



MONTHLY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

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Introduction

Throughout this year, Peace Tree Network has carried out various activities on civic and voter education, women in leadership and peace building in Kwale County. Each activities was realised according to the goals and objectives outline in PTN`s strategic plan. The needs of the community were also prioritized. During the month of September emphasis were laid on peace building which culminated with a forum held in Kinondo. The objective of the peace building activity was to equip the participants with peace building skills so that they can mitigate conflict issues in families as well as in the society. Apart from this PTN held a number of staff meetings and resource mobilisation discussions.

Meetings

The staff held meetings every Monday for the purpose of doing follow ups on the monthly activities and also to discuss any arising issues. Some of such discussions centred on resource mobilisation strategies.

Fundraising

This was mainly centered on crowd funding. The staff had previously discussed the topic and chosen some of the thematic areas to be used in one of the crowd funding websites named Global Giving. The platform was seen as an open opportunity to harbour various types of proposals; Thereby encouraging the staff to draft viable proposals in search of funds to implement a variety of projects.

Peace activity

The conclusion of peace activities whose objectives were to equip the participants with peace building skills so that they can mitigate conflict issues in families as well as in the society, culminated in a forum organised by Peace Tree Network in partnership with KAP. The forum was realized on 18th of this month and it brought together 30 participants from different villages.

Various issues affecting the community were tackled in this forum. People were urged to maintain peace and unity amid the political crises in the ward, after the issuance of certificate to the wrong MCA candidate by the IEBC- Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission.

In the same line those who were present were encouraged to practice the religious values which serve to guide them in everything they do. In this light all people were called upon to pray for peace in the country. The human rights activists were requested to involve all people in peace prayers when they organize the event.

The role of women in peace building was outline and the need for the chief to move from one village to another encouraging people to maintain peace was emphasized.

Other burning issues that were discussed included the transfer of various service offering institutions from Kiuzini to Nyumba Bovu. The change of location of the above named institutions was seen as segregating the people of

Kinondo from others. They requested the authorities to retain the open market where it was so as to enhance interaction with people of other villages.



Assistant Chief speaking to participants of Kinondo peace forum

Religious leaders were invited to be on the fore front of peace building as they are able to bring people from different realities together.

Causes of Conflict

1. Political affiliation-where people blindly support a certain party and they are not tolerant with those from a different group.
2. Foreigners – where residents feel those who buy land and live among them are outsiders and they tend to dominate (The chief said this is not an issue).
3. Football groups-Every village supports a certain group of footballers ant thus these supporter do no mix
4. social injustices
5. hate speech- some people use inappropriate words to address others
6. lack of understanding of the constitution which defines the human rights and how people need to respect others` rights

Challenges

1. Some people wanted to join the group, with the assumption that participants were getting paid.
2. The list of attendees exceeded the expected number.

Way forward

1. Create a peace building commission which comprises of all people including women, youth and the disabled. This should be done at both levels of county and national government.
2. Create means of knowing each other say through family gatherings.
3. Have football tournaments where various groups from different villages can participate
4. Be ambassadors of peace

5. Call those MCAs who were elected this year and ask them to sign a peace agreement
6. Have an inclusive leadership
7. Have a Kinondo manifesto which can act as a guide on how people should behave in the society e.g. if one breaks the law of the community the manifesto will provide guidelines on how to deal with him or her
8. Have a peace banner signed by people of Kinondo to show their commitments towards peace building
9. The perpetrators of conflict to be brought before the elders for disciplinary action to be taken against them
10. Leaders to be politically neutral
11. Give leaders time to speak about peace in various meetings
12. Have an inter-religious prayers day to pray for the country
13. Other forums to be held in different villages so as to get to the grass root people
14. Chief should move from villages to village trying to solve the conflict

Conclusion

The activities carried out during the month of September were a success including the forum was. All the participants of the forum turned up and they had an open and active discussion. Peace Tree Network and Kenya Action Plan achieved their objective of empowering the participants with peace building skill.

Appendix: Photos from Kinondo Peace forum

