

# Annual Report 2012-13



PAMOJA FOR TRANSFORMATION





## Letter from the Executive Director



Kenya continues to experience many forms of violent conflict as well as social, economic, cultural and political challenges. The root causes of these are as diverse as the Kenyan people, and can be attributed to ethnic and social tensions, poverty and unemployment, political manipulation and corruption, poor governance and illiteracy among others.

Pamoja for Transformation seeks to contribute towards reduction of violence, promotion of active civic participation and reduction of poverty thereby improving opportunities for economic livelihoods. To this end, Pamoja with support from different partners, implemented its projects amidst tension, fear and suspicion, while at the same time bases optimism on the new constitutional dispensation promulgated in 2010.

Among the outstanding outcomes was, first, the restraint from violent behaviors before, during and after the general election 2013. These are attributed to the civic education and awareness campaigns as well as the peace activities of a multitude of actors including Pamoja.

Secondly, there is an improved social cohesion among and between different ethnic communities that have lived in fear, suspicion and tensions over the past.

Finally, the report demonstrates the power of innovation and creativity, especially among the youth and women, that can bring about sustainable peace and development. We remain very optimistic that the youth and women lead social and economic initiatives will increase and shall be the pillar for sustainable peace and development.

While the report paints a positive and promising picture, all is not a bed of roses. A lot more work and support is still required with regards to providing alternative livelihoods, conflict prevention and transformation in the Kenyan society. Implementation of peace, governance and economic livelihoods related activities need to be intensified in order to inform and strengthen policy frameworks and improve services and citizen quality of life lives. Most importantly, the rural population must be largely involved to tap, build and strengthen their potentials.

It is my hope that this report will inform the reader of the existing needs, while appreciating the efforts made so far in addressing Kenya's community challenges.

**Kadenyo Stephen**  
Executive Director

# Our Mission, History & Believes



## Our Mission & Vision

Pamoja for Transformation is a non-profit organization with the mission to support communities affected by conflict with resources and tools to move from crisis and poverty to peace and development. Our vision is a peaceful and just society free from poverty.

## Our History

In 2007 a group of experienced Kenyan community peace practitioners combined efforts to respond to violent conflicts in Kenya and East Africa. *Pamoja* was established with the aim to transforming diverse conflicts, such as conflicts over natural resources and land, community identity, political activities, historic grievances and violent extremism, through peace-building initiatives, mediation and non-violence trainings.

Our experience showed us that most peace-building activities in conflict-affected communities have not been connected to economic development. Given the missing link between the peace and development agenda, little progress has been achieved towards sustainable peace and economic progress.

We thus created a positive response to the peace-development gap. Today, we use a holistic and integrated approach to conflict transformation and economic development to tackle poverty and conflict sustainably.

## Our Believes

**Community-led change:** We believe that communities are the best agents of their own change. Any change must be community-led in order to be sustainable. When local communities drive the development and work together with partners, systemic change is possible.

**Holistic approach:** We use an integrated approach, combining peace-building and economic development.

**Partnerships:** Change can only be achieved in collaboration. We work in partnership with local village committees, the Civil Society, the private sector to governmental ministries and international organizations, among others.

**Multiplier-effect:** We engage community and opinion leaders who are key in replicating our program activities. For example, participants of our capacity building trainings became role models by facilitating community dialogues.

**Result-oriented:** Our projects bring measurable results, are change oriented and achievements are tangible and quantifiable.

**Sustainability:** We work towards strengthening self-supporting community structures and community resilience. We address structural dimensions of conflict and poverty through empowerment of marginalized households and communities.



Peace Meetings to prevent election violence, Nakuru



Soccer for Peace Tournament, Marsabit

## Statistics & Profiles of the People We Served 2012-13

We serve marginalized and disadvantaged communities in Kenya and Eastern Africa, including women, the youth, rural communities, refugees, asylum seeker and prisoners.

- **Total number** of people served (direct beneficiaries): **over 1,670**
- **Gender:** approx. 45% female, 55% male
- **Religions:** Most of the communities subscribe to Christian and Muslim faith, a few practice traditional religion.
- **Ethnic groups:** Over ten ethnic groups, including Kalenjin, Luo, Kikuyu, Luhya, Somali, Kisii, Nubians, Kamba, Maasai, and Meru
- **Geographical regions:** Nairobi, Western Kenya, Rift Valley, the Coast, North-Eastern



## Highlights of Accomplishments

- **World Peace Day:** Over 500 people from different ethnicities celebrated together the **World Peace Day 2012** in Uasin Gishu, Rift Valley, co-organized by Pamoja.
- **Soccer for Peace:** More than 600 community members took part as players and spectators in four peace tournaments to mobilize youth from across different ethnic communities to champion peace in Marsabit and Uasin Gishu counties.
- **Inter-Religious Dialogues:** Four inter-religious dialogue meetings with 165 Christian and Muslim youth were held at the coast to prevent the escalation of inter-ethnic and religious violence.
- **Inter-Community Dialogue:** Over 150 men and women took part in mediation workshops on solving land conflicts in the Southern Rift Valley, where land is a major source of conflict.
- **Youth Entrepreneurship:** 50 youth trained in entrepreneurship skills.
- **Preventing Election Violence:** 60 men and women were trained in election monitoring
- **Conflict-Sensitive Journalism:** 144 editors and leaders of radio stations were trained in conflict-sensitive journalism, as the media is one of the drivers of violent conflict between different political or ethnic/communal groups.



# Peace Building & Conflict Transformation Program - I



## 1. World Peace Day 2012

Pamoja marked the World Peace Day on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2012 with an interfaith peace ceremony, public peace prayers, peace walk and other activities in Uasin Gishu, Rift Valley. A multitude of people from different social backgrounds, races, perspectives, economic situations, political affiliations, all came together to celebrate a peace that links them together, making them one, forgetting all differences. **Over 500 people participated**, local government officials, civil society, religious leaders and the community at large. Pamoja worked alongside other partners, including Mercy Corps, A-STEP and the county government of Uasin Gishu, civil society, and religious organizations to organize this day.

UasinGisu County is one of the economic backbones of Kenya, endowed with rich natural resources. At the same time, it has land that has often been the epicenter of violent ethno-political conflicts. Organizing for such celebrations therefore contributes towards promoting peaceful coexistence among the diverse communities.



## 2. Soccer for Peace

It is well documented that ethnically-diverse team sports are among the social activities with power for kids to reduce ethnic prejudices and tensions, and promoting reconciliation. Pamoja for Transformation organized four peace tournaments to mobilize youth from across different ethnic communities to champion peace in Marsabit and Uasin Gishu counties. Two tournaments were in Uasin Gishu in 2012 and two in Marsabit in 2013. More than 600 people from the different communities participated to learn to appreciate each other despite their cultural and ethnic differences. People from the community participated as both players and spectators.

We thank all the sponsors, USAID, Mercy Corps, UNDP who provided the t-shirts, prizes, food, water and the moral and technical support towards making the tournaments a success.



*"Sport has the power to unite people in a way little else can. Sport can create hope where there was once only despair. It breaks down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of discrimination. Sport speaks to people in a language they can understand.... [It is] probably the most effective means of communication in the modern world."*

Nelson Mandela

# Peace Building & Conflict Transformation Program - II



## 3. Inter-Religious Dialogues

Pamoja facilitated four inter-religious dialogue meetings at the coast to prevent the escalation of inter-ethnic violence and perceived religious violence following the mysterious killings of one of the radical Muslim clerics in Mombasa in September 2012 that saw the tourist coastal city come to a standstill as youth engage police in running battles. The Cleric Sheikh Abud Rogo was alleged to be recruiting young people into the militant Al-Sha-baab group in Somalia. More than 80 youth and 50 religious leaders engaged in the dialogue process. The initiative was supported by Saferworld Kenya.

The dialogues were tailor-made to suit and accommodate different groups of society to come up with their own localized solutions to peace and development. This approach acknowledges the power of effective communication and community-led decisions and processes in bringing about change.

The meetings contributed to organizing door to door campaigns around the coast encouraging youth not to lead violent protests, instead seeking to address their grievances through peaceful, laid down procedures.



## 4. Inter-Community Dialogue

Molo-Kuresoi is in the southern part of the Rift Valley. This is one of the areas that were hardest affected by the 2007/8 post-election violence that watered down the trust between communities. In addition, the region has always suffered perennial violent conflicts towards major political elections. This is attributed to the emotional invocation of the skewed distribution and acquisition of land by a section of the community perceived not to be indigenous members while having the largest chunks. However, the problem is not necessarily the communities, but the weak land tenure system that does not seem to offer sustainable solutions to the land problem that is used to instigate violent conflicts.

Hence, organizations like Pamoja intervene by facilitating mediation among communities to address their conflicts. Mediation at community level seems to work well and is being carried out by communities to address other conflicts emerging in the community.



# Economic Opportunity & Livelihood Program



## 1. Youth Entrepreneurship

Pamoja facilitated workshops on entrepreneurship training for five youth groups each with 10 members in Nakuru County. The aim was to promote their livelihoods through the establishment of small-scale businesses. Further, the small business should act as connectors, since the income generating activities brought together youth from across the political and ethnic divide. It also aims at engaging the youth positively in order to shun handouts by politicians manipulating them to instigate violence.

Pamoja encourages and assists young people to identify potential projects within their localities. This is coupled with an entrepreneurship training of different youth groups. The youth were able to access the market and supply chicks and eggs and rabbit to local farmers in Nakuru.



*Pictures:  
Youth in  
Nakuru show  
case modern  
poultry  
incubator*

## 2. Micro-loan program for disadvantaged women

Pamoja supports rural and disadvantaged women to advance their vocational potentials to raise a source of livelihood. Pamoja assist in finding external market for their products, while at the same time promoting local employment opportunities for other women and youth with similar potentials.

In 2013 Pamoja piloted this project and supported two small businesses, creating five work places: One single mother received a seed grant to establish a tailoring shop in Nairobi that employed two other women with similar potentials. Pamoja also assisted one woman from Kitui County in finding external market for her hand-crafts products made from local materials. She has been able to employ another young woman with same skills.





# Governance & Policies Program



## 1. Election Monitoring and Observation Trainings

Pamoja facilitated election and observation trainings in order to impart knowledge and information about the new voting patterns under new dispensation. Further, Pamoja participated in the actual monitoring and observation of the 2013 general elections in Kenya. The elections were disputed by the opposition party. Luckily, unlike the previous general elections, no incidences of violent conflicts were reported. The peaceful outcome of the election was attributed to a large number of actors like Pamoja who intensified their campaigns for peaceful voting in the run-up to the elections.

## 2. Peaceful Voting Campaign

Pamoja organized an awareness campaign towards voter registration and voting participation in Shonda, Kwale County at the coast in the run-up to the general elections 2013. This was at the height of the secessionist call by the MRC which threatened, intimidated and discouraged the coastal residence against participating in the election process. Pamoja met with village elders and opinion leaders in finding means and ways on how to mitigate the conflict.



Pamoja encouraged the coastal communities to seek changes from within the existing governance structures by participating in the elections. One of the MRC proponents was elected as Member of the County Assembly in Kwale County.

## 3. Conflict Sensitive Journalism

Insensitive media reporting was identified as one of the drivers of violent conflict between different political or ethnic/communal groups. It emerged that majority journalists do not have any peace and conflict training. Pamoja with support from Saferworld facilitated a number of conflict sensitivity workshops around the country especially in the hotspots of Kisumu, Eldoret, Nakuru, Nairobi and Mombasa. The workshops brought together editors and live radio presenters from different local FM radio stations. This target audience was chosen due to the highly trusted and wide listenership of the local FM stations that transmit news and programs in the local languages that appeals most to the communities.



## 4. Preventing Election Violence

Consultative peace meeting took place in Subukia, Nakuru North and Rongai-Nakuru county. The meeting aimed at developing coordination mechanisms for preventing election violence and responding to triggers and rising social tensions. The meetings brought together community elders and opinion leaders, the security agents and the local peace activists. This was a follow up meeting to a series of forums and activities following the clashes in 2007/8 between the Kikuyu and Kalenjin communities.





# The Team

We are a passionate team of peace practitioners and development expert dedicated to apply a holistic approach to overcome conflict and poverty.

Our managing team, advisors and pool of consultants have rich expertise in peace-building, human rights, governance and democracy, community development, psycho-social support, economic development, organisational capacity building, and monitoring and evaluation.

## Managing Board

Hezron Masitsa, Chairperson & Co-Founder

Stephen Kadenyo, Executive Director & Co-Founder

Victor Amaumo, Finance & Administration

Emily Akinyi Obuya, Administrator

## Advisors

Alice Nagele, Technical Advisor & Board Member

Anja Drame, Organizational Capacity Building

## Consultancy Board

*Pamoja for Transformation* maintains a pool of consultants with rich expertise in peace-building, human rights, governance and democracy, community development, psycho-social support, displacement, economic development, organisational capacity building, monitoring and evaluation. They have worked in a variety of countries and diverse conflicts in the context of East Africa.



# Acknowledgement

Thank you to the following people, organizations and institutions for having graciously given their time, advice and financial and technical support to Pamoja for Transformation. Their invaluable insights and encouragement gave us the confidence to engage.

- The local provincial governments of Nakuru, Uasin Gishu and Molo Kuresoi
- Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Kenya Office
- UNDP-Kenya, Peace Building Unit
- Saferworld
- The Catholic Justice and Peace Commission
- Suleiman Ubuguyu
- David Nyasikera
- Hannington Muchera
- Mary Oyath

## Thank you!



Building Peace & Development Opportunities

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