



MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST, 2017

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# MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST

## **Introduction**

Peace Tree Network set aside the month of August in order to windup the strategic plan for the organisation. This time was seen as appropriate for internal activities as Kenya was preparing for its General Election. PTN moved the August field activities to July. During this month, PTN carried out a peace walk in preparation for August General Election and various Civic and Voter Education trainings. The objective of the peace walk was to incentivize the people in Kwale County to maintain peace before, during and after the general elections. The civic and voter education was aimed at equipping the people with knowledge and skills in regard to their rights and duties as voters and their participation in the development of their country especially their county.

## **Staff Meetings**

The organisation held various staff meetings for updates and also to plan for the upcoming events. During the first staff meeting in the month of August, an evaluation of peace walk and the civic and voter education trainings which were realised in Kwale County were done. It was noted that the above mentioned events were successful as all the objectives were achieved. In the same line, issues from the ground which needed to be addressed were put forward. Some of such concerns were marginalization of girl child, where educating a girl is a problem, the question of returnees who had joined the A-shabaab group and the involvement of schools in peace building.

In another meeting information on resource mobilisation was shared. The theme dwelt more on crowd funding. The staff members were entrusted with identifying thematic areas for fundraising. Plans for the month of September were also highlighted as well the changes that occurred regarding the September field activities.

## **Resource mobilisation**

The organisation discussed various ways of doing resource mobilisation. To accomplish this plan every staff was tasked with revising the previous resource mobilisation program. Later, the staff gave their comments regarding the same after which Evans carried the members through a resource mobilisation strategy. Crowd funding was discussed at length and the members had the opportunity of learning how it operates.

The staff was also to come up with thematic areas for the next field activities. The following themes were selected:

## **Peace building and Conflict management**

The goal for this area is to build resilient communities that can peacefully resolve issues of conflict. At the same time the members gave the following objectives.

- Creation of awareness on the existing/emerging conflicts in the community
- Develop sustainable livelihood programs to mitigate conflict situations in the society
- Foster existing peace building skills in communities



Participants of nonviolent conference

## **Governance**

The goal for governance is to enhance a transparent and accountable society

Objectives:

- Enhance the knowledge of community members on democratic processes
- Enhance participation of citizens in government affairs
- Hold leaders accountable on resource utilization and use of power entrusted to them by the people

## **Gender and Development**

The goal for gender and development is to enhance gender equity by building a society that is pro-active and gender sensitive in regards to positive values.

Objectives:-

- Create awareness on human rights
- Enhance entrepreneurial skills for self-sustainability
- Promote access to GBV Services for the affected persons.

## **Research**

The goal here is to highlight and disseminate credible information on social issues which can be used in the development of responsive programs and as advocacy tools.

Objectives:-

- Carry out investigative research on emerging issues concerning the society
- Publish the research findings
- Advocate for mechanisms that address the highlighted challenges

## **Organizational Development**

The goal of organisational development is to make PTN self-sufficient and a point of reference in its field of operations

### **Objectives:**

- To foster teamwork and enhance existing skills for effective programming and efficient delivery
- To be adaptive to changing global trends in programming for relevancy to the communities we serve
- To enhance our networks through partnership and collaboration with relevant stake holders
- To diversify our portfolio by engaging in attentive ways of generating income

After thematic areas were clear and assumed by PTN, the staff brainstormed on various ways of implementing the project. The following was arrived at:

- Trainings, workshops, Forums, Dialogues and Roundtable discussions.
- Community platforms such as chief barazas, children home visits, school meetings, religious gatherings, hotels, women and youth group sessions,
- Media advocacy through radio, social media (face book and twitter handles), print (quarterly newsletters), website articles.
- Campaigns such as Peace-walks, online and offline campaigns,
- Competitions for instance football matches and festivals.

## **Global Giving**

After familiarization with the global giving website, PTN pitched on the projects in the website focusing on two specific areas which include:

- Gender and Development
- Education

As part of the conclusion on fundraising each member was tasked with coming up with a fund raising proposal every month. The exercise was not only meant to raise funds but also to help the staff learn the skill of proposal writing.

## **Workshop on strategic nonviolent strategies**

Two of Peace Tree Network-PTN staff members participated in a workshop organised by Chemchemi Ya Ukweli, an Interfaith Organisation. The said organisation deals with promotion of nonviolent culture, peace, dignity and reconciliation in Kenyan. The event took place between August 30<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2017. The event brought together about fifty

participants from different organisations. The main objective of the training was to promote skills, strategies and concepts in the field of nonviolent civil resistance.

During the training various issues were tackled. These include the context analysis of the violence situation in Kenya. To help those who were present to understand more about topic, explanations were given showing Kenya is a divided nation not just along political lines but also in economic and historical injustices. Mr. Stephen Kadenyo who handled this topic gave a brief history of political division that runs back to 2010. He cited examples of various moments that saw Kenyan hold different views about certain issues that were affecting the country. Such examples included when CORD, a political party in Kenya was advocating for the removal of Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) from office. Mr. Kadenyo explained that some people were in agreement that IEBC body should leave the office while others were not.

The trainer also noted that the church which is supposed to play a critical role as far as uniting Kenyans without taking sides is seemingly divided and this gives the reason as to why it could not issue a joint statement in regard to nullification of August 8<sup>th</sup> General elections. Mr. Kadenyo urged those who were present to work for change and to remember that change comes with personal responsibility.

Further, the trainees were informed that civil resistance means disobeying in a peaceful and orderly way. Concluding this part Kadenyo said that despite all what Kenya is going through; there is hope for a better nation.

The participants had the opportunity of learning how religion has been used to unite people and some other times to divide them. Sheikh Abuhamza noted that some politicians used religion to mobilize people in the name of "our people." In the same line religion has been used to advance certain ideologies. He gave the example of how Arab springs came about and how the two groups of Islam have managed to change the government using religion. He encouraged people to be non-violent whenever they do anything in public.

The trainees also learnt of women's non-violent civil resistant. Examples of how women used nonviolent civil resistant to achieve their goals were given, starting with American women all the way to African countries.

The participants were informed that every country requires transformative leadership. This type of leadership stimulates and motivates the people to develop. Mr. Suba Churchill told those

who were present that a leader should have a vision and values. He noted that high moral and ethical standards are important elements in every leader. He urged the participants to stand and practice the values that are enshrined in the Kenyan constitution of 2010.



Training of participants in non-violence strategies

## **Conclusion**

The month of August was meant to realize the internal activities although there were a few outdoor events. The organisation was able to achieve all its objectives as all activities were accomplished in a timely manner as planned.

## **Appendix**

### **Group work during the non-violent civil resistance trainings**

