



CSIC: PILOT INTERVENTION LEARNING PAPER

PROJECT TITLE:

Expanding Community Conversations on Peace and Security: An Integrated Approach

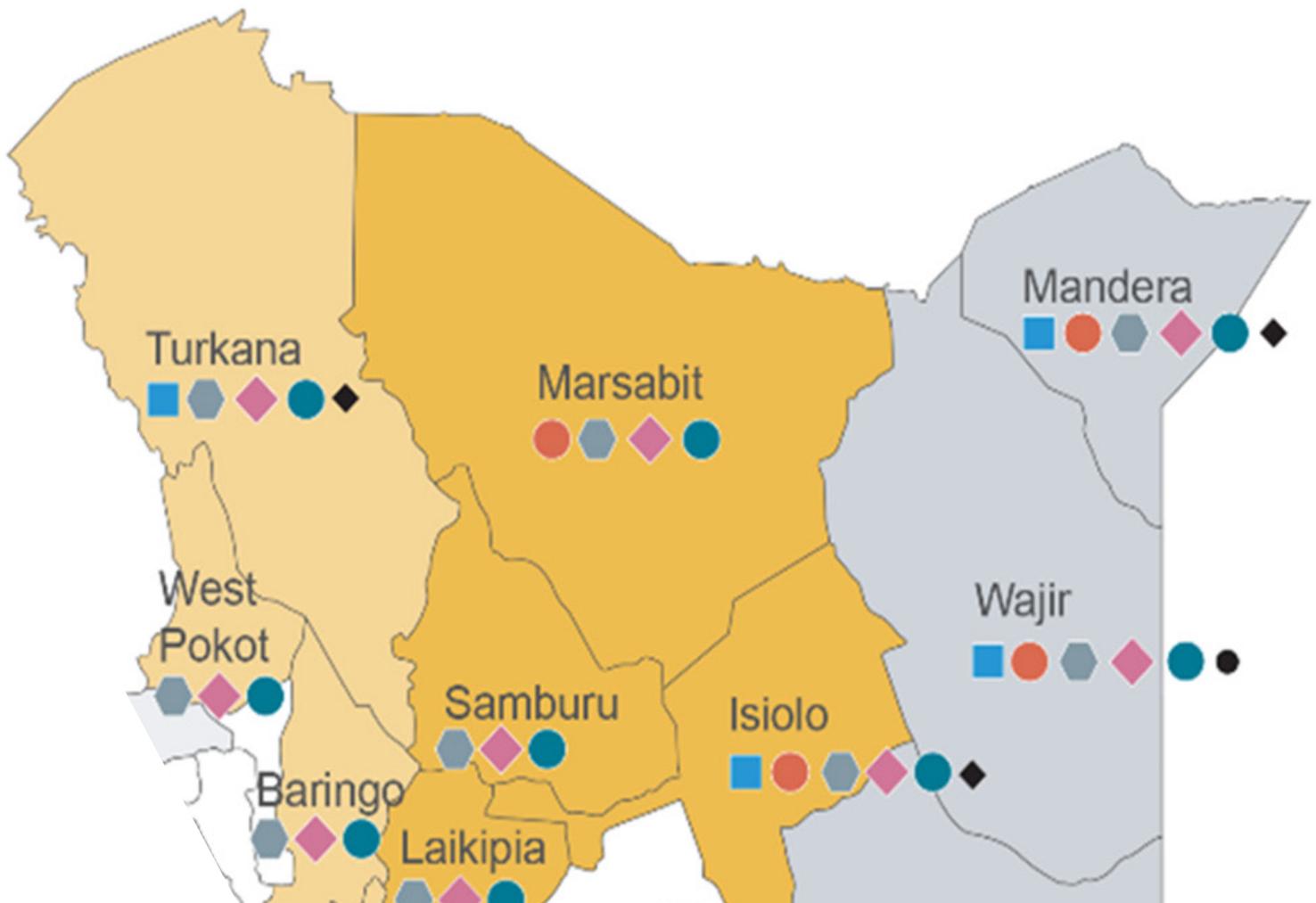
The Amaya Triangle where Baringo borders Samburu, Laikipia, Isiolo and West Pokot Counties provides a rich pilot site for exploring community safety and security programming in fragile, conflict and violence affected settings (FCVAS). Reconfiguration and renegotiation of access to land and water resources in counties with large scale conservancies and pastoral communities has long been part of the broader proposals in managing latent conflict. Towards this end, the REINVENT Programme worked with CSI-Kenya to implement a pilot intervention using the Targeted Dialogue Approach¹ to understand the underlying drivers of recurrent cross border violence in Laikipia, Baringo, Isiolo, West Pokot and Samburu counties and how the availability and proliferation of small arms and light weapons among these communities exacerbate conflict. Entry points for programme delivery delivering promoting community relations, safety and security among local communities and with ranch owners will be found.

This learning paper highlights lessons emerging from the pilot phase and the implications for how peacebuilders design inter-communal peacebuilding interventions in FCVAS. One

stark lesson emerging in this pilot intervention is that theories of change often assume hard State led approaches will deliver inter-communal peacebuilding and thus devise ways in which the State is pushed to deliver increased security in volatile regions to ensure that community members perusing conflict are apprehended and held 'accountable'. On the contrary, this intervention has found that in FCVAS, we need to understand the nature of authority and question our assumptions of who is to be held to account, the limitations of hard State led approaches and how intra- and inter-community allegiances play out when there are threats to commonly community beliefs on existence, prosperity and power.

Taken together, the lessons emerging pose important challenges to the design of interventions in these settings where State, private organisation like conservancies and local communities interact in search of a sustainable peace. The findings are relevant for the effective implementation of conflict and stability interventions and how to promote collaboration between local communities, conservancies and county security leadership committees.

Design and implementation of the pilot intervention



The target counties of Laikipia, Baringo, Isiolo and Samburu, especially along their borders have experienced ethnic clashes, private land encroachment, scrambles for pasture and cattle rustling within and across their borders. The history of ethnic groupings and the make-up of ranches in Laikipia are complex and so is the conflict along the borders. On the one hand, the general perception of majority pastoral community members and the political narrative advanced by some leaders is that the presence of white owned lands and private ranches is considered as encroachment if not privatisation of community owned grazing areas. On the other hand, the ranch owners hold the view that their ranches are private property, protected by law. Access to private ranches and conservancies and the question of whether private ranches have any obligation to local communities, especially in harsh times when pastoralists seek water and pasture for their livestock, has therefore become a constant trigger of latent conflict in these counties.

The CSI-Kenya pilot intervention had three key activities to address the above challenges.

- 1. Consultative meetings and capacity building dialogue:** We convened 4 dialogue forums on non-violent means of conflict management that private ranch owners, head of conservancies, rangers resource sharing committee representatives, youths, Morans, chiefs, elders, National Police Reservists and police officers from Baringo, Laikipia, Isiolo and Samburu counties to address the underlying causes and drives of conflict within the counties.
- 2. Development of a community peace actors' database:** This comprised mapping out peace committees, resource management committees, peace ambassadors, youth groups, women groups and civil society groups that are actively involved in peace and security initiatives in Laikipia, Baringo, Isiolo and Samburu counties.

3. Collaboration with REINVENT partner organisations: Our intervention provided an opportunity to synergise with concurrent pilot initiatives in policing, VAWG and peacebuilding. In Samburu county, CSI worked with SRIC and AWCFS to offer integrated approach to addressing socio-cultural norms and harmful practices, unequal power relations, and the patriarchy that make women and girls vulnerable to various forms of violence such as child marriage. The activities were also designed in a manner that recognised the need for a holistic approach in peace and security in the four counties that form the core nexus of the Amaya triangle. CSI-Kenya also worked closely with key actors including the Samburu and Laikipia County Security Intelligence Committees and Peace Corps² personnel who are more experienced and knowledgeable in security and peacebuilding work in the region. Peace corps possess the knowledge on the key issues affecting the communities in the region and helped in identifying strategic locations and key people and CSOs to engage in peace initiatives.

Emerging Lessons

- 1. Substitute urgency with tolerance when designing peacebuilding interventions in FCVAS:** We found short-term interventions that rush local communities to sign peace pacts might miss out on opportunities for change that open up gradually. This calls for different design of peace interventions and implementation approaches that go beyond the static nature of programmatic schedules and funding cycles. It requires the willingness of conflicting parties to offer each other concessions in a bid to achieve sustainable peace among their communities.
 - This was learned in Longewan where the Samburu community agreed to allow the Pokot to sell their products at Lolmolog market which is predominantly Samburu market and the Pokot agreed to share their water points and pasture with the Samburu. This was achieved through targeted dialogue and negotiations facilitated by local community leaders.
 - CSI-Kenya thus contributed to the overall REINVENT Programme agenda on improved community safety and security by using the targeted dialogue approach as an intervention of enhancing inter-communal conversations that enable rebuilding of trust among community members who are trusted and believed to carry the aspiration of the community. This approach played a major role in fostering peacebuilding in two ways. First it helped to identify key issues at stake and how they impact on durability of peace pacts. Second, this approach circumvented “the usual gatekeepers” who often block and broker community peace building exercises.
 - Moving forward, the Targeted Dialogue Approach can therefore be used to design future peacebuilding and
- 2. Integrating approaches by different partners enriches the delivery:** Through collaboration with SRIC and AWCFS, CSI-Kenya was able to learn and leverage these partner’s strengths, especially how gender roles and the proliferation of illegal small arms exacerbates inter communal conflicts. SRIC and AWCFS were also resourceful in helping us with data collection and identifying strategic locations to execute the activities. Furthermore, collaboration with Peace Corps and Local chiefs helped in identifying key peace ambassadors and influential people in peace initiatives among the community members who would come in handy in future REINVENT Programme activities during identification and forming of peace committees, resource management committees and peace ambassadors. Moving forward, REINVENT Programme will encourage collaboration between partners to leverage on skills, local networks and enrich interventions.
- 3. Tapping into local knowledge and experiences enables local consent to proposed interventions:** We went to the field with the assumption that all was well and nothing drastic would happen to affect our schedule. Escalating tensions in Baragoi on the eve of our travel almost caused major disruption and we had to go into contingency planning in order to identify alternative locations to deliver on this intervention. Had we established initial contact with local influencers, perhaps we would be better prepared on how to address the conflict flare up and. However, when we finally settled in the community, conversations with victims of past intercommunity conflicts morans, girls, women, community opinion leaders and local NGOs provided a grounded understanding of what durable peacebuilding interventions should entail.
- 4. When engaging with political leaders, target their voter base:** This intervention found that at times, some political leaders exploit conflict for their expediency and thus might be gate keepers. However, when engaging such resistance, peacebuilders should target voter blocs in order for the politicians to see the stakes at hand and thus come to the negotiation table. Moreover, for peace aligned political leaders, their immense value in working with grassroots leaders with local legitimacy gives peace processes legitimacy across political and ethnic divides. This was evidenced through how the political

leadership and grassroots leaders from Pokot and Samburu communities were able to effectively mobilise community members to attend the Loisaba ranch forums. Furthermore, local communities still acknowledge area Chiefs and their roles in day-to-day management of public affairs. The office of the Chief is very critical in creating space for dialogue. Moving forward, the REINVENT Programme will integrate the participation of local administrators in peacebuilding initiatives by providing a forum where Chiefs from the four counties can share knowledge and build partnerships in building durable peace with conservancy management.

5. **Peaceful co-existence between ranchers and pastoralist has mutual benefit:** Initially, the relationships between ranchers and local pastoralist communities were strained. Engaging the ranchers in a consultative meeting made it possible for them to understand the concerns and convince them of the need to engage in dialogue with the pastoralists. Through the CSI database of peace committees, peace ambassadors, youth groups, women groups and civil society groups, the intervention also provided an opportunity for reshaping the peace and security initiatives in Laikipia, Baringo, Isiolo and Samburu counties.

Challenges experienced during the pilot phase and mitigation measures

1. Animosity and mistrust between the warring communities made it difficult to penetrate and address communities jointly. We involved chiefs and opinion leaders from the communities and addressed them separately and built consensus through tact and sensitivities to local concerns, grievances and appreciating the stakes at hand.
2. Local political leaders are resistant to change due to vested interests, additional costs and difficult logistical arrangements for their presence and buy in. We involved community members in raising their awareness on holding the political calls accountable. We realised that targeting the voter base of these politicians enables them to see that it is in their own interest to participate in the local peace processes.
3. The exclusion of women in peacebuilding and decision-making due to cultural norms posed a challenge. We addressed this by lobbying for inclusion of women in local peace structures and decision-making processes and made use of forums by AWCFS and CSICs to address peace and security issues that affect women.

Conclusion

The region has experienced recurrent violence, loss of life and destruction of property due to conflicts over natural resources and proliferation of small arms and light weapons. This intervention sought to initiate the opportunity for dialogue between National Government actors, ranchers and county actors and consolidate the database on key peace actors that will be crucial in the next implementation phase.

ABOUT US

Reducing Insecurity and Violent Extremism in the Northern and Coastal regions of Kenya (REINVENT) is a £20m 5-year programme that aims to enhance Kenyan capacity and capability to address inter-communal conflict, weak community-police relations, violence against women and girls (VAWG), violent extremism and election related violence. It will support the continued advancement of police reforms to improve the management, oversight and accountability of the police force. The programme is delivered by TetraTech International Development in partnership with the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies (RUSI) and the Danish Demining Group (DDG) builds on the experience of the Jamii Thabiti Programme (2014-19), also known as the Kenya Improving Community Security Programme (ICS), and expands DFID support across more counties. It supports new areas of work including conflict sensitivity, pastoral livelihoods and combating violent extremism.

Impact of the programme:

Improved community safety and security as measured by effect on inclusive and equitable development, investment and service delivery in Kenya

Envisaged outcome of the programme:

Improved state and non-state actors' collaboration in a mutually accountable and inclusive manner to respond effectively to root causes of violence.

Programme outputs:

- Increased practice of accountability to build police (and other security agencies) effectiveness when addressing community security, violent extremism and election security.
- Strengthened agency of women and girls in peace, safety and security
- Intra and inter institutional commitment to address the root causes and drivers of conflict
- Knowledge and evidence generated and utilised to enhance community and institutional learning and adaptation.

6. Countering Violent Extremism: Based on RUSI's experience from the Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism (STRIVE) programme and other CVE interventions, REINVENT's approach to CVE envisions an effective CVE policy framework

1. Police Reform: The police reform agenda in Kenya envisions quality policing services for a safe and secure Kenya through strengthened capacity among policing institutions to address institutional and people centered reforms.

5. Conflict Sensitive Development in the Northern and Coastal Regions: Kenya's rapid but unequal pace of economic growth poses enormous political and social ramifications. REINVENT Programme approach to Conflict Sensitive Development (CSD) is to promote the practice of conflict sensitivity among state, development actors and private sector in their planning and implementation of development and large-scale infrastructure projects in the country

2. Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls: The Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Gender Mainstreaming workstream supports national, county and community initiatives, discourses and activities that deliberately interrogate gender inequalities and increase the agency and voice of women and girls.

4. Enhancing Election Security for a Peaceful General Election in 2022: Kenya's electoral narrative has often been characterized by systemic failings in implementing violence free electoral management processes. REINVENT Election Security work is closely intertwined with police reforms, tackling VAWG and peacebuilding

3. Peacebuilding to address Inter-communal conflict: Understanding that there are multiple fault lines in Kenya where inter-communal conflict occurs, driven by failure to address structural, institutional, historical, cultural and legal factors, creating opportunities for VE groups and criminal gangs to take advantage of conflict and instability,

If you have any questions or inquiries about the report, please reach out to us:
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