

Pam^oja

for Transformation
Building Peace & Development Opportunities



2022

ANNUAL REPORT

ABOUT US



Pamoja for Transformation is a national peace and development organization. It is registered in Kenya as a trust and in Liechtenstein as a non-profit association. There are no statutory links between Pamoja Kenya and Pamoja Liechtenstein. Donations raised by Pamoja Liechtenstein go to Pamoja Kenya, which delivers and implements all projects.

Pamoja was founded in Nairobi in 2009 by a team of politically-independent Kenyan peace practitioners with the vision to support communities affected by violent conflicts to rebuild their lives toward a peaceful future. The founders are strong believers in restorative justice, non-violence and transformative dialogue approaches to conflict transformation.

In 2014 Pamoja expanded its work and started covering issues related to governance, decentralization/devolution and economic empowerment. Today, Pamoja is one of Kenya's leading organizations on community safety, peace and conflict transformation



PROJECT PHOTOS



Kisumu Peace day: NCIC Project



Issuing of tool kits for SME loop project



Biodigester installation: Renewable Energy Project



Plumbing Pipefitter Trainees from Bondo Technical and Vocational Training Institute: Skills for Jobs



Syntropic Agroforestry Model farm setup: Green Economy



Dolphin self-help Group in Lamu: Blue Economy

OUR THEMATIC AREAS

SKILLS AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

We support the disadvantaged and marginalized women and youth with technical and vocational skills, knowledge, and capital, financial linkages and networks to grow their enterprises and improve their productivity, employability and wealth creation for sustainable livelihoods. The program provides tools and approaches for increasing income.

Program Aim

We support the disadvantaged and marginalized women and youth with technical and vocational skills, knowledge, and capital, financial linkages and networks to grow their enterprises and improve their productivity, employability and wealth creation for sustainable livelihoods. The program provides tools and approaches for increasing income.

Achievements

Since its inception in 2015 the program has supported over 3500 MSME's especially women and youth entrepreneurs with knowledge and skills to strengthen their resilience and improve productivity. The program has collaborated with technical vocational education and training institutions to provide technical skills in the government grade III certification to 1940 youth. The program collaborates with county and national as well as private sector players who provide financial, marketing and job opportunities to the trainees.

Program location: Nairobi, Nakuru, Kisumu, Turkana, Migori, Bungoma, and Siaya Counties.

Building the Resilience of Small Sized Enterprises to cope with implications of COVID19: Through Entrepreneurial, Financial and Business Management Training

County: Nairobi, Kisumu, Nakuru, Migori Turkana Counties

Period: 18 Months (November 2021- October 2022)

Donor/Partner: GIZ

Status: Completed



Coaching Session



Issuing of toolkits



Coaching Session

PROJECT CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

SMEs provide opportunities for economic growth and development. However, such businesses face numerous challenges in their quest for self-sufficiency and financial stability, ranging from legal restrictions to registration to a lack of capital and financial literacy. Other unexpected challenges, such as COVID-19, exacerbated the enterprises' ability to increase revenue streams and scale up their businesses. The COVID-19 pandemic left a trail of destruction in economies worldwide, with micro, small, and medium enterprises bearing the brunt given their nature as sole proprietorships, the main source of income among low-income economies, and their lack of financial reserves to withstand economic shocks. Restricted movements and lockdowns led to income losses due to low demand for goods and services, disruption of supply chains, and increasingly limited access to cash and credit, with most businesses shutting down and many others facing uncertainties about their future. Even with the government's COVID-19 relief stimulus program aimed to boost

businesses against the adverse effects of COVID-19, the non-formal/Juakali businesses were particularly limited because of their non-formal ways of operating. About 80% of the small and medium-sized enterprises in Kenya are unlicensed companies, collectively known as the Jua Kali sector (Radier, 2016). Acknowledging the invaluable demand to protect the operating environment as well as promote food security, Pamoja, in partnership with the E4D program, implemented the COVID-19 response project. The project sought to strengthen Kenyan small-sized enterprises, increase their resistance to economic shocks, and generate new opportunities for sustainable employment, including green jobs. The project was designed to support 252 small-sized enterprises that had been negatively impacted by COVID-19 and were either about to fail or were recovering in urban and peri-urban communities in five counties: Nairobi, Nakuru, Kisumu, Migori, and Turkana.

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHT - 2022

The main activities implemented included the selection of 252 enterprises using a predesigned project selection criterion and training the selected enterprises on business, finance management, and entrepreneurship, including workshops on financial literacy and access to finance. Individualized coaching sessions for the selected enterprises were key to filling in capacity gaps through tailor-made on-site support comprising the development of new business improvement plans for their current contexts, exploring linkages to new value chains, and the issuance of business toolkits to improve their ability to scale up businesses and increase their revenue streams.

PROJECT AIM

The project's primary goal is to strengthen small businesses' ability to deal with the effects of COVID-19 by enhancing their entrepreneurial, business, and financial management skills. This, in turn, increases the creation of new jobs, helps retain existing ones, and improves the income and well-being of residents in urban, rural, and peri-urban areas of Nakuru, Turkana, Nairobi, Migori, and Kisumu counties.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS

- i. 237 (121 male led and 116 female's) enterprises with self-confidence and improved management practices such as record keeping, business planning, good customer relation, stock management, market management, financial and risk management. The business is spread across the 5 counties (Nairobi, Nakuru, Kisumu, Migori and Turkana). The businesses were provided with entrepreneurial, financial and business management training and coaching and mentorship. 44% (104) enterprises now operate autonomously without the owners' physical presence in the daily operations while another 21% (50) of the entrepreneurs have demonstrated ability to train their employees through upskilling.
- ii. 226 new jobs (141full time and 85part time) created and another 846 retained through the project interventions (i.e. skills building, coaching, mentorship and provision business vouchers) and associated results such as business diversification, management practices and improved working conditions as a result of project interventions.
- iii. 170 businesses (91male led and 79females) with improved working conditions, capital and enhanced productivity. The businesses were issued with business toolkits/vouchers in the form of assets and stock to resuscitate the business as well as improve their ability to scale up and increase their revenue streams. They comprised of 31(18males 13females) business in Nairobi, 30 (14male and 16females) from Nakuru, 37 (22males 15females) in Kisumu, 35(20males and 15females) in Migori and another 37(17males and 20females) in Turkana county. The enterprises were selected based on their innovativeness, diversification, successful completion of trainings and coaching's.
- iv. 71 business linkages (both vertical and horizontal) created among the 237 enterprises. 80% of the linkages were achieved between business to business levels at the counties while 20% involved businesses with capacity who reached out to other financial institutions such as banks, microfinance, and Saccos upon referrals. Key to business linkages involved the creation of social media platforms (i.e. WhatsApp groups, face book and twitter accounts) that enhanced information sharing among the project beneficiaries. This helped to facilitate peer to peer learning and support with access to markets, products and procurements services. In Nakuru County, Dennis Lukalo used the business improvement plan to access a loan from Musoni Microfinance to expand his business and add more routers. Newton in Kisumu got support to procure a loom machine, which enabled him to start offering lessons to students at his plant. He was able to get business from Rwanda and Uganda, through which he added five more loom machines, and now has full-time students from Ethiopia. Mr. David Olale and Grace Amazi have come together such that Mr. Olale supplies herbs and vegetables to her eatery in Nakuru town. Shukuru Bachoke was linked with the training venues where she supplies liquid cleaning products to their establishments as well as to other beneficiaries of the project in Kakuma. Mr. Phabian Njanuary was able to increase his market and create awareness for his products from the exposure he got through the project, and he was featured on Ramogi TV, a local TV station. Furthermore, some businesses have joined Saccos and micro-lending institutions to save money as a risk mitigation strategy.

- v. 81 businesses supported to formalize. This represents 34% of all the enterprises enrolled in the project. The enterprises upon business analysis through the management trainings developed improvement plans with actions to formalize. Formalization provides protection (self, business and employees) by the law, increases potential access to financial and business partnerships, access to benefits from government schemes, enhances the creation of business brands, credibility and customer trust in the market thereby improving business prosperity and sustainability.

LESSONS LEARNT

- The project interventions provided an all-around package for supporting low-income enterprises in rebuilding their resilience and confidence. Skills building, guidance, and capital support served to meet the dire needs of the businesses whose future were faced with uncertainties. Knowledge and partnerships remain cornerstones to businesses'
- Beneficiaries are able to begin improvement plans through guided actions, thanks to the modulated trainings. The business analysis performed during the first training cycle helped the enterprises to better understand their business environment, making it easier to develop and implement improvement strategies.
- The marketing results achieved



SME Loop Toolkits Issuing

- survival in the midst of economic shocks.
- The SME loop approach adopted in conducting the business training and coaching helped to build the confidence of beneficiaries to explore options to minimize threats and maximize business opportunities.
- from the use of social media provides inspiration among the beneficiaries on the use of technology to promote the growth of small businesses.
- The impact of COVID-19 on MSMEs and the results of various initiatives to support business reliance provide lessons that

could inform the development and revision of policies and procedures that support

subsequent efforts to rebuild the MSME sector in Kenya.

Success story 1:

Ghetto Farmers group.

Ghetto Farmers is a youth group of reformed gang members based in Kiamaiko, an informal settlement in Mathare, Nairobi County. The group of youth, after engaging in crime and realizing that crime does not pay, opted to come together and start a self-help group. The group, which primarily formed as a social support forum mostly geared towards ensuring the members do not engage in crime but start meaningful economic activities, soon realized their dream was about to be crushed as they did not have any source of income to start or run an enterprise. Their desire to maintain a clean environment prompted them to start garbage collection and cleaning of public spaces within their estates.

The group was lucky to get funding from well-wishers and started small urban farms and rehabilitation of the Nairobi river within their neighborhood in the Mathare area, with their

preferred trees of choice being bamboo trees.

Despite success in their



bamboo farms and other activities, they faced a lot of challenges in tracking their financial transactions, as they did not keep any financial records and operated many revenue streams that were managed by different members of the group.

Due to a lack of accurate financial records, the group was losing money and unable to determine why they weren't profitable despite consistent production. Humphrey Omukuti, the group's coordinator,

attended BFM training on the organization's behalf and gained knowledge about maintaining accurate business records. He then passed this knowledge on to other group members. It was made simpler and more effective for them to track their activities and, most importantly, the financial health of their business when Chalo, who has some basic bookkeeping skills, was appointed the group's records manager and further departmentalized all of their operations after advice during the first coaching cycle.

The group is now able to manage its cash flow and has fully automated its records, which has helped it become profitable. Through the project's business toolkit support, the group received construction materials to put up more goat pens. With the new pens, the group is now able to generate 60,000 shillings in revenue from this stream alone

Success story 2:

AUSTINE GEORGE OTIENO FISH FARMER IN NYALENDA

George is a small-medium entrepreneur who has been practicing fish farming for over five years and grows a variety of vegetables on his farm. He has an acre of land where he practices mixed farming, and in the year 2019, he started with a single fish pond and has managed to increase the capacity over time and now operates two alongside the vegetable farm.

George joined the project and was supported with knowledge and skills in entrepreneurship, business, and financial management training, which he says played a critical role in his development into 'agripreneurship.' He says he lacks the skills to scale up his agribusiness and ensure he is capable of serving the right customer segments and the right products. With coaching and mentoring, George realized the value of connecting with other farmers and organizations that could provide him with access to new smart farming techniques that could help him maximize the output from his farm. With the application of the new skills gained, he has seen his revenue improve from a paltry 12,000 Ksh from the vegetables and 20,000 Ksh from the fish farm monthly to 36,000 Ksh and 12,500 Ksh weekly, respectively.

He received a water pump from the project to scale up his farming and ensure a more reliable water supply for irrigation on his farm. With the support, George was able to employ an extra farmhand to assist around the farm. This has also increased his vegetable harvest at the farm and increased his variety to ensure he is capable of serving a larger percentage of the local market.



Success story 3:

Mercy Awuor

Mercy Awuor runs an enterprise selling liquid detergent in Rongo Sub-county, Migori County. She is a middle-aged



woman, a wife, and a mother of three girls.

With funding from her husband of Ksh 5,000 and the ability to create 120 liters of liquid soap, Mercy launched her firm in 2020, at the peak of the COVID-19 outbreak. She took advantage of the opportunity and briefly entered the industry. Mercy describes her path to success, saying, "The training and coaching made me realize gaps in the business; I was extremely poor in marketing, record keeping, branding, and product packaging, but through engagement with Pamoja, I started online marketing through Facebook and WhatsApp and introduced records like invoice books, delivery notes, receipt books, and debtors' ledgers." Says Mercy.

"I currently produce 10,000 liters of liquid detergents (liquid soap, Jik, shampoo, and Dawn dishwashing soap) each month, which I supply to hotels, hospitals, and schools both within Migori County and other counties. I've been able to satisfy my clients' requests; in the past, they would grumble because I only had one flavor (strawberry perfume). I offered new flavors like lemon and ginger to give customers a

range of tastes and preferences thanks to Pamoja's advice for transformation during coaching, which led to a growth in my customer base and an increase in sales."

Because most people were compelled to wash their hands during the COVID-19 pandemic and there was a large demand for liquid soap, the industry experienced growth. The majority of people started their own businesses since they needed less money to get started. She considered closing the company because so many people had invested in it, but later she was asked if she would be interested in participating in business, finance, and entrepreneurial training by one of the Pamoja apprentices, and she was chosen as one of the project's beneficiaries. I learned the value of keeping records after



participating in training sessions held by Pamoja. The firm start

ed with 2 employees, but thanks to product diversification and growth in sales, I now have a total of 7 people helping with the distribution of my products. Mercy is incredibly appreciative of the knowledge and skills she learned from the training and coaching, despite not receiving business toolkit support. "My long-term goals include purchasing motorcycles for my employees to aid in product distribution as my consumer base expands" and a growth in revenue.

SKILLS FOR JOBS (S4J)

KEY FACTS

- **Counties:** Kisumu, Siaya and Bungoma.
- **Implementing Institutions:** Ahero VTC, Akado, Mariwa, YMCA-Kisumu, NITA-Kisumu, Bondo Technical Training Institute and Bungoma Technical and Vocational Training College.
- **Period:** October 2021 - June 2023
- **Donor/Partner:** GIZ/E4D (NORAD, KOICA, EU.)
- **Status:** On going



Motor Vehicle Mechanic trainees during their practical sessions at NITA -Kisumu

PROJECT CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:

The economy of Kenya advanced by 5.2% year-on-year in the second quarter of 2022, the fourth consecutive quarter of slowing growth and below market expectations of a 5.6% rise (Trading economics 2022 Data - 2023 Forecast). This was the weakest economic expansion compared to 6.8% in the first quarter of 2022 and a 7.4% rise in the previous period. The trend occurred amid disruptions caused by uncertainty surrounding the 2022 general election, a prolonged drought, and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. With a forecast of 5.7% by the end of December 2022, more interest and attention shifted to economic recovery pathways such as the Big 4 Agenda and the implementation of Vision 2030. Critical to recovery is addressing the youth unemployment bulge through youth skilling and development, including youth mentorship, and expanding value-building opportunities through vocational and entrepreneurial skills development. Kenya's unemployment rate stands at 40%, with the highest percentage among the youth between the ages of 18 and 35. Young people (aged 18 - 35 years) constitute the bulk of the population with the population growth rate at 2.2% (KBS: 2019 census). An estimated 80% of Kenya's unemployed

are young people between 15 and 35 years of age (Kenya Youth Survey Report, 2016). 60% of these youth are unemployable and underemployed due to a lack of relevant skills and exposure to the job market. Other emerging trends such as the tough economic times), have had a significant impact on industries that could potentially provide opportunities for practical training as well as employment. According to the World Bank, the negative impact of COVID-19 on the private sector trickled down to household welfare via reduced job opportunities and lower earnings (World Bank, 2020). Further, with an estimated 20,000 youth entering the job market annually, there is a strain on the existing employment opportunities. The "Skills for Jobs" project is designed to improve the employability and economic situation of young Kenyans (men and women) through demand-driven basic skills training and matching services in cooperation with the private sector. The project leverages the existing structures of Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions and works in close cooperation with the county governments, national government line ministries and industry players.

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHT – 2022

Various activities were implemented out during the reporting period to target trainees at three levels (novices¹, continuing², and up-skillers³). They include, among others, trainee on-boarding and orientation, modularized 3-month training, skill matching through job placements to related industries and trainee assessment, sector skills round table forums and engagement meetings to secure opportunities for placement, business entrepreneurship skills training and coaching, soft skills training for up-skillers, TOT training on work readiness and soft skills for instructors, development of Kisumu County Government Vocational Education and Training (VET) Policy and the Kisumu County Vocational Education and Training Bill (2022), and the issuance of business toolkits to the up-skiler trainees to improve their business capital.

¹ Youth with no prior training or work experience. ² Youth undergoing vocational skills training by the time the project implementation started: ³ Youth working in the informal (JuaKali) sector without formal certification for their competence.

PROJECT AIM:

To improve employment and economic opportunities for marginalised and vulnerable youth in Kisumu County through collaboration with the public and private sectors. Specifically, the project aims to provide employability skills and support for 1,940 vulnerable and marginalised youth through Artisan Grade Test III Skills Training in 7 vocational training centres.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS – YEAR 2022

- i. 1898 (986 males and 912 females) of the targeted 1940 successfully enrolled in the S4J project across the 7 participating training centers. 815 were enrolled in the category of continuing trainees, 855 as novices, and another 228 as up-skills. 24% (450) trainees were enrolled at NITA-Kisumu, 20% (376) at YMCA-Kisumu, 16% (307) at AHERO, 16% (304) at AKADO, 13% (254) at MARIWA, 6% (120) at BONDO, and 5% (87) at BUNGOMA Technical Training Institute.
- ii. At least 35 instructors, five from each of the 7 participating institutions, improved their capacity on soft skills and work readiness and are actively involved in the integration of soft skills through the various training plans and work schemes across the different trades. Among them, are the seven Industry Liaison Officers (ILOs) supporting trainee placement initiatives, including reaching out to industry players and assessing trainees at their placement sites.
- iii. At least 46% of trainees (864) were connected to industry placements and post-training engagements: 548 are currently attached to various industries and entities within the job market; 203 trainees were absorbed into the job market, while 74 trainees are self-employed. Another 39 people were inspired by the Grade Test III support and are improving their skills, either through NITA Grade Test II (24), or through KNEC studies (15).
- iv. 74 new jobs were created by the beneficiaries who took the self-employment path. Of this, 68% (50) of the jobs were created by the up-skilled graduates, 20% (15) by the continuing beneficiaries, and another 12% (9) by the novice category. The jobs cut across modern electrical shops and electrical services, motor vehicle servicing, garment making, salons, beauty shops and services, and food kiosks and eateries, among others.
- v. 228 entrepreneurs were supported to develop their Business Improvement Plans (BIPs). The beneficiaries participated in business management, finance, and soft-skills training, equipping them with business management and entrepreneurship competencies. The BIPs have become roadmaps for enhancing business operations,

while others use them to build a case for partnerships and linkages with financial institutions for financial support.

- vi. 131 micro- and medium-sized enterprises with improved capital and enhanced productivity. The businesses received business toolkits to help them improve their business performance. The assorted toolkits ranged from complete toolboxes, grinding machines, welding machines, UV lamps and foot SPAs, shaving machines, electrical toolbox machines, sewing machines, electrical toolkits, overlock machines, hair dryers, and blow dryers, drill machines, G-clamp machines, PPR machines, drillers, meters, bending springs, and tile cutter machines,

among others. The toolkits not only enhanced their business capital but helped to improve their financial credit score and overall business performance, further expanding the social business enterprises and opening up at least 3 job opportunities and placement slots.

- vii. Supported the development of the Kisumu County Government Vocational Education and Training (VET) Policy and the Kisumu County Vocational Education and Training Bill (2022). Once implemented, the policy provides for the economic relevance of vocational education and training and the employability of graduates through public-private partnerships that leverage the private sector's experience in the skills required versus the training competencies offered by the TVETs.

LESSONS LEARNT

- The project enabled the development of entrepreneurial learning through vocational education and training, as well as skill matching, resulting in the creation of sustainable enterprises and social enterprises that are better prepared to thrive even in a competitive business and market economy. Knowledge, mentorship, capital support, and partnerships are critical components for the success and sustainability of businesses.
- TVET has a role to play in ensuring that individuals' knowledge, skills, and competencies enable them to contribute to meeting opportunities in the market economy and to pursue sustainable practices in other areas of their lives.
- A TIVET graduate with efficient technical and soft skills and competencies oriented to market experiences through skills matching is a more employable worker than someone who lacks these attributes. When job processes change, displaced workers can be retrained and upskilled so they can be employed in other sectors, allowing them to find new jobs and enterprises to fill new positions.
- Collaboration and teamwork during project implementation increased project success. Bi-weekly project reflections improved project accountability and monitoring, while monthly program reflections improved joint planning and teamwork, including remote collaboration with colleagues in the field (project officers, ILOs, and apprentices), reduced communication breakdowns, and improved project team morale, spirit, and enthusiasm, allowing tasks to be completed within constrained timelines.

Success story 1:

Kevin Otieno Ligawa

Kevin Otieno Ligawa was enrolled into the Skills for Jobs project as an up-skiler during the January-April 2022 intake at NITA-Kisumu. A seasoned mechanic trained informally at the Kisumu "Juakali site," Kevin lacked formal certification to showcase his skills and experience in the industry. Together with other on-boarded up-skillers, the S4J project sponsored his government trade test (NITA Grade III) skills certification and equipped him with additional training and mentorship skills in business management, finance, and soft skills training. Kevin was also fortunate to be one of the selected project beneficiaries to receive business voucher (toolkit) assistance, for which he specifically received a toolbox. Since receiving business finance management training, soft skills training, and toolkit support, Kevin attests to an immediate positive change in his business. The toolkit support expanded his service output to his client beginning the day he received the toolbox when he received a call from a friend who urgently requested his services regarding a

client's car that had stalled late at night. He promptly picked up his new toolbox and rushed to the site, where within no time he managed to fix the stalled car. My prompt response impressed the client, who paid him Ksh. 3000 and had gone home empty-handed that evening. With his new toolbox, Kevin is at liberty to work wherever and whenever needed by my clients, and this has significantly boosted his client base.

Success story 2:

Tabitha Atieno Ouko is a 36-year-old beneficiary of the skills for jobs project, born and raised in Karachuonyo within Homa-Bay County. She is a married mother of two boys. Tabitha's humble background limited her access to a decent secondary school, and even though her parents managed to take her to a rural day school where she studied and completed her secondary school education, she could not pursue her college education because of her family's financial constraints. Tabitha learned of skills for job sponsorship from a friend in Ahero while residing in Kisumu. She decided to apply for the scholarship at Ahero VTC, despite not having a stable residence there. Fortunately, she was among the shortlisted trainees enrolled to undertake the three-month hairdressing and beauty therapy course at Ahero VTC.

A friend agreed to host her for the three-month classroom and practical training

period, after which she needed to source a placement, which was also not easy to come by. Most of the industry players and attachment places she visited demanded prior payment from trainees before offering placement opportunities. Tabitha, on the other hand, was assisted by the project in obtaining a placement opportunity at a high-end saloon and barbershop. 'One day, one of the Pamoja staff members called to check up on me and inquired whether I would be willing to be linked to a placement opportunity. "He linked me to Rozel Enterprises, a solo business within Kisumu town center," *says Tabitha.*

Tabitha was attached to Rozel Enterprises for a period of three months, during which she faced stiff resistance from the employees she found on the premises, who perceived her as a threat to their employment. She is grateful to the establishment's owner, Ms. Rosemary Adala,

who was there to guide and instruct her and who constantly encouraged her not to give up.

"Thanks to Madam Rosemary Adala, who encouraged me not to fear the employees but to take up any opportunity given to me for learning purposes, I gathered courage and started attending to clients with a positive attitude. The majority of the clients in the salon were men who came for barbering, and I took it as a challenge to start shaving them. At first, they did not prefer a lady to attend to them, but with practice and the respectful approach I gave to all my clients, they warmed up to my services. Currently, I have clients who

cannot be attended to by anyone else if I am not around because they see value for money in the service I offer them." Says *Tabitha*

Tabitha was later offered an opportunity to work at the salon, where she earns a 50% commission on all the services she offers her clients. She has learned that a positive attitude, good customer relations, and honesty are what makes or break a successful business person. Tabitha has the vision to start her own business with the skills she has acquired through employment. Her desire is to one day provide employment opportunities to fellow youth and women.

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADOPTATION

The programme approach aims at building and developing capacity both at the country and community levels to deal with the impacts of climate change, both on adaptation and mitigation. The program focuses on policy and action for resilience building and innovation within the green and blue economy value chains as well as solar and bio-energy renewable energy sub-sector.

Program Aim

The programme aims at building and developing capacity both at the county and community levels to deal with the impacts of climate change, both on adaptation and mitigation. The program focuses on policy and action for resilience building and innovation within the green and blue economy value chains as well as solar and bioenergy renewable energy subsector in order to foster economic growth, food security, job opportunities while conserving the natural ecosystem.

Achievements:

Through the program activities, 1,400 MSME's have been directly provided with technical and business skills in Mari culture development in five coastal counties and 100 new jobs have been created through capacity development and upskilling, improvement in marketing outreach with increased profit margin among the project beneficiaries and youth and women inclusion in Mari culture. Green economy has contributed to the establishment of Tunza model farms in the value chain of fishing, horticulture and dairy farming. In addition, in the bid to promote clean environment, the project, promotes the use of clean energy through installation of domestic bio-digester for households. Further the program promotes innovation in the recycling of waste management value chains.

Program locations Kajiado, Nakuru, Kisumu, Migori, Lamu, Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi and Tana River Counties.

GO BLUE

PROJECT NAME: CAPACITY BUILDING FOR MSMES WITHIN MARI-CULTURE VALUE CHAIN AT THE KENYAN COAST

KEY FACTS;

County: Kilifi, Tana River, Lamu, Kwale and Mombasa

Period: Oct 2021- Feb 2023

Donor/Partner: GIZ

Status: Ongoing.

(attach photo)

PROJECT CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:

Despite recent economic growth, Kenya remains a food-insecure country, with approximately 10 million Kenyans suffering from chronic food insecurity and poor nutrition. More than 75 per cent of its population live in rural areas, where poverty affects 50.5 per cent of the people. The aquaculture sector has significant potential to reduce poverty, but it is not being fully exploited.

It is against this realization that this project was developed to enable existing and potential Mari culture producers and actors to benefit from fish production in an economically and environmentally sustainable manner. This is a one-year transformative project in Mari culture focused on five Coastal counties, which was started in October 2021. The project has promoted local income-generating businesses that provide support services to the Mari culture sector. It was implemented in collaboration with County Government Fisheries Department, CBOs and BMUs, as well as other partnering organizations in order to encourage responsible fish farming practices and to promote the benefits of responsible Mari culture. The approach used

blended public and private sector investments in the Mari culture value chain with community-wide initiatives that promote employment creation, improved livelihood, increased income and food security. The project supported needs-based trainings tailored to the specific needs among different target groups with an aim of enhancing smallholder commercial fish farmers with Mari culture knowledge and up-to-date practical skills to help sustainably grow the sector and make it more inclusive.

The project highlighted seaweed farming, milkfish/prawn farming, mud crab farming as key opportunities and targeted 5 Coastal counties, Kwale, Mombasa, Kilifi, Tana River and Lamu. 1381 MSMEs (723 females, 658 males) were reached including women and youth. Indirect beneficiaries included members of communities that did not directly receive training or support from the program but benefited from the opportunities that the new economic environment created such as improved access to affordable, nutritious food, and employment opportunities. The project covering the entire Mari culture production

chain (from production to the market) directly addressed production and sustainable Mari culture management issues. Its intervention resulted in an increased knowledge of the environmental and socio-economic value of the ecosystem, mangrove restoration, small scale Mari culture demonstrations, the conservation of biodiversity and conflict management among the farmer groups.

During the project implementation period (October 2021 to Dec 2022), the project cited some of the socio-economic issues that has led to the low output of Mari culture fish ponds in the coastal region. These include: lack or limited technical and business knowledge in Mari culture management, the social orientation of the Mari culture farmer groups, poor access to quality fish seed and feed, which results in low yields, underutilization of the available resources, trade is constrained by

inadequate market and trade infrastructure and poor policy implementation. These lead to high transport costs, complex and unaligned trade rules and deficient market information, all of which prevent the aquapreneurs from optimizing the social and economic benefits available. Lack of skilled human capital has seen fish farms underperforming, resulting in losses causing farmers and investors to lose interest in the fishing industry. To boost the MSMEs technical knowledge and unlock the latent potential, the project provided trainings in best production management practices of Mari culture, seaweed and value addition with topics also covering fish pond construction and management, fertilization, business skills among others. The project has continued to provide some guidance to the beneficiaries who wish to develop their business skills by conducting mentorship and coaching sessions.

PROJECT AIM:

The overall goal of the project was to enable Mari culture producers and value chain players from the coastal region to increase their Knowledge in sustainable Mari culture production practices and develop the entrepreneurial skills in Mari culture to promote self-dependence.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS:

1381 MSMEs provided with market-relevant skills in selected blue value chains. 1381 MSMEs (48 enterprises) received skill based trainings in all technical and entrepreneurial aspects of fish production, tailored towards tapping the full production potential and enhancement of productivity from Mari culture sector by promoting pond culture for high value species like milk fish, prawns and mud crabs.

Increased youth/women inclusion.

Through the project 723(51.64%) women and 560(40%) youth participated in Mari culture development. This was achieved through discussions aimed at sensitizing the youths and women to regard Mari culture as a viable, rewarding business venture during the trainings.

Increased growth in production.

Through the theoretical knowledge and practical skills on crab, milkfish/prawn and seaweed farming, the project increased the productivity of the farmers. 90% of the farmers have seen increased growth in production which has led to improved economic status.

Creation of employment. The project has promoted creation of 100 jobs which has significantly contributed to improved living standards of the group members and the community.

The project has increased the contribution of small-scale fisheries and Mari culture MSMEs to biodiversity conservation. The project promoted interest in climate change

mitigation since the project beneficiaries are now intensively involved in raising mangrove tree seedlings for planting in degraded areas along the coastline and for sale. They are also involved in waste management.

Horizontal and vertical linkages

fostered. Six farmer field days organized in the four project counties i.e. Kilifi, Tana River, Mombasa and Kwale which reached 527 farmers and value chain players. This promoted networking, peer to peer learning and enhanced the stakeholders' knowledge on the different species within their counties. The linkages created by the project also resulted in visible market growth for the seaweed farmers, which in turn drives increasing farm production.

Improved Mari culture infrastructure.

The project has contributed to the rehabilitation of 15 ponds in four Coastal counties that were initially prepared without prior technical knowledge on pond construction. This has resulted to the multiplier effect of increased stocking density.

Success story 1:

SHANGANI AMANI GROUP at Nyumba Sita, Msambweni in Kwale county

has been doing seaweed since its registration in 2011. The project has contributed to the strong cohesion within the group that is currently doing extensive seaweed farming, waste management and mangrove reforestation. Through the project, there has been improved and sustained livelihoods through production increase, post-harvest loss reduction and market access. Through the influence of PFT, there has been a ripple effect in harvest from production of 900kg with an income of Kshs 20 per kg to at least 2 tonnes per harvest at the cost of up to Kshs

35 per kg. Well-developed records that clearly shows the cash flow. The sale of seaweed value addition products has substantially improved after the group was able to acquire a machine used in processing of value added products such as soap, lotions, gel, shampoo, etc. Women empowerment through inclusion in leadership and engagement in mangrove replantation and in the downstream segments of the value chain including processing, value addition and trading that do not require assets needed for production.

Success story 2:

Mtongani Kidundu self-help group is a CBO registered group that is committed to preserve and nurture mangrove trees along the coastline in Mnarani ward in Kilifi County. The group was registered in 2011 and also does milkfish/prawn farming. Pamoja has contributed to the group's formalization and upscaling. The group was initially registered as a CBO but based on the market demand and future business engagement nationally, the group resolved to register as a private limited company. This formalization has resulted to improved working conditions and increased income both from the pond operations and the

restaurant as displayed on the group financial records. The linkage creation during the open field days organized by PFT coupled by its improved value proposition intensified the group's marketing strategy. The group also does bee farming as another revenue stream. The modeling was informed by the need to diversify their business so as in the event of any collapse or delay in the main stream, there will be an alternative source of income. There's increase in sales brought about by abhorring good business practices and good marketing strategy like social media.

LESSONS LEARNT

1. At the present, Kenya is not competitive in the regional seaweed market, and in order to succeed there is need to attract both the new farmers and utilize productive space at full capacity.
2. There have been no good social relations and lack of trust among the farmer groups and this has translated to unhealthy business relations which is not beneficial to the community and the growth of Mari culture.

PROJECT NAME: Tunza Jamii-Green Economy

KEY FACTS;

County: Kajiado, Nakuru, Migori and Homabay Counties

Period:

Donor/Partner:

Status: On-going



PROJECT CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:

Tunza Jamii Fresh Farms Project was implemented against the background of the effects of covid-19 as well as the impacts of Climate Change in Kenya, with the goal to improve food security and income security for rural and urban people through sustainably increasing agricultural yields. Agriculture, including crops and livestock, is one of the most important sectors in the Kenyan economy. It is the main source of livelihood for the majority of Kenyan people in terms food security, economic growth, employment creation, off-farm employment and foreign exchange earnings. The sector is highly sensitive to climate change. The project was therefore in recognition of the threats on the small-scale economies especially the ones posed on food security and the overall agriculture production value chain. The project is premised on the KIN

model that is knowledge, information and networks are key recipe for sustainable farming among smallholder farmers to improve their livelihoods and conserve the environment. The project integrates two major concepts of agribusiness and green economy. Agribusiness focuses on the value chain development as a means of raising the income of smallholder rural and urban farmers while green economy focuses on sustainable agricultural practices that promote the conservation of the natural ecosystems e.g. water, land, environment while enhancing diversification of security and income. Tunza's intervention tapped into the immense potential within the agribusiness farming value chain through an integrated approach of promoting human health, animal health, animal and environmental health.

PROJECT AIM:

The project aims at promoting and supporting innovative & resilient farming methods that increase food security, contribute to economic development and conserve the environment.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS:

a) The project promoted the uptake of renewable energy technologies in farms e.g. the establishment of boreholes, installation of the solar power system and Bio-digester. Integration of renewable energy conservation technologies enables farmers to produce their own energy to become more self-sufficient by reducing external inputs. For instance, 1) with solar-powered boreholes, a farmer is sure of an adequate and sustainable water supply, thus increase in crop yields as well as improving harvesting throughout all seasons, it offers

long-term servings because it is basically free to capture the power from the sun. 2) Bioenergy is one of the cleanest energy produced from animal and food wastes which biodegrade by means of bacteria in an aerobic environment. It is eco-friendly as it reduces greenhouse emissions by producing organic fertilizer (slurry) which is a perfect supplement for chemical fertilizer application for crops as well as reducing consumption of wood/charcoal fuel, thereby conserving forests; it increases food and income security since the farmer

relies on his own farm products to feed the family and the surplus taken to the market.

- b) The project supported the setting up of Syntropic Agroforestry, an integrated approach that involves the growing of marketable fruit and wood trees coupled with productive agricultural food sources. It helps

regenerate soil biodiversity without the application of chemical inputs. Syntropic Agroforestry encourages the use of organic fertilizer which is cost-effective as farmers are able to save money by producing their own compost manure, there is continuous harvesting of fresh produce hence increasing food and income security.

Success story 1:

The Jungle EyeGodess (Syntropic Agroforestry Farm)

Ann who is the founder of "The Jungle EyeGodess" resides from Nyahera community in Kisumu County, her mother passed away when she was 3 years old leaving her with her aged father and other siblings. She was then taken to live with her grandmother until she reached 11 years old, where life became hard for them and therefore she thought of moving out to at least go live with her in-law from her sister side in order to continue with her education. Unfortunately, her sister also passed away and life became unbearable for her, to the extent that she was sometimes forced to sleep outside because she was being forced to take her sister's place in order to take care of the children. When she realized she couldn't bear it anymore, she resorted to street life and later joined a gangster group which was also involved in drug substance abuse.

Ann learnt about Pamoja for Transformation in the year 2020 through a friend who invited her for a certain training which was being conducted by the organization in Kisumu County. After numerous trainings

and coaching, she started reforming and became one of the group members. While in the group, she developed a different thinking on how she would like to live her life far from the streets, therefore got interested in starting a business. And through the support she got from Pamoja, Ann started venturing into agribusiness where she was involved in poultry farming, livestock and later set up a Syntropic Agroforestry which is climate-friendly as well as an avenue for food security. Ann has totally reformed and at peace, since she can easily afford daily basic needs from her farm produce. Ann expresses her gratitude to Pamoja as "I am grateful for the support I have received from Pamoja for Transformation considering where I was until now. Since I got introduced to the organization, I have been able to see life differently, and through the financial support and capacity empowerment, my farm business is now registered as (The Jungle EyeGodess), it has also expanded. And whenever I think of giving up, something just reminds me that Pamoja is looking up to me".

Success Story 2:

Mtu Ni Watu Poultry Farm

Eddy who is the founder of Mtu ni Watu Poultry Farm, hails from Awendo in Migori County where the main livelihood activity is agriculture. He is a peasant farmer majorly focusing on poultry farming and the cultivation of horticultural crops. For a long period of time, Eddy and his neighboring farmers have continuously applied chemical fertilizers which are costly and also lead to the depletion of essential soil nutrients and nutrients as well as polluting the environment. In addition, he has been spending much on cooking fuels e.g. wood and charcoal. It was for this reason he showed interest in having a biodigester to help him cut the cost of fertilizer, electricity brooding of poultry and cooking fuel and

also sell the bio-slurry fertilizer (organic fertilizer) to fellow farmers.

One of the cleanest energy alternatives to wood fuels the project currently promotes is bioenergy and solar energy. In this regard, Pamoja in partnership with FlexiBiogas managed to successfully install a domestic biodigester for Eddy. Since the installation, Eddy has reported reduced costs of cooking and electricity because he now uses the biogas to cook, heat water and light up the house; he applies the by-product (organic fertilizer) on his farms thereby increasing crop yields, he has cut the cost of buying food, as he is able to harvest healthy food crops to feed his family as well as selling some to customers.

LESSONS LEARNT

- a) Cultivation of horticultural crops such as bulb onions can be practiced in any given area including arid lands. But this cannot be achieved without the availability of enough water supply, because the growth of red bulb onions depends largely on water throughout to maturity period.
- b) Adoption of the application of organic fertilizer over chemical fertilizer on farms by farmers is healthy because it is pocket-friendly, environmentally safe (non-toxic in nature), full of nutrients, results in a greater and better percentage of yielding and also improves soil condition.
- c) Climate change affects the production of horticulture crops and livestock resulting to lower crop yields and nutritional quality due to drought, heatwaves and flooding as well as increases in pests and diseases. Adopting climate-smart farming practices such as Syntropic Agroforestry, crop rotation and the use of solar energy are some of the mitigation strategies, for they improve farm productivity and profitability and also improve resilience.

PEACE AND GOVERNANCE

Peace and Governance aims to strengthen accountable service delivery, promote good governance and advance inclusivity, cohesion and integration. The program works at the nexus between peace and policy development by providing tools and resources for conflict transformation through capacity building, dialogue and mediation among conflict-affected communities.

Program Aim

The programme aims to strengthen accountable service delivery, promote good governance and advance inclusivity, cohesion and integration. The program works at the nexus between peace and policy development by providing tools and resources for conflict transformation through capacity building, dialogue and mediation among conflict affected communities.

Achievements:

The programs adopt and integrated, iterative approach for conflict transformation, advocacy, capacity building and policy engagement. The program has strengthened and established peace/Amani clubs in primary and secondary schools. The program has supported the integration of youth at-risk groups in Mombasa and Kisumu counties through transformative dialogue. Through the program, Pamoja is a convener of the National Peace Actors forum and has reached over 4,000 direct beneficiaries and up to 10,000 indirect beneficiaries. The program applies multifaceted approaches through stakeholders in the peace and governance sectors including national and county governments, communities and development partners.

Program location: Nairobi, Kisumu, Mombasa, Kilifi, Migori, and Bungoma Counties.

PEACE AND GOVERNANCE

PROJECT NAME: ACCELERATED RESPONSE AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMISM

KEY FACTS;

County: NAIROBI

Period: APRIL-MARCH 2023

Donor/Partner: GCERF

Status: ON-GOING

(attach photo)

PROJECT CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:

Violent extremism and terrorism have continued to pose significant risk to Kenya's safety and security, and more so Nairobi City County that has been the hotbed of extremist attacks. Nairobi has suffered some of the worst violent extremist attacks despite progressive efforts by national government and other actors to rescind the situation. Terrorist attacks or violent extremism have become insecurity realities, and national social challenges with increasing numbers of young people particularly from the informal settlements being recruited to Al-Shabaab and other VEOs.

Violent extremism has also become a social problem for communities and families that

have seen their young men and women embrace the extremist ideologies of groups like Al-Shabaab and even sign up as active members. For governments in East Africa and the Horn, terrorism is now a regional security question and a foreign policy priority. Kenya has in the last decade experienced a spate of unprecedented attacks that have in part, been attributed to radicalization of the youthful population by extremist groups such as Al-Shaabab. The attacks have ranged from small-scale grenade and gun attacks to major attacks, such as the Westgate Shopping Mall attack in September 2013 that left 67 people dead.

PROJECT AIM:

The project aims at addressing the weak P/CVE system, coordination and collaboration across state and non-state actors, high levels of distrust between government and communities persist and the voices of those most at-risk of radicalization and recruitment that goes unheard in the forums, platforms and policies established to build greater resilience to VE.

The programme aims to enhance the roll out of the National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism, focusing on local level and sustainable structures through supporting CEFs to implement the CAPs, lobbying for mainstreaming P/CVE through the CAPs to the County Integrated Development Plans and continue to coordinate closely with all existing and planned PVE initiatives. Key programming areas at community level include

:

1. Socio-economic Opportunities and Private Sector
2. Relationship between security actors and communities
3. P/CVE awareness and alternative positive narratives
Social cohesion and extracurricular activities

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS:

The project has managed to ensure the mainstreaming of Violent extremism through the members of the county engagement forum in order to strengthen the capacity of existing PCVE structures within the country. Through mainstreaming, the pillar members have been able to conduct PCVE awareness and sensitization by implementing their matrices

Success story 1:

Through the political pillar, the members of the County Engagement Forum produced the first PCVE ACT 2022 draft. The draft was presented to the members of the CEF during the last CEF quarterly meeting for its first amendment.

Success story 2:

LESSONS LEARNT

- Mainstreaming of PCVE during various activities by pillar members ensures a wider audience is reached.
- Collaboration between various stakeholders will ensure the implementation of the pillar matrices to achieve its key objectives.

PROJECT NAME: MAKING YOUTH AND WOMEN VOICES COUNT IN ELECTIONS –VIJANA TUNA UWEZO

KEY FACTS;

County: NAIROBI- KIBRA & MATHARE

Period: MAY-SEPTEMBER 2023

Donor/Partner: USAID

Status: COMPLETE

(attach photo)

PROJECT CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:

Nairobi county is the heart of political conversations that not only shapes, political and leadership dynamics but also influences the national political grid. The discourse plays out every 5 years during political campaigns. Youth and women from the informal settlements are the most active during these campaigns. Despite their pro-activeness, they rarely get to enjoy the full spectrum of politics instead, they are hired

as goons, hecklers and bodyguards to politicians.

The Vijana Tuna Uwezo project was implemented in Kibra and Mathare, as the two areas have the most youths who have been relegated to the periphery by the politicians despite their hard work in campaigns, while women are hoodwinked with the 2/3 gender rule but end up getting nothing worthwhile.

PROJECT AIM:

The Vijana Tuna Uwezo project aimed at mitigating hurdles that prevent youth and women from constructively participating in elections not only as voters but also candidates with the possibility of being

elected. Some of the hurdles that have prevented youth and women from fully participating and enjoying the electioneering process include;

- a) Limited knowledge on governance and electoral process among youth and women
- b) Ineffective violence preventive mechanisms and conflict Early Warning Early Response systems
- c) Insecurity and violence during campaigns

The project was implemented through youth and women training, community dialogues, town hall forums, radio talk shows and dissemination of IEC materials to amplify the message

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS:

Success story 1:

Through the Vijana Tuna Uwezo project, there emerged a pool of trained peace champions from both Mathare and Kibra. The peace champions from Mathare have gone ahead to register a community based organization called Transformed Generation. TRANSFORM GENERATION was born from PAMOJA FOR TRANSFORMATION after recruiting, training and mentoring over 50 peace champions in Mathare during 2022 Electioneering period in a project dubbed VIJANA TUNA UWEZO.

Transform generation thematic areas are;

- Peace and security
- Economic empowerment
- Drug and crime mitigation
- Environment and natural resources

Success story 2:

LESSONS LEARNT

- Financial constraints are the main reason both youth and women engage in political violence during campaigns
- Political aspirants are the main actors in fueling political violence
- There is limited knowledge on civic and voter education. Civic and voter education should be a continuous process and not a one-time event that happens nearing elections.

The overall objectives are;

- To empower MINORITIES economically through life skills, ICT and entrepreneurship programs.
- To provide mental health services.
- To advocate Sexual Reproduction Health and Rights [SRHR].
- To advocate for the rights of vulnerable communities.
- advocate for favorable living environment
- To maintain peace and security within our communities
- To reduce drug/substance and crime among young people within our communities
- Leadership and Governance

- Though there has been deliberate efforts by the government to improve the peace infrastructure, there is still limited knowledge among the members of the public on how this infrastructure works.
- There is need to strengthen Early Warning Early Response systems and structures this will enhance effective reporting and collaboration between the citizens and the bodies mandated to effect the same.

PROJECT NAME: Strengthening Coordination of Community Level CEWER structures for Peaceful elections.

KEY FACTS;

County: Nairobi, Mombasa

Period: July – September, 2022

Donor/Partner: NCIC/UNDP

Status: Phase I successfully accomplished, awaiting the award of Phase II.



Pamoja Convening a Community led dialogue session on the International Day of Peace in Likoni, Mombasa County, on the 21st September 2022, to strengthen CEWER Mechanisms led by Civil Society, community and Government entities through strengthened coordination.

PROJECT CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:

The Strengthening Coordination of Community Level CEWER structures for Peaceful elections project was implemented by Pamoja in Kisumu, Mombasa and Nairobi counties between July – September, 2022. These counties were identified as project sites for various reasons. For instance, Kisumu is mostly an ethnically homogenous county that is for the most part calm with flares of politically motivated violence especially during periods leading up to and after elections. The large numbers of unemployed youth, especially in the city, are often used by politicians, who through these youths use violence to instill fear in their rivals. The County has also experienced an increase in tensions and consequently violent conflict along the Nyakach/Nandi border and Muhoroni due to cattle rustling and boundary-related disputes, and a mixture of intercommunity rivalry between the Nandi and Luo as well as land issues. Clan-based allegiances are a predominant factor in the politics of Kisumu

County, with minority groups being unable to participate fully in the social and political spheres. The hostile relationship between these communities has often manifested itself in intolerant attitudes and behavior and often very violent actions. Other than undermining the social fabric, the hostile relationship has resulted in devastating effects on the socio-economic livelihood of individuals and the communities along the borderline.

In the informal settlements of Mathare and Kibra, the mobilisation of negative ethnic attitudes by political leaders during and post election campaigns contribute to ethnic polarisation. Politicians often exploit perceived differences between communities so as to be seen to be championing the rights of the locals, for their own political interests. It has been established that politicians continue to consciously rely on ethnicity to perpetuate their dominance and hegemony in an atmosphere characterised by scarce resources, fear, and prejudice.

PROJECT AIM:

1. Reduce the impact and spread of misinformation, hatespeech, fake news in relation to the 2022 general election.
2. Create counter messaging on misinformation, hatespeech and incitement. (Peace Massaging)
3. Linking National and Community EWER systems by building trust between government and communities.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS:

Through this project, Pamoja was able to support local communities to embrace proactive measures towards resolving conflicts in their own localities and ultimately reduce open hostilities, increase the number of successfully resolved conflicts and build cohesion. It also facilitated an increased interaction and collaboration between community leaders, security agencies, religious actors, local government, state and national officials on peace and security issues. This ensured that state and local governments as well as

Success story 1:

Pamoja trained community peace champions successfully mobilized and moderated community outreach forums with support from Pamoja staff who participated in the activities. The activities were moderated through open and interactive approach which resulted in group discussions and open plenary sessions among the participants and moderators. This approach further enabled participants to identify major action points to help them take active roles and responsibilities to reduce political intolerance after the 9th August 2022 general elections were successfully concluded.

LESSONS LEARNT

1. While it is prudent to use local peace structures in Conflict Early Warning/ Early Response, Peace committee members should be trained on how to handle sensitive peace and security information to avoid betrayal that can compromise their own safety.
2. Collaborating with the community peace champions is key in ensuring sustainability of interventions. Pamoja should strive to ensure the peace champions are always involved in such activities to effectively build their capacities.
3. There is need to organize for more civic education forums targeting youths at risk on the importance of having an identification card and the importance of participating constructively in electoral processes.

security agencies proactively responded to security threats and acted to avert and interrupt conflicts in Kisumu, Mombasa and Nairobi Counties. Finally, it enabled key stakeholders from both the aggrieved and aggressor groups, including women, youth and persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons, religious leaders, political leaders as well as the communities themselves, engage actively in mitigating election-related violence and promoting peaceful co-existence.

The community outreach forum aimed at supporting trained Pamoja community peace champions/agents to mobilize and convene the participants to discuss on the growing political intolerance among the residents in the respective counties of Mombasa, Kisumu and Nairobi, and to develop consensus on the implementable action points towards reducing political intolerance. Through these collective efforts, Kenya experienced peaceful 2022 elections.

Strengthening Community Resilience for Sustainable Peace and Safety (SCRS).

County: Kisumu County.

Period: 1st April 2021 to 30th April 2023.

Donor/Partner: DANIDA / Act!.

Status: Implementation on going.

PROJECT NAME: Strengthening Community Resilience for Sustainable Peace and Safety (SCRS).

KEY FACTS; The strengthening Community Resilience for Sustainable Peace and Safety is a three-year project working towards the promotion of community resilience towards peace and safety. The project focuses on addressing resource based conflicts, political conflicts and conflict violent extremism.

The objectives of the project include;

- To strengthen inter group relations between groups affected by conflict (inter-ethnic, intra ethnic, other conflicting in-groups and out-groups).
- To reduce pull / push factors towards violence among the at risk groups through peace messaging, social linkages and transformation platform for women, youth and vulnerable groups.
- To strengthen state and non-state coordination of PCVE in kisumu through capacity building and enhanced cooperation between communities and government agencies based on human rights and good governance.

PROJECT CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:

The project focuses on the four sub counties of Kisumu west, central, east and Muhoroni in Kisumu county. The four sub counties were selected on the basis that (1). they are the epicenters of violence and have the history of political, criminal and boundary/resource based violent conflicts that could likely recur during the 2022 political activities, (2). The violence seems to be spreading and getting entrenched especially among the youths at risk who have the potential for transformation and there are limited capacities for effective coordination of response, prevention and mitigation of violence conflicts that affects the overall peace, security and stability.



PROJECT AIM: The project aims to contribute to decrease in violent extremism, political and natural resource based conflicts in Kenya.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS:

Success story 1:

Title of the story: Promoting peaceful coexistence between ethnic communities.

Location - Sondu market, Nyakach sub county, Kisumu county.

Work stream: Formation of Sondu peace market committee to promote peaceful coexistence among ethnic traders (Kipsigis and Luos).

Date the story was recorded: 30th April 2022.

Problem:

Sondu market which is placed in the border of Kisumu and Kericho counties has been historically claimed by both political leaders from the two counties. Even though Kisumu county has been managing the market. On 15th March 2022, political leaders such as senator from Kericho county made statements inciting community members from Kipsigis community to come up through violent means to take back Sondu market claiming that the market is in the boundaries of Kericho county and not in

Kisumu. These statements incited community members who were traders in the market to an extent of boycotting revenue remission to county government of Kisumu. On one occasion, when Kenya national highways authority attempted to construct a shade in the market for traders there was resistance by some community members from the Kipsigis community who claimed that the market is in Kericho county. This made them to mobilize themselves to demolish the shade.

Initiative:

Upon realization of the looming tension that would have escalated to violence, some of the local peace actors (whom have always participated in our peace trainings and meetings) working along the border of Kericho and Nyakach reached out to Pamoja for transformation Trust to support them convene community peace dialogues to address the peace needs in Sondu market and stop the looming ethnic violence. Upon receiving this request from the peace actors Pamoja supported two community peace dialogues as a response intervention.

The peace actors did not stop at only participating in the dialogue forums but also managed to organize many more inter-ethnic communities' peace forums in Sondu market to dialogue with community members (traders) and some duty bearers both from Kericho and Kisumu counties to embrace peaceful coexistence and work with duty bearers to address legitimate concerns leading to the impasse.

Impact:

As a result of the efforts made by Pamoja for Transformation Trust and our peace actors there has been ongoing peace dialogues in Sondu market which culminated into the formation of Sondu peace committee to promote peaceful coexistence among the ethnic traders. Since these initiatives, there has been reduced levels of animosity between the two ethnic communities and no violence has also been experienced in the market. Peaceful coexistence is being realized in the market by community members and members of the public are reaching out to the duty bearers to address some of the legitimate concerns affecting peace and insecurity without involving in violence or any form of hatred. Normal activities such as trading are also on going well without disruptions.

Supporting quotes and photos

Quotes:

"The meaning of peace is development and living together as one community. Let us work together as community members to promote peace in Sondu market because it is the place we earn our day to day income to be able to cater for our needs"- Amina Swaleh, Sondu market trader during one of the community peace dialogues.

"I want to appreciate Pamoja for Transformation Trust for supporting our request to convene community peace dialogues to address the looming peace and security crisis in Sondu market. In deed the dialogues have resulted to the formation of a peace committee in Sondu market which has been spearheading peace processes in the market" – Domnic Awino, Chairperson cross border peace committee (Nyakach/Kericho).

Photos:



Members of sondu peace committee participating in one of the community peace dialogues convened by Pamoja.

Success story 2:

Title of the story:	Promoting peaceful coexistence between ethnic communities.
Location - village/town, county:	Muhoroni town, Kisumu county.
Work stream:	Inter-ethnic community dialogue forum convened by peace actors after looming ethnic violence between the Luos and Nandis along the border of Nandi/Muhoroni.
Date the story was recorded:	24 th February 2022.

Body

Problem:

On 18th February 2022 two suspected cattle thieves with origin of Nandi ethnic community were killed in Muhoroni town by area residents who are largely Luos after being suspected to be behind cattle theft in the area. Youths from Nandi community in Nandi county visited the scene of the incident in large numbers armed with crude weapons to execute retaliation targeting members of the Luo community in Muhoroni town.

Initiative:

Upon realization of the looming tension that would have escalated to violence, some of the local peace actors working along the border of Muhoroni and Nandi who have been part of Pamoja's cross border peace dialogue forums reported the issue to the duty bearers (local national government administrators and security operators) to make efforts to stop the looming ethnic violence. The duty bearers upon receiving the information from the peace actors quickly organized for security patrols in the area which made the armed youths to immediately relocate to their homes making them to stop planning the retaliatory attack.

The peace actors did not stop at this but also managed to organize inter-ethnic communities' peace forum on 24th February 2022 to dialogue with community members to embrace peaceful coexistence and work with duty bearers to address insecurity issues that might lead to ethnic violence.

Impact:

As a result of the efforts made by our peace actors there was no inter-ethnic violence experienced between the Nandis and Luos. Peaceful coexistence has been experienced by community members since the death incidences happened and members of the public are reaching out to the duty bearers to address insecurity concerns without involving in violence or any form of hatred. Normal activities such as trading and farming are also on going well without disruptions.

Supporting quotes and photos

Quotes:

"We want to see continued peaceful coexistence among our communities (Luos and Nandis) living in the border line and that is why we as peace actors we decided to take actions by convening this inter-ethnic community forum to foster for peace after the killings in Muhoroni town. Let us all learn to deal with thieves as criminals and not ethnic members of our communities. I want to encourage all of you that after this meeting let us go back to our localities and be peace ambassadors" – Dorothy Bonyo, HSC during inter-ethnic community peace dialogue forum held on 24th February 2022.

"We have been trained on peace building by our partners like Pamoja for Transformation and that is why we decided to take action by communicating with security operators to help us divert the looming ethnic violence among our communities. Let us embrace working with security operators to address any insecurity concerns that can lead to ethnic violence" – Geoffrey Langat, Boda Boda operator/peace actor during the community forum held on 24th February 2022.

Photos:



Community members engaging during the cross border peace forum between luos and Nandis at Chepswerta full gospel church on 25th August 2021.

LESSONS LEARNT

- There is increased interaction between community members and duty bearers to address the issue of peace and security in the targeted sub counties.
- Linkage of peace actors to the already established CEWER systems enabled adequate sharing of information with duty bearers to prevent and mitigate eminent political

violence and inter-ethnic tensions during the electioneering period thus leading to peaceful elections.

- Training of community peace champions by Pamoja supported more community peace interventions being led by the peace champions.