

Kenya Social Exclusion Analysis Report

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Horn & East Africa Region

1. Background to the country

Kenya has a population of over 40 million, officially 42 ethnic groups, probably 60 or more depending on definitions. The country gained its independence in 1963 after British colonial rule and a quasi-apartheid system, whose legacy endures throughout the country and can be seen in the form of entrenched spatial inequality and unequal development, for example in Nairobi which is home to some of the wealthiest areas in the continent, which are side-by-side with enormous slums with hundreds of thousands of residents in many of them.

Kenya is considered to be the economic leader in the East African region, which has various impacts on the country, such as high levels of migration from neighbouring countries, relatively high standards of living amongst such sections of the population, high levels of consumerism and an extremely capitalist approach to many aspects of daily life. The country also likes to play the role of 'big brother' in the region, leading to considerable resentment and jealousy from other countries, which affect the economic and social relationships between the citizens across the region.

One area of particular contention in the country has been around politics and governance, which is usually highly combative and competitive. Politicians have been known to incite violence around election time, women candidates have often been particularly targeted for abuse and violence when challenging men for leadership positions, and there have been regular outbreaks of large-scale violence around election times, such as in 1992, 1997 and 2007-8. Politics is entwined with ethnicity and inequality, thus perpetuating a 'divide and rule' concept introduced by the British colonial regime.

There are economic, social and cultural inequalities, which can be found throughout the country and generally a sense that the country has not yet learnt to effectively harness its diversity as a strength in its development but rather it has a large number of ethnic, social, cultural and other fault-lines which have consistently divided people against each other.

2. PESTLE analysis for the country

Political – highly combative political system and history. Legacy of KANU era and powerful, manipulative politicians. Politics very close to ethnicity, leading to dominance of 5 major ethnic groups and poor quality of leadership. Current two major coalitions in permanent crisis mode, leading to instability and tension. Extreme case was 2007-8 Post-Election Violence causing deaths of more than 1,300 people and displacement of over ½ million. Ongoing ICC cases against President and Deputy a major factor in political engagement. Country is strongly divided into CORD-affiliated and Jubilee-affiliated 'zones', which has impact at community level, e.g. recent Saba Saba day protests called by opposition caused threatening hate leaflets to be distributed in several towns (Nakuru, Naivasha, Eldoret) and members of some communities left those areas temporarily in fear of violence

Economic – economic growth has slowed in recent years but general economic boom since 2002, expanding middle class and small but powerful upper class, for majority little economic growth. Pressure of high inflation in recent years, cost of living way above wages. Overall poverty rates in Kenya range between 34-42% (World Bank, 2013) but in rural areas the rate rises to 49% (www.ruralpovertyportal.org). However, almost half the counties (23) have poverty rates over 50% and three (Turkana, Wajir & Mandera) have rates over 70% (www.opendata.go.ke) Economic inequality is very pronounced in Kenya: according to the Human Development Index (HDI), Nairobi ranks close high HDI countries at 0.773, whilst other counties such as Turkana rank close to low HDI countries at 0.33. (SID: Society for International Development, 2013)

Social – rapid expansion of low-income areas known as slums 1.6 million households, expected to be 5.3 million slum dwellers by 2020 (UN Habitat, 2003). In Mombasa, a city of about 1 million people, there are over 130 slum areas, for example. There are high rates of sexual exploitation of girls and young women – anecdotal evidence in Eldoret that girls are being exposed to sex and ‘married’ at young ages (12-18), high rates of child sexual abuse within families and community, community and police negligence and level of acceptance. Nationally, about 25% of people have no education at all, and this rises to over 90% in parts of Turkana county (SID, 2013)

Technological – only 23% of Kenyans have access to electricity but in counties such as Turkana & Tana River it is as low as 2% (SID, 2013). Urban areas, especially, have experienced recent rapid growth in use and access to ICT, internet and use of mobile phones and innovations such as mobile money transfers (MPESA) have made an enormous and, largely, positive impact

Legal – the new Constitution 2010 guarantees rights and freedoms (e.g. gender clauses, disability mainstreaming in article 54, establishment of Supreme Court as equal to other arms (Executive and Legislature) but there has been recent restrictions of civil society space and the threatened introduction of the Public Benefits Act, which seeks to regulate and control civil society activity, as well as a restrictive Media Bill in 2013, which has caused the media to lose considerable independence, which it earlier had

Environmental – Kenya is the home of UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and has a history of positive environmental initiatives and innovation throughout country (e.g. recycling, urban clean-ups) but enormous challenges of waste management remain and there is a lack of control, regulation and implementation of environmental laws on pollution and waste etc. The mega port development project in Lamu county, and recent discovery of natural gas and oil deposits in Turkana county, high mining prospects in several counties, such as Kilifi and Kwale, which area rich in titanium, manganese, zinc and tin, has led to increase in demand and price of land as well as severe conflict over access to resources

3. Key issues relating to Social Exclusion in the country

Ethnic discrimination is rife in many parts of the country; the new county government system has seen dominance of one ethnic group in many counties. This plays itself out in allocation of jobs, resources and opportunities, which are often skewed in favour of one ethnic group and to the disadvantage of minority groups. Anecdotal evidence of use of vernacular by public officials to frustrate and discriminate against those from other communities; other examples are of increased business/license fees for those not from the majority community, economic sabotage of small businesses from non-majority communities. Nationally, there has been a long-established trend where government, corporate and non-governmental organizations are often dominated by one or more ethnic group and, in general, the five largest ethnic groups are over-represented in many institutions. In a 2011 report, it was found that eight government departments were breaking the law by having more than 33% of their employees from one ethnic group <http://ngonewsafrika.org/archives/7254>

Economic inequality – indicators suggest Kenya is the 3rd most unequal country in Africa and one of the highest in the world. Enormous inequalities exist on a national scale, as well as within counties, in urban areas disposable income is about 10 times here than in rural areas, for example (SID, 2013)

Gender inequality – women MPs make up less than 20% and this situation is similar or worse throughout the public sector; for example, only 31% of the workforce in public service is female and these are heavily concentrated in lower positions (UNECA, 2011). There are high rates of FGM in some communities, girls not getting education at the same rate as boys (Wajir County- 30% more girls out of school than boys). Female headed households have lower rates of access to water, electricity, education and other areas of basic rights compared to male headed households (SID, 2013)

Marginalisation of pastoralist communities – ongoing conflict in cross-border regions, especially Pokot/Turkana/Karamoja. Poverty and inequality indicators consistently show Turkana, Mandera, Wajir,

West Pokot and Samburu to be the most marginalized counties in the country, all of which are largely inhabited by pastoralist communities. Added to this, there is particularly *severe discrimination against members of the Somali community*, which can be seen in registration for IDs and passports, the recent Usalama Watch Operation targeting 90% ethnic Somalis. Members of these communities have found it consistently hard to realize their rights as Kenyan citizens

Elder abuse – especially in Coast region, older people are being stigmatized as ‘witches’, approx. 400 elderly people have been killed in Kilifi County in the past four years, 61 confirmed in 2014 so far <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/thecounties/article/2000127915/children-hack-parents-over-land>

Land inequality and history of land grabbing – this has been at the heart of many conflicts throughout the country, including the 2007-8 violence in Rift Valley, and is a highly contentious issue. Historically, land ownership has been used as a tool by the political elite; for example, recently 70% of land in Lamu County was found to have been irregularly acquired by only 22 companies

Disability – PWDs face a wide range of discriminations and denial of rights. Constitutional provisions allow for affirmative action and gives detail to some of the rights that PWDs are entitled to. However, access to services are extremely restricted and the range of physical and mental disabilities are much mis-understood in the wider society, insensitive language and behavior is rife

LGBT issues – homosexuality ‘acts’ are criminalized but the law is silent on same-sex intimate female relationships. Major cities have well-established LGBT communities, organizations and are socially organized, where there is a level of tolerance in society, probably the most progressive in East Africa but widespread discrimination, victimization and intolerance are found throughout the country

4. VSO programming and experiences

VSO has had a presence in Kenya for over 50 years and is known now as VSO Jitolee, a federation member of VSO International. The recently developed new programme strategy focuses on secure livelihoods, inclusive education and responsible citizenship. There has been considerable work in recent years on inclusive education, disability advocacy; supporting the rights of children with disabilities, including the just concluded Strengthening Citizen Participation in Governance of Education (SCPGE) Programme. There are national volunteering and youth volunteering programmes (International Citizen Service, ICS). Large networks of Returned Volunteers (ICS and former International volunteers) representing a largely untapped potential of expertise and support. Currently there are about 30 international volunteers, including a small number of diaspora volunteers.

There has been some engagement with Social Exclusion Analysis and Anti-Oppression work and several training sessions have been conducted in the past 2 years with partners, international volunteers and ICS youth volunteers.

5. Examples of Good Practice Examples (with case studies to be developed)

Moving the Goalposts Kilifi – the organization uses football as a tool for engaging young women and girls on issues of gender, reproductive health and rights, women’s rights, good governance and economic empowerment, thus supporting their empowerment in communities throughout the county

Malindi Cultural Festival – this is a unique festival in that it actively engages with all communities living in Malindi throughout its planning and implementation, it does not limited itself to so-called indigenous communities but engages with all who live in the town, thus actively promoting inclusivity and acknowledging the importance of engaged co-existence in building harmonious communities

SOLASA (SOLWODI Ladies Sports Association), Eldoret – working with survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse, programmes include outreach with CSWs and other vulnerable young women, skills development training, support for community self-help groups and capacity building with other stakeholders and partners

Huruma Clean-ups, Nairobi – spearheaded by Ngei 1 Development Youth Group, community clean-ups take place on a monthly basis in ethnically diverse and different areas of Huruma and Mathare, which have experienced considerable violent conflict and crime in recent years. The clean-ups engage a wide range of youth, women and other community groups and continuously promote peaceful co-existence and engagement. A similar approach has been taken by Responsible Citizens Initiative in Mtwapa, Kilifi county, who have consciously engaged equal numbers of men and women at all levels of their environmental cleaning programme

Coast Anti-Oppression Training – a range of training programmes on ‘Tackling Oppression and Promoting Positive Diversity’ were conducted in 2013, which aimed to support anti-GBV campaigns and volunteerism initiatives. The facilitators group emerged out of a Training of Facilitators programme in 2012, and a similar group has recently started offering trainings in Nairobi

Tunaweza Women’s Group, Bombolulu, Mombasa – this is a group of women with disabilities who have been spearheading the fight against high rates of gender-based violence in their community. They are considered community champions in their area and give social, legal and emotional support to victims of GBV, whilst also referring cases to their various networking partners

ICRH, Mombasa – engaged in innovative work with most at risks populations, including Men who have Sex with Men (MSMs), Commercial Sex Workers (CSWs) and victims of Gender Based Violence (GBV)

GRM International – employs a Social Inclusion officer in supporting Australia Awards Africa, a scholarship programme enabling for short and long courses. Her role is to engage people with disabilities (currently 3-5% of beneficiaries) and promote equal access for males & females (currently 55% male, 45% female) in the programme. A unique role that other companies and organizations can learn from; a model that can be shared widely

Playing for Peace in East Africa – a unique festival using football as a tool to promote peace, address issues such as ethnic violence and gender inequality. It was first held in Trans-Nzoia county in 2013, a county with high rates of ethnic clashes, violence and crime. 2014 is to be hosted by Moving the Goalposts in Kilifi on the theme of main-streaming gender in peace-building and involving more than 30 organisations from across the region in workshops, cultural performances and football matches.

<http://streetfootballworld.org/kenya-brazil-streetfootballworld-celebrates-power-football>

I-hub – an ICT initiative, which supports innovative work on monitoring hate speech and supporting & mentoring young women through Akirachix

6. Future programming ideas and opportunities

Development of work in Coast region – opportunities to build on the work of a practitioners group, who have been facilitating training at community level and within CSOs for the past 2 years. Positive impact has been reported at personal, family, community and organizational levels. Opportunities exist to engage more deeply with Pwani GBV members to add value to their analysis and work, with a range of other CSOs, with Kilifi County Government who have been engaged with

Development of high level champions – who can promote this concept and work in media, civil society, private sector, government etc

Engagement with other sectors – e.g. through the Institute of Human Resource Management (IHRM), a wide range of HR professionals in the corporate, government and development sectors can be supported to engage in social inclusion work and development of practice

Development of network of facilitators – there is a great demand for training at community level and within CSOs as expressed at all facilitated workshops. There is an existing network of 8 active facilitators (in Coast, Nairobi and Eldoret) and this can be further developed so that a skilled and experienced team can deliver training, mentor and support local initiatives, provide consultancy and training services etc

National and regional exchange – there are enormous benefits to be gained from a peer-to-peer

process both within the country and across the region. Anecdotally, many people reported considerable learning opportunities and enrichment of skills through such exchanges. One potential programme would be in the cross-border region between Karamoja (Uganda) and West Pokot & Turkana (Kenya) where there has been a long history of conflict, neglect and discrimination against pastoralist communities

Use of sports, drama, music etc – these can be developed and used as tools of education, promoting inclusivity etc. Within training programmes, such tools can also be used to enrich existing materials

Development of resources – short case studies highlighting good practice can be written and utilized in training and other contexts. Further research is needed to uncover ‘hidden heroes’ from different communities, to highlight the successes of women and marginalized groups. Publications, such as books and magazines can also be supported to promote positive diversity in the society

7. Potential partners and their roles

Existing VSO partners:

Ujamaa Centre (Mombasa/Coast) – working on land issues, human rights & governance,

CREAW (Nairobi/national) – working on women’s rights, wish to develop and utilize training model

KHRC (Nairobi/National) – Kenya Human Rights Commission, working on anti-discrimination legislation & promotion of human rights

GCCE (Wajir) – working on human rights and governance issues in 6 Northern counties

VIO Network (Nairobi) – network of Volunteer Involving Organisations representing large numbers of volunteers, can provide a link to wide range of large & small CSOs, able to influence policy and practice around volunteerism

Potential New partners:

ICRH (Mombasa) – working with marginalized groups (e.g. CSWs, survivors of GBV and MSMs), can be a significant partner and good practice model with Pwani GBV network, other CSOs, government etc

SOLASA (Eldoret & Kisumu) – doing innovative work with young women and girls who are survivors of sexual abuse & exploitation. Can be a key partner in Western part of the country

Ufadhili Trust (Nairobi/National) – working on corporate engagement & CSR, can be an important link and encouragement of inclusivity and non-discriminatory practice in the corporate sector

Chemchemi ya Ukweli (Nairobi/National) – working on active non-violence and peace-building, can integrate social inclusion concept within peace-building work and broader sector

8. Potential sources of funds/resources

Act – interest in governance, human rights, existing VSOJ partner

Ford Foundation – support for human rights work and innovative approaches, long-term supporter of Ujamaa Centre

USAID – offering training and support to youth bunge system (over 20,000 youth bunges in Kenya)

Development of consultancy services – under VSO Jitolee and/or partners which could offer training, support and mentoring on issues of social inclusion to civil society, private sector and government

Open Society Initiative for East Africa – interested in governance and CSO voice strengthening – currently funding VSOJ to give Technical Capacity to East African CSOs Forum in Arusha

EC – on issues of fast-tracking devolution in Kenya and Community Empowerment for Social accountability with a focus on unrepresented groups

Rotary East Africa – track-record of supporting peace building initiatives, can potentially support merging of peace building and social inclusion training process