coordination mechanisms for prevention and response, leveraging big data and artificial intelligence. This whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach facilitated effective action.

3.6.2. Alignment of design, implementation, monitoring and reporting with other projects.

The table below presents findings on how the project led to enhanced coordination of partners, actors, and stakeholders engaged in early warning and response in different the regions. A majority of respondents (90.0 %) reported that the project led to enhanced coordination of partners, actors, and stakeholders engaged in early warning and response.

Table 3: Did the project lead to enhanced coordination of partners, actors and stakeholders engaged in early warning and response?

| Did the project lead to enhanced coordination of partners, actors and stakeholders engaged in early warning and response? | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------------|------------|
| | No | Not Sure | Yes |
| <i>Bungoma</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Kakamega</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Kericho</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Kiambu</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Kilifi</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Kisumu</i> | 0.0% | 16.7% | 83.3% |
| <i>Machakos</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Migori</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Mombasa</i> | 0.0% | 7.4% | 92.6% |
| <i>Nairobi</i> | 6.7% | 6.7% | 86.7% |
| <i>Nakuru</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Siaya</i> | 0.0% | 100.0% | 0.0% |

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>Taita Taveta</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Trans-Nzoia</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Uasin Gishu</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| All Counties | 1.5% | 7.6% | 90.9% |

Source: Evaluation online Survey

3.6.3. Consultations with stakeholders in the project’s design and implementation

The consultation process included the Resident Coordinator (RC), the UNDP Resident Representative (RR), the Senior Human Rights Advisor (on behalf of OHCHR), the Peace and Development Advisor (PDA), the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), Ministry of Interior, UWIANO Platform members including the subcommittee (the Conflict Analysis Group). The project design process also ensured complementarity with other existing projects of both the UN and non-UN agencies.

3.7. Gender Equality

3.7.1. Design, implementation, and monitoring of the project

The project prioritized women in its programming, with at least 30% of the primary beneficiaries being women. Gender considerations were carefully integrated throughout the project, ensuring both men and women benefited equally from the interventions. Both UNDP and OHCHR as well as the other project implementing partners emphasized gender mainstreaming and allocated budget accordingly. Gender issues were incorporated from proposal development, implementation to monitoring and evaluation stages, aiming for including those who are normally left behind i.e., women, youth, people living with disabilities and those in informal settlements. The project further focused on ASAL counties with low human development indices to ensure the communities are also considered in governance and electoral processes. For instance, women's capacity in alternative dispute resolution were considered in the project. Three organizations received funding to train women in mediation in Isiolo, Wajir and Marsabit counties.

Women-led organizations like Wajir Women for Peace and Isiolo Peace Link played a crucial role in capacity building, advocacy, and empowerment of women. The project aimed to enhance women's profile in decision-making structures, emphasizing their role in peacebuilding and conflict management.

“Gender dimension was exceptionally well considered. Even in monitoring, special attention was given to women candidates. However, both men and women benefitted equally from the project’s intervention.”

~A key informant

Select women from Samburu, residing in Isiolo, also benefited from these trainings. They utilized these platforms to urge more women to participate in contributing to a high female voter turnout in the county's elections

‘We made sure no woman was sent to look after livestock by their husbands during the election day and the results were impressive.’

A woman participant and member of the Samburu Council of Elders in Isiolo.

3.7.2. Gender marker reality

The project exceeded the gender marker of 30 percent. The composition of the project implementation teams, including partners and grantees, demonstrated a compliance rate of at least 50 percent. In the

Situation Room in Isiolo, women made up almost the entire team. In the JOCC implementation team, there were three men and two women in Isiolo.

'There was a deliberate effort to engaging women – oriented organization, especially in the pastoralist counties of Wajir, Isiolo, Marsabit where focus was leaning towards women activities. Even participation was to adhere the 30% gender rule.'

Key informant and project staff

The gender marker was surpassed many times in activities such as capacity building and training. Nonetheless, women remained underrepresented in some of the traditionally male dominated structures such as DPCs and the *Nyumba Kumi*. This situation was reported in Mombasa and other evaluated counties including Chemelil in Kisumu.

3.7.3. Promotion of positive changes in gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The project successfully enhanced the role of women in decision-making and challenged patriarchal norms in various societies. Efforts were made to change men's attitudes towards including women in family and community decision-making. In Wajir and Isiolo, initiatives were implemented to promote women's electoral rights and roles in peace processes. Significant positive changes in gender equality and women's empowerment were observed, particularly in Wajir where women gained more space in decision-making structures. Project activities in Likoni focused on supporting women aspirants who face cultural beliefs and intimidation, providing media monitoring and counter-messaging to combat attacks. The project emphasized gender inclusivity, benefiting both men and women. Women mediators played a prominent role, and female-only sessions ensured their concerns were addressed.

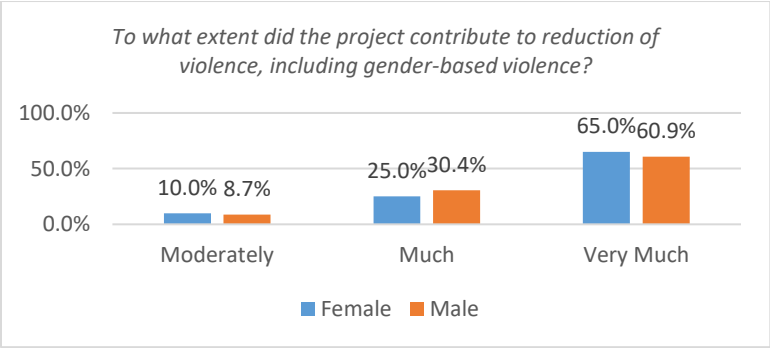
To ensure the inclusion of women in prevention efforts, the project through Isiolo Peace Link, established a Women Situation Room to support in the monitoring of gender related issues before, during and after the 2022 elections. A toll-free number, 0800721519, was established to support in reporting as well as response. The women's Situation Room provided real-time information and support for women aspirants, while women-led organizations contributed to empowerment through capacity building and advocacy. The project aimed to elevate women's profiles and increase their participation in decision-making, emphasizing their role in peacebuilding and conflict management.

3.7.4. Monitoring of GBV in the offline and Online Space for Response and Actions

The project also took steps to identify and address gender-based violence (GBV). Incidences of GBV were captured in both online and offline early warning reports, and this information was shared with a diverse group of early responders. This ensured that GBV concerns were adequately considered and addressed in the response efforts. For instance, in all the seven community perception surveys that were conducted in the seven hotspot counties, there was a deliberate attempt in ensuring that those who were being interviewed, 50 percent of these were female. Furthermore, all the perception surveys were monitoring and reporting incidences on GBV with the violence particularly being meted against women political candidates on social media and offline platforms. In the period between July and September 2022, 15 incidences of gender-based violence were identified through the UWIANO Platform for Peace NCEWERS. Out of the 15, 13 of the incidences were responded to.

The evaluation sought to determine the beneficiaries’ perception of the project’s contribution to the reduction of violence, including gender-based violence and a higher percentage of both males and females perceived the project to have contributed significantly to the reduction of violence. The findings suggest that both males and females acknowledge the project's contribution to reducing violence. The higher percentage of respondents selecting the "very much" option indicates a strong perception of the project's effectiveness in this regard. However, it is worth noting that there is a slightly higher proportion of males who selected the "very much" option compared to females.

Figure 2: Reduction of violence, including gender-based violence



Social media analyses monitored gendered hate speech and violence in the online space. Gender slurring, trolling and harassment of women seeking political positions were identified. There were particular social media groups that were formed to discuss certain women seeking political positions. Counter messages and narratives addressing online GBV were developed and disseminated through forums such as UWIANO press briefings, radio talk shows and presenter mentions in target counties. Through the MAPEMA consortium a Harassment Manager Dashboard was developed to help combat gendered hate speech on Twitter. The dashboard was accessible through Twitter login for users to create reports, mute, and block harmful content, a list of support resources, and opportunities for individuals and organizations to engage with the tool and its research. It also included a counselling hotline as well as investigative and fact-checking support into coordinated harassment.

3.7.5. Engagement with the youth on their roles in peaceful elections

Youth were also engaged in the project through continuous conversations on elections; through the carrying out of two youth barometers that captured the roles, expectations, and experiences of the youth before and after elections. The findings have been shared with key stakeholders to ensure their voices are integrated. The youth were further engaged through online conversations on Facebook and Twitter on their contributions to elections. Three Mic-Yetu events were carried out to enhance their knowledge in electoral matters. Comic books with themes on elections and early warning were produced through the MAPEMA consortium and over 1 million copies distributed. Offline interventions targeting the youth were held by UWIANO and CSOs that received grants from the PBF. These include youth consultations and outreach forums, peace concerts and trainings on countering fake information in the online space. Post the election phase, youth in informal settlements of Nairobi and Kisumu were engaged in conversations on how they could peacefully demonstrate their grievances during the opposition party’s mass action and protests that were being conducted across the country.

3.8. Conflict Sensitivity

3.8.1. Project conflict sensitive approaches

The project incorporated a systematic and comprehensive conflict analysis that identified the root causes, dynamics, and potential risks of conflict in the project context. This analysis helped shape project interventions and strategies. As well, the project's design considered conflict dynamics and explicitly integrated conflict-sensitive approaches and principles. This included considering the needs and perspectives of different stakeholders, promoting dialogue and inclusivity. These helped the project implement specific measures to mitigate and prevent conflict, such as promoting dialogue and mediation, fostering social cohesion. Project activities, for instance trainings and selection for grassroots committees followed conflict-sensitive approaches, and project staff were also guided by these principles.

3.8.2. Grantees' capacities to integrate conflict-sensitive approaches.

The project included activities that built the capacity of project staff and partners in conflict analysis, conflict sensitivity, and peacebuilding approaches. This enabled them to effectively address conflict dynamics and respond to potential conflicts that arose during project implementation. The grassroots organisations that were supported through the project were found to possess long-established links with local communities and extensive experience enabling them to maintain a conflict sensitive approach to programming. Local Capacities for Peace International in Chemelil, Pamoja for Transformation in Kisumu, Haki Africa in Mombasa, Isiolo Peace Link and Wajir Women for Peace were all found to have reasonable capacity to ensure conflict sensitive approaches.

3.8.3. Unintended negative impacts

There were few very cases of unintended impacts in the project implementation sites. In one case reported from Mombasa, a section of the civil society expressed displeasure at the decision to cut them out of receiving implementation funds directly from UN and instead having to go through the NCIC to administer the funds. They felt this was cumbersome and bureaucratic. In Isiolo, the number of women project staff was so high that a respondent said there were concerns by men whether it was a deliberate effort to shut them out of the process. However, activities involving social media influencers led to some negative consequences, as some members of the public became tired of their peace messaging efforts post the elections period. These outcomes were not fully anticipated due to the nature of social media

3.9. Catalytic

3.9.1. Evidence of financial and/or programmatic catalytic outcomes

To enhance the project's outcomes, additional funding was obtained from the German and Kenyan government with contributions of USD 563,063.00 and 114,782.40 respectively. The German funding was used to support risk assessments, monitoring social media for hate speech and incitement, improving documentation and reporting processes for the UWIANO platform, and communications. Support from the Kenyan government entailed six months' salary support to deploy 40 cohesion monitors across the 47 counties in Kenya. This demonstrates the project's ability to secure additional funding beyond the initial Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) support.

Through the support that was provided to Isiolo Peace Link to set up a JOCC, the Kenya Red Cross provided two ambulances to support the management of violent incidents in the county. The JOCC utilized various

channels, including a toll-free number and social media, to receive early warning information resulting to quick reports and action. Some of its structures remain operational and have been replicated in Samburu County.

The trainings that were provided in Wajir through Wajir Women for peace resulted to the training alumni establishing the "Wajir Sisters" group, which raised funds and provided food assistance to drought-affected families. This would ensure that local residents do not migrate to other areas in search for food but rather remain to participate in the elections. Champions of Peace also contributed funds and resources to support the project. The Indigenous Women 1325 Action Group, from Wajir county, trained women mediators from Samburu County, leading to the establishment of a similar organization there.

The online mechanism used by the project to detect and respond to hate speech, incitement and mis/disinformation has been lauded by various national and international actors as an innovative way of addressing issues in real time. The Project has had an opportunity to share their experiences with Ethiopia, German Ambassadors from various African countries as well as regional webinars on information integrity. Through the MAPEMA consortium's model in Kenya, the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), have approached Code for Africa for technical guidance with identifying and combating digital incitement and coordinated disinformation.

3.10. Time-Sensitivity

The project was timely as it was rolled out immediately after the launch of a nationwide conflict assessment that had identified potential conflict hotspot counties. Furthermore, during implementation, the UWIANO strategy for election violence and the Kenya National Action Plan on Hate Speech had also been launched. Some of the project interventions addressed the conflict drivers identified in the hotspot counties. This suggests that the project capitalized on a specific window of opportunity to address these potential conflicts.

The PBF funding was used effectively to leverage political windows of opportunity for engagement, particularly for various peace actors, women, youth, and people living with disabilities. Through the project, peace actors benefited from the continuous production of early warning information that informed their actions and, in some instances, ensured interventions are coordinated. Through the social media influencers working under the project, voter education information was shared with the online community to increase their knowledge on the voting process. Furthermore, through the community perception surveys that were conducted, key institutions such as the IEBC, NPS, Kenya National Commission of Human Rights, NCIC amongst others were able to receive communities' perceptions on their level of preparedness on peaceful elections.

The project successfully utilized the funding to engage with these key groups in various project areas, and it was particularly successful in areas like Likoni and Jomvu in Mombasa as well as youth in informal settlements in Nairobi and Kisumu. These deterred some of these youth from being manipulated into causing violence during the elections period.

3.11. Risk Tolerance and Innovation

3.12.1. Risks and Assumptions

The Project Document's log-frame clearly describe risks and assumptions. Risks may cause the project to be delayed or fail; therefore, the project core team needed to be aware of these possibilities. The project's risks and assumptions have been properly outlined and remain valid. Identifying risks and assumptions helped project in preparing for anticipated impediments in reaching programme goals and deciding whether the programme redesigns would be beneficial.

3.11.2. Project innovations and their place in future approaches

Mitigation measures were implemented fairly quickly when need arose. In a few cases, grantees had to postpone activities as happened in Isiolo where an activity that was to be conducted along the Isiolo-Samburu border had to be shifted from one location to another due to security concerns while in another case, an activity had to be deferred to a later date. Another mitigation used in risk mitigation was a change of strategy, for example, some activities were changed by targeting a totally different group.

The involvement of grassroots civil societies and actors in project implementation was key to mitigating potential risks or unintended consequences at the community level, adopting a 'do no harm' and conflict-sensitive approach. During the course of implementation, no new risks were identified, except for the chaos at Bomas during the announcement of Presidential results and the case of influencers who were pushing for peace reached a point when results were announced and some of them started to demand justice and abandoned their roles.

4.0 EMERGING ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT

4.1 Emerging Issues

The evaluation found that the project was done well except that it had varying levels of engagement with youth in conflict/electoral violence prevention interventions across the different counties. Maximum participation of youths, particularly those who are at risk, was never realized, the reason being that most of the active youth were deeply engrossed in politics of handouts by aspirants

In Bungoma, the project did not engage youth much, while in Kakamega and Kericho, there was no engagement at all. On the other hand, in counties such as Mombasa and Nairobi, there was a relatively high level of engagement, with 66.7% of respondents indicating that the project engaged youth very much in conflict/electoral violence prevention interventions. Only 27.3% of respondents indicated that the project engaged youth much and 4.5% indicating that it engaged youth moderately as the able below indicates.

Table 4: To what extent did the project engage youth in conflict/electoral violence prevention interventions?

| To what extent did the project engage youth in conflict/electoral violence prevention interventions? | | | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | Moderately | Much | Not Much | Very Much |
| <i>Bungoma</i> | 0.0% | 100.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| <i>Kakamega</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Kericho</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Kiambu</i> | 0.0% | 50.0% | 0.0% | 50.0% |
| <i>Kilifi</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Kisumu</i> | 16.7% | 16.7% | 0.0% | 66.7% |
| <i>Machakos</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Migori</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Mombasa</i> | 7.4% | 25.9% | 0.0% | 66.7% |
| <i>Nairobi</i> | 0.0% | 33.3% | 6.7% | 60.0% |
| <i>Nakuru</i> | 0.0% | 33.3% | 0.0% | 66.7% |
| <i>Siaya</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Taita Taveta</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Trans-Nzoia</i> | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| <i>Uasin Gishu</i> | 0.0% | 50.0% | 0.0% | 50.0% |
| All Counties | 4.5% | 27.3% | 1.5% | 66.7% |

Secondly, there was no specific framework for engagement with county governments yet these are stakeholders and could have contributed both materially and morally to the greater success of the project. Something that did not work well too is that too many partners implementing peace programs in the area created some levels of confusion among the citizens.

4.2. Challenges

The project was faced by some challenges at different phases and times of the life cycle. Some were at the conception phase, others at development and others during the implementation phase. The most critical included the following:

- i) Timelines were extremely limited. Implementation should have started at least one year early but was delayed for various reasons and everyone along the project ecosystem felt the repercussions of compressed deadlines.
- ii) Delays in recruitment of the project staff – including the manager had a bearing on timely implementation. The Project Manager came on board in April 2022, 4 months after the roll out of the project. These factors affected the efficiency of the project implementation.
- iii) The level of funding provided to the CSO the grantees was too little and therefore targeting and coverage was affected by availability of resources to fund logistics and activities. Furthermore, the implementation process was faced with challenges of timeframes in meeting activity objectives and at times funds disbursement was a challenge to most of the grantees. The interventions ended up being too rushed to beat the elections deadlines. Grantees pointed out that funds available for carrying out interventions were not enough, which ended up scaling down on the scope, reach and capacity of effective roll-outs.
- iv) While local ownership was found to be sound, the project design has not adequately addressed the question of an effective exit strategy. In majority of cases, project intervention activities dwindled with the end of activity funding.

4.3. Lessons Learnt

Social media monitoring and reporting should be continuous, throughout an electoral cycle to be able to identify and address challenges emerging from the different cycles/phases. Monitoring and response ‘at the peak of events’ (in particular at the peak of events – i.e., voting and immediately after/before) should be considered. There’s a demand for information with most people searching for information in the online spaces as well as many incidences of mis/disinformation.

Relevant and multisectoral partnerships are important when it comes to addressing toxic content in the online space. The project worked with NCIC; agency mandated to address hate speech hence making it easier to influence policy. Furthermore, working with the global tech companies helped in curtailing toxic content related to the elections, taking down toxic posts, providing access to partner support portal for partners. Working through reputable grassroots CSOs as grantees with track record of promoting dialogue, fostering inter –and-intra community coexistence, particularly in the context of an election and peacebuilding worked as a good entry point in executing prevention campaigns in the respective counties.

The involvement of grassroots CSOs and government ownership and leadership is critical in carrying out an impactful Early Warning and Early Response. NCIC played the role of providing the enabling environment upon which all engagements with relevant stakeholders became possible and fruitful. In Muhoroni Sub-county for instance, the NGAO was deeply involved in the implementation including the road shows, public barazas and coordinating security arrangement for the implementation. They also provided resources like government vehicles to facilitate movements in the areas. They also provided the required personnel and

security support for the peacebuilding actors to engage with community stakeholders including cross-border communities.

It is important to have a wide array of countering hate speech and incitement in both offline and online platforms and these approaches need to complement each other. The use of online warning tools e.g., lexicons, actor watchlist, and social media listening tools, dashboards, situation reports, sentiments analysis, online fact checking and debunking and offline analysis of trends – UWIANO and Amnesty’s perception surveys helped in cross checking and validation of trends. These ensured that responses and actions are relevant to the context.

Interventions should innovatively engage the youth. For the project, innovative ways were used such as comics touching on peace, elections disseminated in offline and online spaces, virtual dialogues, peace challenges amongst others. These ensures that youth are engaged in a language that they can easily understand.

Strengthening the capacity of the female gender to support the EWER project was a good strategy. Women have no borders as opposed to men so can easily bring warring communities together as was witnessed in Isiolo, Wajir and Marsabit.

The project created a consciousness among the entire population of stakeholders of the need to report very early any suspected danger signal worked for early intervention and conflict resolution especially in the border areas of Nandi and Kisumu and Kisumu and Kericho.

5.0. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Conclusions

From the findings of the evaluation, we can infer the following conclusions:

1. The project was both timely and highly relevant, coming just before Kenya went into high stakes general elections. Generally, electioneering in many counties is marked by violence, hate mongering and incitement caused by the highly competitive nature of Kenya’s politics and its ethnic and clan-based approach. The project interventions in counties such as Kisumu, Mombasa, Isiolo and Wajir, in a very significant way contributed to peaceful elections and there were no reported widespread cases of violence. Where there was conflict, response strategies were able to deal with situations such as Wajir.
2. The project partnership strategy enhanced effectiveness and the flow of information and feedback was effective and seamless. The involvement of government agencies such as the NCIC, NPS and Ministry of Interior through the UWIANO platform, the Global Tech Companies, the Civil Society Organisations amongst others gave credence to the whole implementation process. The participation and coordination of the UN raised the profile of the project and enhanced its technical and funding capacity. The choice of CSOs that received grants, who included well respected grassroots CSOs allowed for vigorous local participation in the various interventions.

3. The comprehensive portfolio of social media activities that were used to monitor and counter hate speech, incitement, and mis/disinformation around the Kenya 2022 Elections under the project were very effective. The establishment of the MAPEMA consortium enabled an advanced social media monitoring, analysis and response activities contributing to reducing hate speech and incitement. These online interventions were complemented by offline early warning assessments and offline prevention campaigns ensuring a holistic approach for election violence prevention.
4. The project significantly promoted gender inclusivity and women empowerment across the counties. Their voice and spaces in decision making structures including peace committees or village committees to representation offices were spotlighted and given due prominence, especially within the pastoralist communities which traditionally are patriarchal in nature. This was also evident in interventions implemented in in Vihiga and Chemelil in Kisumu, contributing to women empowerment. However, men were also not left out in the engagement, as it is important that they understand the important role that women play.

5.2. Recommendations

The following recommendations can be drawn based on the Findings and Conclusions of the evaluation:

Sustainability: It is recommended that stakeholders invest more time and efforts in designing projects that will run through a longer span of the election life cycle for the reason that elections are not events but processes. Some participants were of the view that the project under review was a form of a “knee jack” intervention. Some national and sub-national institutions and actors such as the NSC and UWIANO Platform face capacity and dormancy for long periods seriously affecting their ability to play their roles in the early warning early response process.

Capacity Building and Resources Mobilisation: Some organisations are engaged in very significant peacebuilding and conflict activities in the grassroots level and informal settlements of the country’s urban areas. However, many of these lack capacity to receive funds from donors such as the UN. It is recommended that budget allocation be set aside to build their capacity in such areas as project reporting so that donors and partners could engage directly with them.

Role of social media in Peacebuilding: It is evident that the rapid expansion in use of media use is critically changing the face of messaging and peacebuilding has not been spared. While social media was extensively used by majority of Kenyans to propagate hate speech and incitement messaging, it was also successfully employed in project interventions to monitor and respond to toxic content in the social media platforms. Indeed, a good number of respondents were of the view it was more effective than the official UWIANO Platform structure. It is recommended that further efforts are made to confirm better and more efficient mechanisms in which social media could be applied in early warning early response strategies.

Gender: It is recommended that further programming to promote gender inclusivity and women empowerment be considered to ride on the wave of the success of the early warning early response project. This is especially the case for the pastoralist communities as well as those living in informal settlements.

Timing: There is an absolute need to start such a project early so that it covers all anticipated activities in good time. The programme should also cater for the post-election period. There is need for continuity of the program so that the achieved targets and goals are not lost.

Actors: More stakeholders especially government agencies and departments, need to be brought on board such a project to enhance its chances of success since more beneficiaries are likely to be targeted.

6 ANNEXES

I. Data Collection Plan for Beneficiaries of the Project Grants

| UN Focal Person participating in the data collection at the counties | Valerie Munyeti, evaluation manager. | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| Independent Consultant | George Kabongah | | | | |
| Counties | Dates for FGDs and KIIs | Time | Number of beneficiaries | Mobilizing Organization | Other Details |
| Kisumu | 13 March 2023 | FGD 1: 9am – 11am | 10 persons to be representative of women, youth, PWDs and key persons that were involved in the project | Local Capacities for Peace (LCPI) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport to be provided for the 10 persons Is it possible to request the CSO to provide meeting space/boardroom at their cost? LCPI project focal person to be perform an introductory role at the start of FGD, but can leave afterwards to ensure participants speak as honestly as possible |
| | | FGD 2: 12pm – 2 pm | As above | Pamoja for Transformation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above |
| | | KII: 2.30pm – 4.30pm | LCPI focal person, Pamoja focal person and two other persons | NCIC in collaboration with LCPI | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The focal persons can be interviewed after each FGD. If not possible, then the interviewee can be done between 2.30 and 4.30 pm Apart from the CSO focal person, NCIC can advise some key people that can be interviewed and inform them of the venue and time. This information to shared with George/Valerie |
| Vihiga | 14 March | FGD 1: 9am – 11am | 10 persons to be representative of women, youth, PWDs and key persons that were involved in the project | Local Capacities for Peace (LCPI) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport to be provided for the 10 persons Is it possible to request the CSO to provide meeting space/boardroom at their cost? GPF project focal person to be perform an introductory role at the start of FGD, but can leave afterwards to ensure participants speak as honestly as possible |
| | | FGD 2: 11.30am – 1.30pm | 10 persons to be representative of women, youth, PWDs and key persons that were involved in the project | | |
| | | KII: 2.30pm – 4.30pm | GPF Focal person and two other persons | NCIC in collaboration with GPF | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The focal persons can be interviewed after each FGD. If not possible, then the interviewee can be done between 2.30 and 4.30 pm Apart from the CSO focal person, NCIC can advise some key people that can be interviewed and inform them of |

| | | | | | |
|---------|---------------|-------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | the venue and time. This information to shared with George/Valerie |
| Kericho | 15 March | FGD 1: 9am – 11am | 10 persons to be representative of women, youth, PWDs and key persons that were involved in the project | KASH | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport to be provided for the 10 persons • Is it possible to request the CSO to provide meeting space/boardroom at their cost? • KASH project focal person to be perform an introductory role at the start of FGD, but can leave afterwards to ensure participants speak as honestly as possible |
| | | FGD 2: 11.30am – 1.30pm | As above | KASH | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above |
| | | KII: 2.30pm – 4.30pm | KASH focal person, and two other persons | NCIC in collaboration with KASH | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The focal persons can be interviewed after each FGD. If not possible, then the interviewee can be done between 2.30 and 4.30 pm • Apart from the CSO focal person, NCIC can advise some key people that can be interviewed and inform them of the venue and time. This information to shared with George/Valerie |
| Mombasa | 17 March 2023 | FGD 1: 9am – 11am | 10 persons to be representative of women, youth, PWDs and key persons that were involved in the project | HAKI Africa | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport to be provided for the 10 persons • Is it possible to request the CSO to provide meeting space/boardroom at their cost? • HAKI Africa project focal person to be perform an introductory role at the start of FGD, but can leave afterwards to ensure participants speak as honestly as possible |
| | | FGD 2: 12pm – 2 pm | As above | HAKI Africa | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above |
| | | KII: 2.30pm – 4.30pm | HAKI Africa focal person and two other persons | NCIC in collaboration with HAKI | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The focal persons can be interviewed after each FGD. If not possible, then the interviewee can be done between 2.30 and 4.30 pm • Apart from the CSO focal person, NCIC can advise some key people that can be interviewed and inform them of the venue and time. This information to shared with George/Valerie |
| Mombasa | 18 March 2023 | FGD 1: 9am – 11am | 10 persons to be representative of women, youth, PWDs and key persons that were involved in the project | Pamoja for Transformation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport to be provided for the 10 persons • Is it possible to request the CSO to provide meeting space/boardroom at their cost? • Pamoja project focal person to be perform an introductory role at the start of FGD, but can leave afterwards to ensure participants speak as honestly as possible |
| | | FGD 2: 12pm – 2 pm | As above | Pamoja | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|---|---|---|---|
| | | KII: 2.30pm – 4.30pm | Pamoja focal person and two other persons | NCIC in collaboration with Pamoja | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The focal persons can be interviewed after each FGD. If not possible, then the interviewee can be done between 2.30 and 4.30 pm Apart from the CSO focal person, NCIC can advise some key people that can be interviewed and inform them of the venue and time. This information to shared with George/Valerie |
| Wajir | 20 March 2023 | FGD 1: 3pm – 5pm | 10 persons to be representative of women, youth, PWDs and key persons that were involved in the project | Wajir Peace and Development Agency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport to be provided for the 10 persons Is it possible to request the CSO to provide meeting space/boardroom at their cost? WPDA project focal person to be perform an introductory role at the start of FGD, but can leave afterwards to ensure participants speak as honestly as possible |
| | 21 March 2023 | FGD 2: 9am – 11am | As above | WPDA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above |
| KII: 2.30pm – 4.30pm | | WPDA focal person and two other persons | NCIC in collaboration with WPDA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The focal persons can be interviewed after each FGD. If not possible, then the interviewee can be done between 2.30 and 4.30 pm Apart from the CSO focal person, NCIC can advise some key people that can be interviewed and inform them of the venue and time. This information to shared with George/Valerie | |
| Isiolo | 23 March 2023 | FGD 1: 9am – 11am | 10 persons to be representative of women, youth, PWDs and key persons that were involved in the project | Isiolo Peace Link | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport to be provided for the 10 persons Is it possible to request the CSO to provide meeting space/boardroom at their cost? Pamoja project focal person to be perform an introductory role at the start of FGD, but can leave afterwards to ensure participants speak as honestly as possible |
| | | FGD 2: 12pm – 2 pm | As above | IPL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above |
| | | KII: 2.30pm – 4.30pm | IPL focal person and two other persons | NCIC in collaboration with IPL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The focal persons can be interviewed after each FGD. If not possible, then the interviewee can be done between 2.30 and 4.30 pm Apart from the CSO focal person, NCIC can advise some key people that can be interviewed and inform them of the venue and time. This information to shared with George/Valerie |

II. Survey Questionnaire

Introduction

A. Introduction, confidentiality, and informed consent

READ: Hello! My name is and I work as an Individual consultant that has been contracted by **UNDP on behalf of the Resident Coordinator's office** to a conduct a Terminal Evaluation for Enhancing Early Warning & Prevention to Counter Hate Speech and Incitement Ahead of the 2022 Elections in Kenya.

The information you give will be used to identify the project's contribution to a conducive environment for peaceful and inclusive elections 'through enhanced capacity of early warning and response systems (*monitoring, data collection, analysis, and reporting*). The evaluation aims to identify prevention responses and targeted interventions in response to early warning assessments through the production and dissemination of preventive and positive counter-narratives and effective engagement with agents of positive change.

This survey is completely anonymous and the answers you give are private. Answer the questions based on what you *really* think or do. There is no right or wrong answer!

You are not under any compulsion to participate in this study and there will be no direct or indirect consequences if you decide not to participate. We will however be very grateful if you decide to willingly participate. If you decide to participate, you may decide not to answer to some questions if you don't feel comfortable answering, and you may decide to stop the survey at any moment.

Are you happy to start? It will take approximately 30 minutes.

We will not pay any stipend for participating in the survey.

Thank you for your help!

| S/N | Question | Answers / Coding | Instructions |
|-----|---|-------------------|---|
| A1 | Do you agree to participate in this survey? | (a) Yes (b) No | Please select <u>one</u> . If answers <u>(b) 'No'</u> , thank the person. Use another survey protocol and look for another person. |

B. Preamble

The Respondent shall fill out the below section (B) before starting. It is essential for data entry and cleaning!

| S/N | Question | Answers and Coding | S/N | Question | Answers and Coding |
|-----|----------|--------------------|-----|-------------------|--------------------|
| B1 | Survey # | | B5 | Survey Start Time | |

C: Demographic of survey respondent

READ: "Let us start this survey with some general questions"

| S/N | Question | Answers And Coding | Instructions |
|-----|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| C1 | Gender | A. Female B. Male | Please select <u>one</u> |
| C2 | Age | A. 0 - 17 B. 18 - 25 C. 26 - 30 D. 31 - 35 E. 36 and above | please select <u>one</u> . If Option (a), the interview will be programmed through SKIP PATTERN to end at this point. |
| C3 | What is your current marital status? | A. Married B. Living Together but not Married C. Separated D. Widowed E. Divorced F. Never Married | Please select <u>one</u> |
| C4 | Do you suffer from any disability? | A. Yes B. No C. Not Sure | Please select <u>one</u> |

| | | | |
|----|--|--|---|
| C5 | The interview will be programmed through SKIP PATTERN so that if answer to C4 above is yes, Which one? | A. hearing, even when using a hearing aid B. walking or climbing stairs? C. remembering or concentrating? D. seeing, even when using glasses E. remembering or concentrating F. communicating; for example, understanding or being understood G. self-care, such as washing, bathing or dressing | Please select <u>one</u> . You can choose as many as applicable |
| C6 | What is your main occupation? | A. Student/Intern B. Employed (Public servant/Private Sector Employee/ NGO) C. Self-employed (Trader, Small Business operator, Farmer, Herder etc.) D. Unemployed E. Other (Specify):_____ | Please select <u>one</u> |
| C7 | What is the highest level of education you have attended? | A. Postgraduate B. University degree C. Diploma D. Tertiary E. Secondary School F. Primary School G. Other H. None | Please select <u>one</u> |
| C8 | What is your county of residence? | | Name |

D. Enhanced capacity of early warning and response systems (*monitoring, data collection, analysis, and reporting*) to detect hate speech and incitement that could trigger violence, and to assess multi-layered risks, tensions and potential flashpoints in the electoral period.

| S/N | Question | Answers And Coding | Instructions |
|-----|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| D1 | Did the project lead to enhanced coordination of partners, actors and stakeholders engaged in early warning and response? | A. Yes B. No C. Not Sure | Please select <u>one</u> |
| D2 | If your answer to D1 above is yes, Explain. | | |

| | | | |
|------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| D3 | In your opinion did the project contribute to the reduction or containment of incidents/scale of violence. | A. Yes B. No C. Not Sure | Please select <u>one</u> |
| D4 | The interview will be programmed through SKIP PATTERN so that if answer to D3 above is yes, how? | | |
| D5 | Did the project lead to the revival of Early Warning and Response mechanisms? | A. Yes B. No C. Not Sure D. Do not know | Please select <u>one</u> |
| D6 | The interview will be programmed through SKIP PATTERN so that if the answer to D5 above is yes, give evidence? | | |
| D7 | If your answer to D5 above is yes, how many? | A. 2 -3 B. 4 – 8 C. Over 8 | Please select <u>one</u> |
| D8 | To what extent did county level early warning reports (social media analytical reports, UWIANO reports, perception surveys, etc.) lead to detection of hate speech? | A. Very Much B. Much C. Moderately D. Not Much A. Not at All | Please select <u>one</u> |
| D9 | To what extent did county level early warning reports (social media analytical reports, UWIANO reports, perception surveys, etc.) lead to detection of incitement? | A. Very Much B. Much C. Moderately D. Not Much E. Not at All | Please select <u>one</u> |
| D01 | To what extent did county level early warning reports (social media analytical reports, UWIANO reports, perception surveys, etc.) lead to detection of mis/disinformation? | A. Very Much B. Much C. Moderately D. Not Much E. Not at All | Please select <u>one</u> |

| | | | |
|------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| D11 | Were there hate speech incidents reported due to the project? | A. Yes B. No C. Not Sure | Please select <u>one</u> |
| D12 | Were there hate speech incidents investigated and prosecuted due to the project? | A. Yes B. No C. Not Sure | Please select <u>one</u> |
| D13 | Were there any other triggers of violence that were reported and responded to due to the project? | A. Yes B. No C. Not Sure | Please select <u>one</u> |
| D14 | Were there regular meetings at the local level to reduce or contain incidents/scale of violence based on recommendations of the Conflict Analysis Group and UWIANO platform, county level early warning reports? | A. Yes B. No C. Not Sure | Please select <u>one</u> |
| D15 | What type of meeting were held at the local level to reduce or contain incidents/scale of violence? | Please describe | |
| D16 | To what extent did the meeting address the recommendations / reports from the early warning analysis? | A. Very Much B. Much C. Moderately D. Not Much E. Not at All | Please select <u>one</u> |
| D17 | Was direct communication and coordination established between online and offline spaces? | A. Yes B. No C. Not Sure | Please select <u>one</u> |

E: Enhanced timely prevention responses and targeted interventions in response to early warning assessments, including through the production and dissemination of preventive and positive counter-narratives and effective engagement with agents of positive change to address and reduce the impact of identified risks.

| S/N | Question | Answers And Coding | Instructions |
|-----|----------|--------------------|--------------|
|-----|----------|--------------------|--------------|

| | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--------------------------|
| E1 | Did social and traditional media monitoring, analysis and response address risks of hate speech, incitement, and other triggers or violence in the run-up to and post-2022 General elections in your area? | A. Yes B. No C. Not Sure | Please select <u>one</u> |
| E2 | Did analysts that were monitoring the offline spaces e.g., monitors across counties, NSC situation room etc. address risks of hate speech, incitement, and other triggers or violence in the run-up to and post-2022 General elections in your area? | A. Yes B. No C. Not Sure | Please select <u>one</u> |
| E3 | If your answer to E1 above is yes, Explain. | | |
| E4 | Did Social and traditional media monitoring and response address gender analysis of risks in the run-up to and post-2022 General elections in your area? | A. Yes B. No C. Not Sure | Please select <u>one</u> |
| E5 | If your answer to E4 above is yes, Explain. | | |
| E6 | Did the offline/non media spaces monitoring and response address gender analysis of risks in the run-up to and post-2022 General elections in your area? | A. Yes B. No C. Not Sure | Please select <u>one</u> |
| E7 | To what extent was the project effective in positively influencing Interventions, for hate speech, misinformation, disinformation and addressing other triggers of electoral violence? | A. Very much B. Much C. Moderately A. Not Much B. Not at All | Please select <u>one</u> |
| E8 | To what extent did the project positively influence messaging and counter-narrative campaigns addressing hate speech and incitement, mis/disinformation in the online and offline spaces | A. Very much B. Much C. Moderate D. Not Much E. Not at All | Please select <u>one</u> |
| | How far did the project succeed in promoting peaceful and inclusive elections, | A. Very Much B. Much C. Moderately | Please select <u>one</u> |

| | | | |
|------------|---|--|--------------------------|
| E9 | | D. Not Much E. Not at All | |
| E10 | To what extent did the project contribute to reduction of violence, including gender-based violence | A. Very Much B. Much C. Moderately D. Not Much E. Not at All | Please select <u>one</u> |
| E11 | To what extent did the project engage youth in conflict/electoral violence prevention interventions? | A. Very Much B. Much C. Moderately D. Not Much E. Not at All | Please select <u>one</u> |
| E12 | How can hate speech, misinformation, disinformation, and social media weaponization be countered effectively to mitigate conflict and prevent violence? | A. Locally led social media interventions B. Foreign led online peace interventions C. State driven internet policy interventions D. Digital peacebuilding awareness programs | Please select <u>one</u> |
| E13 | Which online platform do you consider to have been most appropriate to disseminate information? | A. Google, B. Meta, C. TikTok D. Twitter E. Instagram, F. Reddit | |
| E14 | Give reasons for your answer in E13 | | |
| E15 | What collaboration/support did you receive from the global tech companies? | List them | |

III. Internal Discussions Guide with UNDP and OHCHR Staff

1. Do you think the implementation of the Enhancing Early Warning & Prevention to Counter Hate Speech and Incident project was properly done? If yes explain how? What do you think was not properly done in the implementation of the Enhancing Early Warning & Prevention to Counter Hate Speech and Incident project?
2. What support did you give to the Primary project recipient, sub recipients and government Agencies (explain/ give examples) and how relevant was it? (*Probe for technical, financial, moral, linking, learning, advocacy, capacity building etc; Probe for when, what issues were being addressed by the project*) Why were these prioritized?
3. According to your opinion which partner was not included in the implementation process who should have been?
4. How effective and relevant was the project partnership strategy?
5. Which online platform proved to be the most appropriate to disseminate the materials and why? Which one was less successful?
6. **Coherence**
To what extent, and how does the project complement interventions of other actors (*check: partnerships, integration, complementarity, coherence, coordination? To whom is the partner*)
Did the project design adequately consider the gender dimensions in its interventions? If so, how?
7. **Conflict Sensitivity**
Did the project have an explicit approach to conflict-sensitivity?
Were implementing partners' internal capacities adequate for ensuring an ongoing conflict-sensitive approach?
8. **Catalytic**
Has the project funding been used to scale-up other peacebuilding work and/or has it helped to create broader platforms for peacebuilding?
What factors do you believe contributed to the peaceful political transition in 2022? And how did the project contribute to this?
9. **Lessons Learnt, Conclusions and Recommendations – What have you learnt as a project implementing Organization?**

IV. Key Informant Interview guide

(Targeting key NCIC, NSC, UWIANO, CAG, Amnesty International – Kenya and grantee Focal Persons)

| General Information. <u>Please fill out</u> | |
|--|--|
| Stakeholder type: (NCIC, NSC, UWIANO, CAG, National and County Level CSOs) | |
| Date: | |
| Location: | |
| Name of Interviewee/ Title: (optional) | |
| Organization: | |
| Gender: | |
| Name of interviewer: | |
| Name of Note Taker: | |
| Start & End time | |

Introduction and the purpose of the interview:

- Explain what you would like to find out about her/ his view for the Terminal Evaluation.
- There are no right or wrong answers and it is your specific opinions that I would like to understand.
- The answers you give are **completely private**, and no-one will know that the answers were given by you.
- The information you give will be help UN Peacebuilding Fund and partners to identify the project's contribution to a conducive environment for peaceful and inclusive elections 'through enhanced capacity of early warning and response systems (*monitoring, data collection, analysis, and reporting*). The evaluation aims to identify prevention responses and targeted interventions in response to early warning assessments through the production and dissemination of preventive and positive counter-narratives and effective engagement with agents of positive change.
- If you do not understand a question, please just ask me and I will help to explain it better.
- Are you happy to start? It will take approximately 45 min.

Introductory session and ice breakers

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| <p>Introduction</p> <p><i>First of all I would like you to talk about the project in general and what you think about it.</i></p> | |
| <p>To what extent did you and other stakeholders participate in the project design & development of the project?</p> | <p>Answer</p> |
| | <p>Interesting quote:</p> |
| <p>Were you involved in the implementation of the Enhancing Early Warning & Prevention to Counter Hate Speech and Incident project? How were you involved? What did you do?</p> | <p>Answer</p> |
| | |
| <p>What is your opinion on the Enhancing Early Warning & Prevention to Counter Hate Speech and Incident project implemented by the UNDP, OHCHR,</p> | <p>Answers:</p> |

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| <p>Kenyan Government agencies and other partners?</p> | |
| <p>Do you think the implementation of the Enhancing Early Warning & Prevention to Counter Hate Speech and Incident project was properly done? If yes explain how? What do you think was not properly done in the implementation of the Enhancing Early Warning & Prevention to Counter Hate Speech and Incident project?</p> | <p>Interesting quote:</p> |
| <p>According to your opinion which partner was not included in the implementation process who should have been?</p> | <p>Answers:</p> |
| | <p>Interesting quote:</p> |

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| | |
| <p>Enhanced timely prevention responses and targeted interventions in response to early warning assessments, including through the production and dissemination of preventive and positive counter-narratives and effective engagement with agents of positive change to address and reduce the impact of identified risks.</p> | |
| <p>How effective and relevant was the project partnership strategy?</p> | <p>Answers:</p> |
| | <p>Interesting quote:</p> |
| <p>Which online platform proved to be the most appropriate to disseminate the materials and why? Which one was less successful?</p> | <p>Answers:</p> |
| | <p>Interesting quote:</p> |
| <p>Were there any security concerns around the campaign? If so, how did you try to mitigate the risks?</p> | <p>Answers:</p> |
| | <p>Interesting quote:</p> |

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Gender equality | |
| Did the project design adequately consider the gender dimensions in its interventions? If so, how? | Answers: |
| | Interesting quote: |
| How gender-balanced was the composition of the project management team and the beneficiaries? | Answers: |
| | Interesting quote: |
| Have women and men benefited equally from the project's interventions? So far, do the results affect women and men differently? If so, why and how? How are the results likely to affect gender relations (e.g., division of labour, decision-making authority)? | Answers: |
| | Interesting quote: |
| Enhanced timely prevention responses and targeted interventions in response to early warning assessments, including through the production and dissemination of preventive and positive counter-narratives and effective engagement with agents of positive change to address and reduce the impact of identified risks. | |

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| <p>What factors do you believe contributed to the peaceful political transition in 2022? And how did the project contribute to this?</p> | <p>Answers:</p> |
| | <p>Interesting quote:</p> |
| <p>What do you think were the challenges, opportunities and lesson of the Enhancing Early Warning & Prevention to Counter Hate Speech and Incident project?</p> | <p>Answers:</p> |
| | <p>Interesting quote:</p> |
| <p>What is the way forward?</p> | <p>Answers:</p> |
| | <p>Interesting quote:</p> |

Thank the person for the interview!

IV. Focus Group Discussions (FGDS) Guide

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Location of FGD | |
| County: | |
| Name of Facilitator | |
| Name of Note Taker | |
| # of participants | |
| Participant profiles (men, women, youth) | |
| Date | |
| Start and end time | Start: _____ End: _____ |

A. Introduction, confidentiality and informed consent

READ: Hello! My name is and I work as an Individual consultant who has been contracted by UNDP/OHCHR to conduct a Terminal Evaluation for the Project Enhancing Early Warning & Prevention to Counter Hate Speech and Incitement Ahead of the 2022 Elections in Kenya.

The information you give will be used to identify the project’s contribution to a conducive environment for peaceful and inclusive elections ‘through enhanced capacity of early warning and response systems (*monitoring, data collection, analysis, and reporting*). The evaluation also aims to identify prevention responses and targeted interventions in response to early warning assessments through the production and dissemination of preventive and positive counter-narratives and effective engagement with agents of positive change.

The information that I will collect is anonymous, and I will not write your names at any time. This discussion should take approximately 75 minutes. You are not under any compulsion to participate and there will be no direct or indirect consequences if you decide not to participate. I will however be very grateful if you decide to participate. Please don’t be shy, but share your opinions and perspectives freely! Also, if you decide to participate, you may decide not to answer to some specific questions, and you may decide to leave the discussion at any moment.

(Facilitator to explain about the project)

Are you happy to start? It will take approximately 75 minutes.

Thank you for your help!

1. Were you involved in the implementation of the Enhancing Early Warning & Prevention to Counter Hate Speech and Incitement Ahead of the 2022 Elections in Kenya? What did you do? How were you involved?
2. What is your opinion on the Enhancing Early Warning & Prevention to Counter Hate Speech and Incitement Ahead of the 2022 Elections in Kenya implemented by the Kenyan Government and UNDP Kenya and its partners?
3. What were the strengths and weaknesses of using influencers in managing (political – misinformation)?
4. To what extent did social media “influencers” contribute (or not) to reduced potential for electoral violence?
5. What were the barriers of using technology in mitigating potential violence because of social media misinformation?
6. What were the enablers of using technology in mitigating potential violence because of social media misinformation?
7. How, and under what conditions, did online activity lead to offline violence?
8. What were the challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt as a result of the implementation of the project Enhancing Early Warning & Prevention to Counter Hate Speech and Incitement Ahead of the 2022 Elections?

V. Case Studies

a. Wajir Women for Peace

Background

Wajir Women for Peace's history is linked to that of Wajir Peace and Development Committee, a women-led civil society body that pioneered peacebuilding and conflict management in the Wajir District in the 1990s. Conceived by the legendary peace maker Deka Ibrahim, Wajir Peace and Development set out to end racing inter-clan conflict between the Ogaden, Ajuran and Decoris that had wreaked havoc in the region. Ms Ibrahim noticed that women and children bore the brunt of the fighting in a situation that was compounded by a drought, a resultant famine and lack of pasture for livestock. The increased movement in search of food, water and pasture also raised the potential for further conflict due to competition for resources.

The journey of Wajir PEACE and Development when Ibrahim brought together a group of 25 women-led 5 from each sub-location as a core team in searching for interventions to mitigate the intra-clan conflicts, and her place in the chapter of peacebuilding history was assured. They especially focused on early warning and early response approaches, a nascent concept then and it became a subject of case study for many years.

In 2011, a decision was reached to have a dedicated body dealing solely with conflict and peace and security issues, delinked from other developmental activities and Wajir Women for Peace was born.

Over the years, the organization has carved a name for itself within Wajir County and beyond in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The organization has built significant goodwill among residents of Wajir and surrounding areas.

Areas of intervention:

Wajir Women for Peace has gained a lot of experience in mediation, one of its key intervention areas. In electoral security context, the organization was at the center of mediation efforts involving aspirants, differing clans, sub-regional interests and even in cases involving marital disputes sparked by political differences. Indeed, Wajir Women for Peace has several mediated in cases pertaining to other forms of GBV, including female genital mutation and early marriages. Its footprint in the 2022 elections is clear and its input undisputed especially in the potentially explosive situations such as that experienced in Eldas constituency.

Its capacity for early warning early response is similarly significant, hinged on years of experience in establishing grassroots networks of women stakeholders. From the village, sub-location and sub-county level, there exist a well-established early warning early response mechanism that is terminated at that door of responsive security bodies including police and the peace committee, in which the organization has substantive representation.

But perhaps the intervention really defines the identity of the organization is capacity building and training. Wajir Women for Peace has over the years achieved enviable levels in building capacities of women at various levels in critical areas such as mediation and peace monitoring. For this context, Wajir Women for

Peace trained areas 120 women mediators in six sub-counties. At least 20 women and 5 men went through such training in every sub-county.

The women have also been trained in early warning early response and know what to look for in the behaviour of people and dynamics of the environment. So Wajir Women for Peace has imparted the women of Wajir with great skills and knowledge in mediation, early warning early response and even peace monitoring. They have also learned about their rights and roles in decision making and peace processes. “Now the some say they are ready to be actively involved in these activities,” Halima says during our interview.

According to Halima, Somali women are not usually included in mediation and conflict resolution in the highly patriarchal Somali community. Usually, such cases are referred to a traditional mechanism known as ‘maslaha’ that comprises purely of men. The interests if women and girls are not accorded proper attention at such a body.

b. Isiolo Peace Link

CC’D composition: CSOs, NPS, Council of Elders, ADD, PADs, Peace Monitors, women youth, Red Cross, Suluhu Forum (alternative dispute resolution), Peace Committee, Joint Operation Command Centre.

Overview: Isiolo employed several innovative approaches not seen in the other counties under review. The first was the Joint Operations Command Centre (JOCC), a multi-sectoral effort that comprised the National Police Service, CSOs, religious institutions, youth and women organisations etc. that had a very well-established early warning and early response system. From reporting platforms to analysis and response by appropriate agencies. It was manned on a full-time basis.

The other was the Indigenous Women 1325 Action Group, established by Isiolo Peace Link to populate women in peace processes in the county through various actions.

The third approach was through the Suluhu Forum, a group comprising of professionals and religious leaders that engaged in extensive alternative dispute resolution efforts at various levels.

There was extensive mobilisation through several activities to different target groups. The Isiolo Indigenous Women1325 Action Group was in the forefront in mobilising women to participate in in peace processes as well as peaceful elections through targeted peace forums, community dialogues, public baraza as well as through local FM radio stations.

The Samburu Council of Elders was also involved in mobilization for Samburu women to be accorded chances in leadership positions. The Samburu are a highly patriarchal community and husbands routinely keep their wife’s identification documents such as I’D cards and attempt to influence who they vote for or if to vote at all. Through these efforts, no woman was forced to go to hers the livestock months voting day. It was highly successful.

Other mobilisation was for the youth, who make up the largest population group. Methods used go to achieve these included sports e.g. football tournaments, forums and baraza and radio spots. The also

employed theatre arts, including radio drama and music to sensitize their counterparts. One group recorded drama on video and would screen it throughout its area with peace messaging.

Perhaps one of the most visible effort was the use of Mosques as a forum to spread peace messaging. Imams used these platforms to educate their audiences on peaceful elections and co-existence- to shun incitement and violence. Every Friday prayer had a theme on these subjects.

Several peace caravans were also organized across the county involving a cross section of stakeholders. The Interfaith forum also played a huge part in mobilizing the community across religious lines to promote harmony.

Due to the nature and past experiences in the county, there was also significant mobilization particularly of youth and parents on aspects of recruitment into violent extremism.

Training and capacity building

Isiolo Peace Link was the focal point in training and capacity building especially relating to mediation and peace monitoring. Women, youth, PWDs and several other actors and stakeholders were the target of this capacity building intervention. People living with disabilities were sensitized on how to deal with challenges such as access polling stations. The Indigenous Women 1325 Action Group became a champion in campaigning women inclusion in peace- and decision-making processes out of this capacity building. They wet3 also trained on GBV issues. Due to capacity building, the country 2022 elections registered one of the highest turnouts of people with disabilities in an election. (Proof?).

Those youths with talents in arts such as music and theatre arts became beneficiaries of capacity building activities in the region.

For those without such talents capacity building training came in the form of hydroponics farming to enable them establish income generating activities.

Social media advocacy

This was employed especially in groups that constituted largely of younger persons. Social media played a crucial role especially WhatsApp and Facebook which were effectively to reach the youth as well interact with important institutions such as the Joint Operation Command Centre. The Isiolo Professionals Group was particularly noticeable in this regard. Social media was effectively used to monitor hate speech and incitement as well as to report incidents to 5be JOCC and engage aspirants.

Mediation

In Isiolo, mediation took many forms. Isiolo is a cosmopolitan county where many different communities call home. In addition, the major pastoralist communities such as Borana embrace insidious forums of clannism, which further complicated conflict dynamics. The to the competitive nature of politics, it raises emotions and the possibility of violence and a lot of mediation was employed I the 2022 elections.

One group that was engaged in critical mediation interventions was the Suluhu Forum (derived from the Swahili word Suluhu or solution). The Forum comprised of selected individuals, professionals and religious

leaders and would engage with different actors in situations that required a form of mediation using Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms including traditional dispute resolution methods. In the post-poll period, they were able to convene a mediation forum attended by majority of aspirant-both winners and losers and prevailed upon them to assure their support bases to maintain peace and for losers to gracefully accept defeat. They also prevailed upon the leaders to remain as role models and preach peace. The group was successful in mediating clan, ethnic and religious based conflict situations as well as among candidates.

The Indigenous Women 1325 Action Group was among the mediators trained to intervene at the grassroots. It was well placed to achieve good results since women had better networks at that level than men. Additionally, the group also actively mediated in marital disputes especially those arising from differences of political opinion or preferences some of which escalated to the level of divorces or gender based violence.

The Kenya Red Cross came handy with emergency interventions including availing standby ambulances and supplies for any eventualities. But more that, the Red Cross was at forefront in provision of mental health care including counselling all those who were in need of the service due to the stressful nature of electioneering and its effects on families and the community at large.

Joint Operation and Command Centre (JOCC)

This is an innovation that was perfected in Isiolo and worked exceptionally well in Early warning early response interventions. JOCC was domiciled at the local National Police Service County office but its membership was drawn from across all the main actors and stakeholders: security agencies, civil society, religious leaders and groups, the youth women, PWD s and so on. It operated a toll-free number that was used to receive reports on a 24-hour basis from peace monitors and other sanctioned sources. Any information that showed signs of becoming a threat to peace or security was quickly forwarded to relevant arms for appropriate intervention.

For instance, hate speech and incitement in the form songs, clips both audio and video were handed over to the DOC for further action. On several occasions, perpetrators were summoned and warned of prosecution. The centre was also involved in peace walks and joint police and community activities such as sports to enhance relations and build trust. Members also took part in radio outreach some sponsored by partners such as the Red Cross before, during and after elections.

Earlier, the centre under the coordination of a senior officer and participation of state actors such as NCIC and non-state actors had successfully mapped conflict hotspots across the county to inform targeted interventions.

Election observation

Several actors participating in the project were involved in election observation in various parts of the county.

Peace monitoring was a major activity here.

Opinion

The general view was that the project was timely and generally met its objectives through involvement of all the main actors and stakeholders: outcome was peaceful elections in Isiolo.

Catalytic

The model of the Indigenous Women 1325 Action Group by Isiolo Peace Link can now be categorised as catalytic. It went on to train women mediators from the neighbouring Samburu County, who in turn recognised the novelty of such an initiative and went ahead to establish a similar organisation in their county.

Use of influencers

In Isiolo the use of influencers was limited. However, nearly every politician had their own 'key board warrior's. Some individuals worked hard to gain only visibility but majority did this with an aim to monetise it by being paid by aspirants.

However, Isiolo Peace Link in conjunction with the Kenya School of Government Innovation Centre identified a few individuals who had significant social media following and were not biased. These were used to spearhead peace messaging outreach with some degree of success. At some point, some became trending topics nationally.

Barriers to tech use

- Question of access: majorly used by youth in urban areas while the majority in rural areas were left out.
- There is infrastructure in Isiolo and hence poor network coverage and connectivity.
- Cost of data bundles- which was not considered a priority especially with an oncoming drought and famine.
- Shops to buy airtime in the rural areas was a challenge
- Unreliable power source for charge gadgets
- Scarcity of smartphones
- High rates of illiteracy.

Online activities and offline violence

- Information concerning competing ethnic groups or clans affecting allocation of resources or appointment to government positions.
- Disinformation and misinformation
- Manipulation of video and audio clips.

Challenges

- Budgetary constraints- funding was too little which affected logistics and facilitation of activities e.g. walkie talkies, drones.
- Project coverage- Isiolo is too expansive
- Cultural beliefs and ignorance such as practice of patriarchy.
- Insecurity in many parts of the region which required police escort

- Poor infrastructure in roads and telephony coverage.
- Lack of political goodwill by MCAs, MPs etc.
- Tribalism and clannism
- Climate change- prolonged drought and resultant migration of populations in search of food, pasture and water.

Opportunities

- Created a good network of actors through collaboration I the various activities in different areas.
- Established communication channels
- Enhanced structures used in the various interventions
- Strengthened the voice of women in peace processes.
- It enhanced the acceptability of a woman’s role in decision making structures.

Lessons

- For any peace interventions to be successful, there must be including and synergy is absolutely essential.
- Sharing of information is critical
- The importance of mainstreaming mental health in programming.
- It is important to incorporate customer knowledge since some communities already own practices that can enhance the process if well tapped.
- Early preparedness is an ingredient.
- Application of proper role models such as trusted religious leaders can go a long way.
- A project such as this should run continuously or longer periods.
- It should also be used to resolve resource based conflicts which are common in Isiolo.