Post Conflict Stabilization Process

A Kenyan Case Study 2007 – 2015

Introduction:

This article looks at the structure of conflict management in Kenya with an end of determining the entry point into making impact-full change in conflict prone zones. The structure of the document is divided into the types of conflicts, overview of the existing frameworks, the progress made by the responsible authorities, the challenges facing the processes and finally the gap areas and entry points to Peace Building and Conflict Management.

The Nature of Conflict

The sources of conflict in Kenya varies from region to region. The National Policy on Peace Building and Conflict Management outlines the nature of conflicts in Kenya as[1]:

- Conflicts in Pastoral Areas – These are experienced in the North Rift, North Eastern, Eastern and Coast Regions in Kenya due to unpredictable climatic conditions; Livestock Rustling; Banditry.
- Cross-Border Conflicts – These happen along Kenya's borders with Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania
- Agro-Pastoralist Conflicts
- Land Conflicts – These arise due to the Politicization of land; conflicting land tenure and land use systems; Border and boundaries disputes; and Land related conflicts such as squatter problems, evictions, excision of forests, illegal allocations.
- Urban Conflicts – Includes Industrial and Labor disputes; Land Lord and tenant disputes; Urban crime, Squalid conditions of slum life.
- Human-Wildlife Conflicts
- Institutional Conflicts- For instance Students' riots
- Religious Conflicts
- Organized Criminal Groups "Vigilante"

Since the Post-Election Violence 2007/2008, the country underwent a number of structural reforms in relation to Conflict Management and Peace Building. Notable among these is the National Policy on Peace Building and Conflict Management. The policy is founded in six key pillars, these are:

- Institutional Framework – The institutions created are: The National Peace Council, The Secretariat, Peace Fora, Peace Committees.
- Capacity Building – This is not limited to the training of stakeholders in conflict prevention, resource mobilization, peace building, conflict sensitivity and alternative conflict resolution mechanisms.
- Conflict Prevention -This pillar is cognizant of the need for timely and accurate effective early warning and response systems; Effective dialogue on the latent conflict issues; Contingency Resources and capacity for rapid response; Monitoring restoration of normalcy and stabilization of situations; Systematic and structured efforts to learn from conflict events as they occurs that each new response builds on what has been learned already.
- Mediation and Preventive Diplomacy -This Unit has the role of establishing a core team of rapid deployment associates who can be deployed at short notice for interventions regarding peace making issues within the country and cross-border areas.
- Traditional Conflict Prevention and Mitigation – There's recognition of the position of the community declarations and social contracts in line with the constitution, tolerance for cultural diversity, harmonize traditional conflict resolution procedures with basic international human rights standard and the constitution in particular.
- Post-Conflict Recovery and Stabilization – This scope includes displacement of populations, resettlement and re-integration. Interventions will include all measures aimed at rebuilding destroyed relationships, livelihoods and infrastructure, healing processes to address conflict related trauma and psycho-social destabilization. Pro-active peace building, entrenching a culture of Peace and non-violence.

The policy in the process of institutionalizing peace created various infrastructure to this end. These include:

- The Ministry of Interior
- The National Peace Council (Pending)
- The Council Secretariat (Which will serve the coordination role that the current National Steering Committee on PBCM plays)
- The County Peace Secretariat
- Local Peace Committees
- Stakeholders' Peace Fora
- The Legal Framework

Whereas this framework exists there are other response mechanisms that have been instrumental in Kenya. At the state level such mechanisms include:

- Commissions of Inquiry
- Disarmament (The creation of a policy on SALW, Dunisha Amani I $ II 200–2009)
- Conflict Early Warning and Response
- Judicial Systems
- Community Based Response

At the regional level, there have been initiatives by Regional Economic Blocs such as AU, NEPAD, IGAD,EAC, Nairobi Protocol; through the Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation Process which culminated in the The National Accord and Reconciliation Act (2008) and its 4 Agenda Items[2].

Other responses have come from Non-Governmental Organizations (not limited to The Media, Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector), Collaborative Responses, Humanitarian Responses, Inter-State Initiatives (CEWARN 2002, Joint Cross Border Committees, The Joint East Africa Police Commissioners Co-operation-EAPCCO, Regional Centre on Small Arms-RECSA, NEPAD).

There has been progress made by the state responses in partnership with development partners and the Non-State Actors. Some of the progress is in the establishment of The National Steering Committee on Peace Building and Conflict Management which has Four Sub-Committees. These are:

- Technical Sub-Committee
- Media and Communication
- Conflict Analysis Group
- Capacity Building and Training Sub-Committee

Among the accomplishments made by the Capacity Building and Training Sub-Committee include:

- Conflict Analysis and Mapping leading to the violent free 2010 referendum
- Conflict Prevention and Transformation Project- June 2008-March 2010 (this training was conducted on DOs, DCs, APs, Kenya Police)
- Training on SALW in Provincial Peace Fora, District Peace Committees, Divisional Peace Committees, Locational and Sub-Locational Peace Committees

- Conducted Rapid Needs Assessment for select District Peace Committees across the country with UNDP March 2008 where some were fully equipped in their offices
- Facilitation of the revalidation of the Modogashe Declaration in 2005 $ 2010
- Development of a database for trainers, trainees and organizations involved in peace work

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission has conducted several activities around Peace Building:

- Active Citizens Workshop for Community Facilitators held on 2-3rd March 2015 in Nakuru, 5-6th March 2015 in Kisii. This is a social leadership programme which promotes inter-cultural dialogue and social responsibility as key leadership competencies.
- The County Security Structure dialogue on 10/02/2015
- Lamu County Boma Commitment on Promotion of Peace and Cohesion 14-17 Sept 2014
- Capacity Building Workshop on Education Stakeholders in Uasin Gishu County 22-23 Sept 2014, In Isiolo County 18-19 August 2014, In Kitui 21-22 August.
- There is existence of the Rift-Valley, Coastal, Eastern Provincial Peace Foruma, Various Peace Committees whose work has impacted societies. The challenges experienced by the Local Peace Committees include[3]:
- Legitimacy- A legal Framework to avoid politicization of the process
- Money- conflict provokation for remuneration to resolve. "sitting allowance complications"
- Funding- External funding to get donor dependency, conversion to NGOs e.g. Wajir Committee
- Politics- Frustration to accomodate politicians' interests e.g Membership/support
- Unclear Structures- Formed by different people, different times, different reasons
- Leadership and Ethnicity- tyranny of numbers
- Gender and Relationship to traditional structures
- Tension between traditional institutions and Peace Committees

The NCIC conducted a research to determine the Social Cohesion Index, these were the findings:

Indices	Percentage
Trust	43.7
Peace	40.1
Identity	72.7
Diversity	88.6
Prosperity	60.5
Equity	34.6
Social Cohesion Index	56.6

There is clear that the areas that scored highly are the "negatives" while the "positives" scored poorly, implying that a lot of work needs to go into Peace-Building exercises to close down the 43.4% lack of cohesion in the state.

The structure has faults that should be looked into with urgency as procrastination of Peace is welcoming of violence. The gaps that exist are[4]:

- Weak value systems including erosion of our national values Inadequate Consultation on governance issues
- Limited Networking for Peace
- Inadequate Capacity building for peace
- Inadequate inter-faith dialogue
- Limited research and analysis of conflict
- Weak reconciliation and healing initiatives
- Absence of Standard Operating procedure for peace actors
- Inadequate resource mobilization
- Limited Peace Education Campaigns
- Ineffective mechanisms to address cross-border conflicts

Conclusion:

Participation into the Nation-building process, in particular peace and reconciliation areas is sensitive while at the same time fulfilling since unity achieved can drive any other sector of the state to prosperity.

[1] The National Policy on Peace Building and conflict Management, Government of Kenya, 2011

[2] The Agenda Items are:

1. Immediate Action to stop violence and restore fundamental rights and liberties
2. Immediate measures to address the humanitarian crisis, promote reconciliation and healing
3. How to overcome the political crisis
4. Address long-term issues

[3] see http://www.insightonconflict.org/committed-peace-creating-conflict-case-kenyas-local-peacebuilding-committees/

[4] This is according to the National Policy on Peace Building and Conflict Management 2011

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