

Peace Committees and Peacebuilding in Kenya: A case of Trans Mara Sub-County

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Abstract- The Peace Committees program in Kenya was rolled out in all districts in 2009 following the 2007/2008 post election violence to aid in peacebuilding and conflict management. However, the program did not made major breakthroughs in peace sustenance which therefore called for its evaluation. This paper is based on a study that was carried out to: determine the effectiveness of peace committees in peace building and conflict management in Trans Mara Sub-County, investigate involvement of women and youth in peace building initiatives in Trans Mara Sub-County, and to determine local measures in place to prevent recurrence of ethnic conflict in Trans Mara Sub-County that disrupt education and development. Systematic sampling was used to select households in each division from where respondents were derived. A total of 120 respondents (local residents) were sampled for the study. The researchers purposively sampled DCs, DOs, OCSs and OCPDs. Simple random sampling was used to select 10 representatives from 5 organizations (Civil Society and Faith-based Organizations) working for peace in Trans Mara Sub-County of Narok County. The study findings established that majority of the people involved in ethnic conflict were aged between 18 and 30. This research also established that the main cause of conflict in the region was ethnic/clan animosity which accounted for 61.1%. It was also established that peace campaigns yielded much in peace building. It was further concluded that the reason behind the provincial administration being the first to respond during times of conflict is because they lived among the community and they had the logistical capacity required to reach the scenes of crimes and assist the individuals affected. These findings are important since peace affects all spheres of life including achievement in education.

I. INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background to the study

In pursuit of sustainable peace, the international community through the United Nations (UN), has constantly employed political tools of diplomacy and mediation to help nations prevent and resolve conflicts peacefully to avert the suffering and destruction of war (Annan, 2005). Though conflicts are sometimes viewed normal and part of life as espoused by many scholars of conflict management including Dahrendorf (1969), Achoka (2010) and Okoth (2010), its effects on society often rises to abnormal proportions which therefore calls for rigorous peace building aimed at sustaining peaceful co-existence. According to

Allchin (2011), Burma's National Parliament approved the creation of a 'peace committee' to attempt to solve the country's ongoing and seemingly intractable ethnic conflicts. In Bangladesh, peace committee was majorly established to restore normalcy and confidence among the citizens during times of conflict (Chandan, 1971).

The committee model has come to be the preferred peacebuilding and peacemaking initiative for many nations facing recurrence of conflicts or those immediately coming out of conflict. According to Odendaal *et al* (2006), peace committee is defined as a generic name for committees, or structures formed at the level of district, town or village with the aim of encouraging and facilitating joint and inclusive peacemaking and peacebuilding processes within its own context. The context in this case is determined by the circumstances and conditions leading to formation of local peace committees. For instance, Cartwright & Jenneker (2005) while undertaking a study on peace committee in South Africa, noted that peace committee was designed to enable people manage their own affairs while giving priority to disputes. It engaged in among other things: mediating and resolving disputes, promoting tolerance within ethnically diverse society and also educating citizens on alternatives to violence (Ball, 1998).

In Nepal, local peace committees demonstrated the capacity to reduce levels of violence especially when there is sufficient early warning. Odendaal *et al* (2006) argue that it proved beneficial when the country was experiencing transition from one constitutional dispensation to another. Peace committees helped in problem solving and community building by facilitating a common forum where disputants could meet and have issues addressed. This helped to restore community confidence and thus contributed to peace building.

Peace committees are by no means perfect institution guaranteed of success. They are mechanisms to build peace at local level under trying moments. In Uganda for instance, the Mercy Corps through the Pader Peace Program (PPP), successfully addressed the gaps in peace building and conflict mitigation through its trained peace committees at sub-county and parish levels and also on monthly radio broadcasts (USAID, 2009). The Mercy Corps who operated in Pader district of Northern Uganda where there had been long standing conflict of nearly 20 years between the Lords' Resistance Army (LRA) and the Uganda government, observed that peace committees earned trust and respect from the communities that other government

institutions such as courts could not due to corruption, high fees and lengthy bureaucratic processes (USAID, 2009).

Until very recently, security in Kenya was a preserve of government with stakeholders not given a chance to be part of the process (Modogashe Declaration, 2005). Local peace committees, therefore, had their roots in the failure of the state to provide security and justice to its citizens. The community members in return took the initiative to manage their own conflicts since they could not access the formal judicial system for lack of trust in government-led conflict prevention interventions (Adan & Pkalya, 2006).

However, in the recent years, broader and holistic approach has been developed through the national steering committee (NSC) which became functional in 2003. This testified the government commitment to enhance and inculcate participatory approach in all realms of life. Former provincial commissioner of North Eastern, John Nandasaba, was quoted saying, "It is true that the government can indeed enforce peace. However, it is the responsibility of the community to create peace" (Modogashe Declaration, 2005). It is in this context that peace committees have been established at various levels, including National, District, Divisional, Locational and Sub Locational levels (GOK, 2009). Since the inception of peace committees in Kenya, the committees have however performed with minimal success which therefore calls for evaluation of its effectiveness in peace building especially in Trans Mara district which has faced sporadic ethnic clashes in the recent past.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Research question: Are women and youth sufficiently involved in peace building initiatives in Trans Mara district?

For a long time, women and youth form majority of those affected by conflict yet according to Adan & Pkalya (2006), the existing peace building mechanisms including peace committees have remained insensitive to incorporate gender and age in peace building initiatives. The semblance of peace building that has been witnessed in the recent past has been largely urban-centric and one-time event with much pre-occupation in media campaigns and youth exchanges (Kloppet *al*, 2010). This therefore has neglected the rural folk together with the peace building mechanisms in those localities.

Peace building initiatives involves a collection of strategies used to reverse the destructive processes that accompany violence. It encompasses economic, social, political and cultural issues (Mc Donald, 1997). For a long time; women and youth involvement in peace initiatives has been largely neglected. For instance, the 1995 UN Fourth World Conference of Women in Beijing called for inclusion of women in conflict resolution at decision making levels. In fact, it was a major step in recognizing and legitimizing the role of women in conflict resolution and peacemaking at grassroot levels (UN, 1995:61).

Since then, women involvement and participation in conflict management and peace building has been receiving special attention because they represent a vital resource for sustaining peace efforts at all levels (UNESCO, 1999:4). In South Africa for instance, it was observed that 59% of participants in peace gatherings were women while youth formed 17% (Cartwright & Jenneker, 2005). Studies portraying women as

principal drivers of peace initiatives, and participants in the rituals of peace, often preclude their full participation in that when peace negotiations and rebuilding destroyed economies are formalized, women often fade into the background (Sorensen, 1998, Henderson 1994, Achieng 1998).

In Kenya, Kilgoris women workshop (2012) revealed that the women in that district had been left behind in essential committees like peace committees mostly because of the culture that hardly recognizes them in the area. The plenary noted that women had marginally been sidelined in participating in conflict resolution on conflicts which mostly affected them. The negative culture affected women in the sense that they were not allowed to talk before men or even engage in decision making process in the presence of men (Kilgoris women workshop, 2012). Kathina (2000) observed that conventional methods of peace building do not capture the full range of informal efforts and processes that contribute to nurturing and sustaining peace. Some of these informal efforts are contributed largely by women.

Waki (2008) noted that during the post-election violence of 2007/2008 for instance, the youth were mobilized for violence for as little as two hundred shillings and with a bottle of alcohol. They also engaged in actual raids especially to acquire cattle to be used to settle bride price and for heroism purposes. He however postulates that the youth on the other hand is an asset bringing billions of shillings through music, modeling, arts and sports. Active Citizens (2011) also noted that politicians generally mobilize the youth for political assignments. They are called *Jeshis/Mitha* (literally, 'army'). These groups are easily mobilized and very difficult to demobilize. Peace Net (2009) proposed engagement of the youth in productive activities such as *Kazi kwa vijana* projects (Work for the youth) and sports, in an effort to lessen tension and facilitate reconciliation between Trans Mara and its neighbouring Sub-Counties of Kuria, Gucha and Migori. Indeed the government created youth projects yet ethnic clashes in Trans Mara persisted. This called for more in-depth assessment into involvement of youth in peace building initiatives.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

According to Kothari (2003), research design refers to the way a study is planned and conducted as well as procedures and techniques used to address the research problem. This study adopted both descriptive and historical research designs. Since the study was majorly concerned with describing such things as attitudes, values and behavior, descriptive and historical designs were found adequate for the study. The researchers employed both quantitative and qualitative approaches to data collection, analysis and presentation. Historical design assisted in exploring, explaining and understanding the past about the subject from data already available. The aim was to collect relevant information that provided baseline data upon which the situation in post peace committee peace building was compared.

Trans Mara Sub-County is located in the south western part of Rift Valley in Narok County. It consists of five administrative divisions namely: Kilgoris, Pirrar, Lolgorian, Keyian and Kirindon. In total it covers an area of approximately 2900Km². The Sb-County lies between latitudes 00 50` South & 10 50` North and Longitudes 340 35` East & 350 14` West. It borders the Republic of Tanzania to the South, Migori and Kuria

Sub-Counties to the West; Gucha, Nyamira and Bomet Sub-Counties to the North and Narok Sub-County to the East (Trans Mara district annual report, 2009).

According to Nachmias & Nachmias (1996), a population is an aggregate of all cases that conform to certain characteristics which are of interest to the researcher. The study population specifically comprised of the Provincial administration officers (DC's, DO's, and Chiefs), Civic leaders, senior security personnel (OCS, OCPD), representatives of Civil Society Organizations and Faith-based groups and local residents.

Sampling refers to the process of selecting a portion of the population that conforms to a designated set of specifications to be studied. Kendall & Kendall (2005) observe that sampling is advantageous for it allows the researcher to draw generalization and reduce bias. According to Nachmias & Nachmias (1996), sampling is necessary because it is extremely expensive and nearly impossible to collect data from all members of the study population. The study employed both probability and non-probability sampling procedures.

Simple random sampling was used to get 10 representatives from about 5 organizations (Civil Society and Faith-based organizations) working for peace in Trans Mara Sub-County of Narok County. The organizations that were sampled included Trans Mara Peace Net, Pro Mara, Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (CJPC), National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK) and Trans Mara Human Rights Network. The selection of 10 representatives was stratified to ensure equal number of males and females. Civic leaders and chiefs were also selected using simple random sampling whereby out of the 18 civic wards and 32 locations, 9 civic leaders and 16 location chiefs were sampled for the study.

Sample Size for local residents per Division using Available Sampling Procedure

	Administrative Division	Sample Size
1	Keiyan	20
2	Kilgoris	25
3	Kirindoni	30
4	Lolgorian	20
5	Pirrar	25
	TOTAL	120

Source: Researchers (2013)

The study utilized questionnaires, interviews, Focus Group Discussion and content analysis as the main means of collecting data. The sources of data were primary and secondary. Primary data was collected using questionnaires, focus group discussions and interview schedules. Secondary data was derived from books, journals, internet and other publications by employing content analysis.

The study gathered quantitative data from 120 local residents through use of self-administered questionnaires. The selection of the tool had been guided by the nature of data to be collected and the time available for the study. According to Kothari (2003), a questionnaire is a useful data collection instrument since it allows large amount of data to be collected within a shorter time and on a wider geographical area. Since the study was mainly concerned with views, opinions and perceptions, such information could best be collected through the use of questionnaires (Touliatos, 1988).

Purposive sampling ensures that only participants who are knowledgeable about an issue in question are selected (Brink, 1996). The researchers therefore purposively sampled DC's, DO's, OCS and OCPD. The greater Trans Mara Sub-County had five administrative divisions each under a DO, 2 Police Stations each headed by OCS, 1 Police division headed by OCPD and 2 DC's one representing the newly created Dikirr (Trans Mara West) and the other Trans Mara East. These administrative units were used as samples in the study.

Systematic sampling was used to select households in each division from where respondents were derived. In the 5 administrative divisions, a total of 120 respondents (local residents) were sampled for the study. The start number was derived using simple random sampling of 5 pieces of paper numbered 1-5, folded and placed in a container and shaken well to mix. 1 piece was picked to reveal the start number upon which other numbers were determined at an interval of 5. Linear features such as roads, power lines were a guide in maintaining direction. To ensure representativeness of the sample, the researchers employed stratified sampling method so as to ensure that each of the 5 divisions of Trans Mara district had a fair share of participating in the study. Simple disproportionate sampling, however, was equally used alongside the strata (divisions) to allow stratum with greater variation in terms of population and ethnic orientation a fairly higher number of representatives in the study. The researchers utilized available sampling procedure to get a sample totaling to 165 respondents comprising of 120 local residents, 23 provincial administration officers, 3 senior security officers, 9 civic leaders and 10 representatives of the civil society and Faith-based organizations.

The study utilized FGDs to collect data in one sitting from 10 representatives of Civil Society and faith-based organizations. Unlike key informant interview, FGDs provide an added advantage by allowing interaction among members, free communication, exchange of ideas and comments on each other's point of view with regard to the topic under discussion (Wong, 2008).

The study utilized interviews with key informants to get in-depth information on the subject under study. A total of 35 interviewees comprising of 16 chiefs, 3 senior security officers, 9 civic leaders, 5 DO's, and 2 DC's were interviewed. The interview schedule comprised of structured as well as open-ended questions. Stark & Roberts (1998) observe that face-to-face interviews are beneficial in the sense that it gives the researcher an opportunity to observe, probe and seek clarification on unclear responses.

The study applied both qualitative and quantitative techniques in data analysis and presentation. Qualitative data from

FGD's and interviews was analyzed by coding common themes and presenting them in form of generalized statements. Quantitative data from questionnaires was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Measures of distribution, percentages and frequencies were applied in analyzing the data with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20.

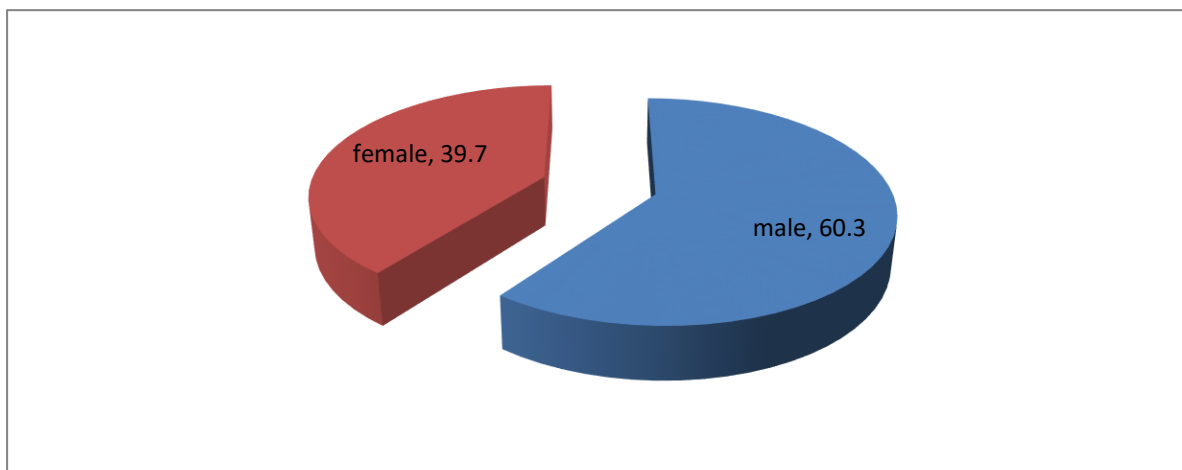
administration officers (DC's, DO's, and Chiefs), Civic leaders, senior security personnel (OCS, OCPD), representatives of Civil Society Organization and Faith-based groups and local residents. The commendable response rate was achievable after the researcher administered the questionnaires personally and made personal visits and phone calls to remind the respondents to fill-in and return the questionnaires. Descriptive statistics and content analysis were used to analyze the data. In the descriptive statistics, relative frequencies were used in some questions and others were analyzed using mean scores with the help of Likert scale ratings in the analysis. Content analysis was used to analyze opinion of the respondents in the open ended questions.

IV. DATA ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION AND PRESENTATION

This section presents the analysis of data findings on peace committees in peace building and conflict management in Trans Mara Sub County in Kenya. The research targeted Provincial

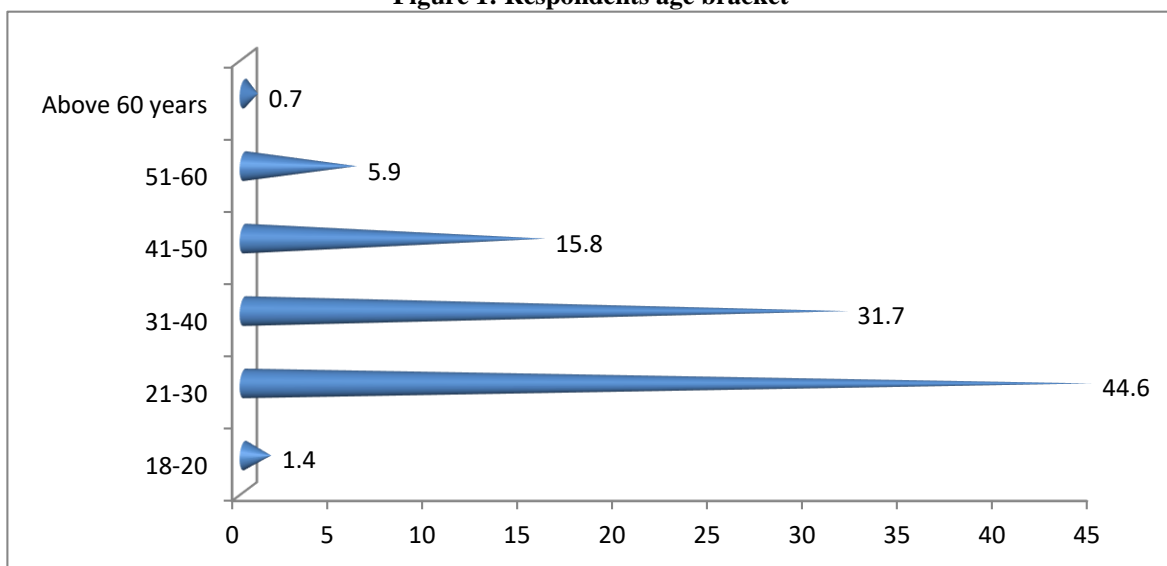
General Information

Figure 1: Percentage of respondents by gender



From the findings on the gender of the respondents the study found that 60.3% of the respondents were male whereas 39.7% of the respondents were female. This shows that both genders in this region were fairly represented.

Figure 1: Respondents age bracket



On the respondent age, the study found out that 44.6% of the respondents indicated that they were aged between 21 to 30

years, 31.7% of the respondent indicated that they were aged between 31 to 40 years, 15.8% of the respondent indicated that

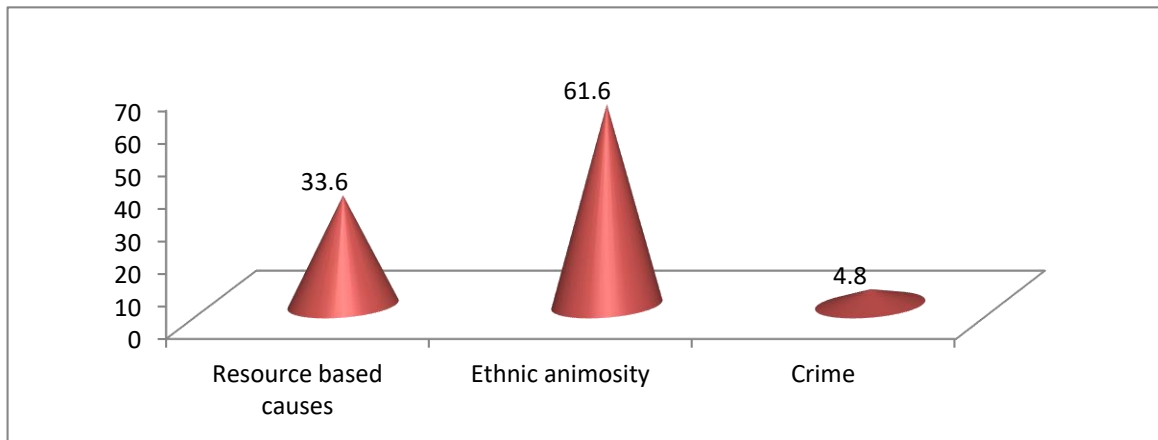
they were between 41 to 50 years, 5.9 % of the respondent were between 51 and 60 years, 1.4% indicated to be between 18 to 20 years and finally 0.7% indicated to be above 60 years. Majority of the respondents were in their youthful age and this was the best group to interview since they play the huge role in conflict scenarios.

On the level of education on the respondents in this study, the study found out that majority of the respondents had reached

primary level as shown by 47.9%, 22.6% of the respondents indicated that they had reached secondary level, 17% indicated to have reached the university level while as only 12% indicated to have reached college level as their highest level of academic qualifications. This shows that majority of these respondents were not learned and from the knowledge acquired from schools they were not very clear on how to figure out the main causes and how to tackle this ethnic conflict menace in their society.

On Peace Building and Conflict Management

Figure 2: Conflict in Trans Mara Sub County



The study was keen to investigate the likely cause of conflict in Trans Mara sub county, from the study, majority of the respondents indicated that the main cause of conflict in the region was ethnic animosity as shown by 61.1%, 33.6% stated that the cause of conflict was resource based causes and finally 4.8% stated that crime has also been a source of conflict in the region. This indicates that ethnicity had contributed much to the conflict

witnessed in the area. These findings concurs with the findings of Adan&Pkalya (2006) who observed that in most communities especially pastoralist communities where scarcity of resources was the main cause of conflict, resource management agreement helped to do reduce tensions among the many ethnic communities co existing together.

Table 1: Immediate institution that responds to resolve conflict

Immediate institution	Frequency	Percentage
Provincial administration	65	44.5
Religious leaders	21	14.4
Council of elders	42	28.8
Peace committee representatives	18	12.3
Total	146	100.0

The study also wanted to establish the most immediate institution that responded to resolve conflict whenever it occurred, from the study, majority of the respondents indicated that provincial administration played significant role in conflict resolution as shown by 44.5%, 28% of the respondents indicated that council of elders were always involved calm down

the occurrences as shown by 28.8%, 14.4% indicated religious leaders and finally 12.3% indicated peace committee and representatives. This shows that all representatives in the community were in involved in resolving conflict but the government played the significant role since it had resources and man power to bring volatile situations back to normalcy.

Table 2: First responders in times of conflict

First responders	Frequency	Percentage
They live among the community	83	56.8
They have the required logistical capacity	54	37.0
Not aware	9	6.2
Total	146	100.0

The research also wanted to establish the reason behind the institution mentioned in the previous question being the first to respond in times of conflict, from the study majority of the respondents indicated that the reason behind the provincial administration being the first to respond during these calling times is because they lived among the community as shown by 56.8%,37% of the respondents indicated that it was because they had the logistical capacity required to reach the scene of crimes and assist the individuals affected. Others indicated that they were

not aware as shown by 6.2%.This is a clear indication that much more is desired from the government. The government should increase the number of police posts and fully equip the police officers will all required equipments be it guns, vehicles, surveillance machines and high powered communication gadgets. This would assist in earlier detection of the few that may decide to cause conflict and deal with them appropriately rather act when it's too late.

Table 3: Peace committee representatives

Peace committee representatives	Frequency	Percentage
First	25	17.1
Second	33	22.6
Third	40	27.4
Fourth	48	32.9
Total	146	100.0

On assigning the position of Peace committee representatives in terms of their speed of response to conflict situation whenever it occurred in Trans Mara, the study found out that majority of the respondents assigned peace committee

representatives fourth as shown by 32.9%,27.4% assigned it third,22.6% assigned it second whereas only 17.1% assigned first. This shows that Peace committee representatives come at the far end in times of conflict resolution in the community.

Table 4: Council of elders

Council of elders	Frequency	Percentage
first	20	13.7
Second	39	26.7
third	46	31.5
fourth	41	28.1
Total	146	100.0

On assigning the position of Council of elders in terms of their speed of response to conflict situation whenever it occurred in Trans Mara, the study found out that majority of the respondents assigned Council of elders third as shown by 31.5%,28.1%

assigned it fourth,26.7% assigned it second whereas only 13.7% assigned first. This shows that Council of elders also comes among the last options conflict resolution in the community.

Table 5: Provincial administration

Provincial administration	Frequency	Percentage
first	52	35.6
Second	45	30.8
third	20	13.7
fourth	29	19.9
Total	146	100.0

On assigning the position of Provincial administration in terms of their speed of response to conflict situation whenever it occurred in Trans Mara, the study found out that majority of the respondents assigned Provincial administration first as shown by 35.6%, 30.8% assigned it second, 19.9% assigned it fourth whereas only 13.7% assigned third. This shows that Provincial administration used to be the first in case of conflict in the region

Table 6: Peace building programs

Peace building programs	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	96	65.8
No	31	21.2
Don't know	19	13.0
Total	146	100.0

The researcher wanted to determine whether there was peace building programs being carried out to promote peaceful coexistence among communities in Trans Mara district, from the study majority of the respondents indicated that there were peace building programs being carried out to promote peaceful coexistence as shown by 65.8%, 21.2% indicated that there no

such initiative whereas only 13% of the respondents who indicated that they did not know. This is a clear indication that the individuals in the region have realized the importance of peace initiatives programmes and have also realized that no peaceful coexistence could be achieved until all parties are brought to the same platform and be made to understand the importance of peace.

Table 7: Peace committees in Trans Mara sub county

Peace committees	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	93	63.7
No	53	36.3
Total	146	100.0

On whether the respondents were aware of peace committees in Trans Mara district, the study established that majority of the respondents indicated that indicated that there

existed peace committees in the sub county as shown by 63.7% whereas only 36.3% who indicated that at no anytime there existed peace committees in the district.

Table 8: Existence of peace committee in Trans MaraSub County

Aware of the existence of peace committee	Frequency	Percentage
Through a friend	44	30.1
Over the radio	9	6.2
In a public baraza	66	45.2
Other	27	18.5
Total	146	100.0

On how the respondents became aware of the existence of peace committee in Trans Mara district, the study found out that majority of the respondents indicated that they became aware of these committees in public baraza, as shown by 45.2%, 30.1% indicated that they learned of existence through friends, 18.5% indicated that they heard of the committees from other sources and

finally 6.2% indicated that they became aware of the peace committees over the radio. This is an indication that provincial administration which should conduct as much as possible barazas in the district so that they can preach peace and let the people know that its only with peaceful coexistence they will be able to exploit the economical resources they have and live a good life.

Table 9: Civil society education to the community

Civil society	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	73	50.0
No	73	50.0
Total	146	100.0

On the respondents opinion whether the civil society was doing enough to educate the community on the need for peace, the study established that 50% of the respondents indicated yes and 50% indicated no. This is shows that the civil society is there but much impact not been felt in preaching peace and propagating for peaceful coexistence.

Among the reasons which made the respondents feel that the civil society has been doing a good job is because they prepared workshop for youth, women and men. They also encouraged people to live together and they educated people to trade together and live together. The civil societies have even taken these campaigns even in churches. They have continued to mobilize the various stakeholders, provincial administrations, local community leaders towards peace initiatives.

Table 10: Respondent’s level of agreement

Attributes	N	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Peace committee are effective approach to peace building and conflict management	146	5.00	2.12	0.19
Women and youth have been adequately involved in peace building initiatives	146	5.00	2.99	0.32
Peace committee resolutions often result in peaceful co-existence	146	5.00	2.39	0.16
Women are critical to be involved in decision making levels for peace building and conflict management	146	5.00	2.36	0.41
Government provides adequate support to peace committees in Trans-Mara	146	5.00	2.59	0.33
Peace campaigns yield much in peace building	146	5.00	1.93	0.11

The study also wanted to establish the respondent’s level of agreement on the above statements, from the study majority of the respondents agreed that peace campaigns yield much in peace building as shown by a mean of 1.93, they further agreed that peace committee are effective approach to peace building and conflict management and that women are critical to be involved in

decision making levels for peace building and conflict management as shown by a mean of 2.36. It was further established that Peace committee resolutions often result in peaceful co-existence and the government provides adequate support to peace committees in Trans-Mara.

Table 11: Age group participation

Age group participation	Frequency	Percentage
18-20	15	10.3
21-30	89	61.0
31-40	35	24.0
41-50	2	1.4
51-60	5	3.4
Total	146	100.0

The study also wanted to establish the age groups that participated in most of the ethnic conflict, from the study, it was revealed that majority of the people involved in ethnic conflict were aged between 21 and 30, as shown by 61%, others stated 31 to 40 as shown by 24%, 10.3% indicated 18 to 20 years, 3.4% indicated 51 to 60 and finally 1.4% indicated 41 to 50. This is an indication that the youths who are in their early adult hood are the

most prone to participation in ethnic conflict. This has been brought about by poor education system making majority of them drop out of school and recruited in very dangerous gangs that carries out the raids. Low level of employment also plays a role in this. In case these young adults are fully absorbed into the labour markets there will no one to conduct these inhumane actions.

Table 12: Traditional measures of conflict resolution

Traditional measures	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	125	85.6
No	21	14.4
Total	146	100.0

The study also wanted to establish whether the respondent’s community was still relying on traditional measures of conflict resolution, from the findings majority of the respondents indicated that they were still relying on traditional measures of conflict resolution as shown by 85.6% whereas 14.4% indicated that they did not rely on the rely on traditional measures of conflict resolution.

Table 13: Conflict resolution measure being practiced

Traditional conflict resolution	Frequency	Percentage
Council of elders	92	63.0
Resource management agreement	26	17.8
Intermarriages	27	18.5
Others	1	0.7
Total	146	100.0

On the most traditional conflict resolution measure being practiced in Trans Mara, the study established that council of elders was the most used practiced as shown by 63%,18.5% of the respondents indicated intermarriages,17.8% of the respondents indicated resource management agreement and finally 0.7% indicated others. This shows that traditional conflict resolution practices are still being practiced in the district

among the community and they had the logistical capacity required to reach the scene of crimes and assist the individuals affected. This is a clear indication that much more is desired from the government.

The research further established that there were peace building programs being carried out to promote peaceful coexistence. This is a clear indication that the individuals in the region have realized the importance of peace initiatives programmes and have also realized that no peaceful coexistence could be achieved until all parties are brought to the same platform and be made to understand the importance of peace. It was also revealed that that provincial administration should conduct as much as possible barazas in the district so that they can preach peace and let the people know that it’s only with peaceful coexistence that will enable their children go to school and complete their education. This will enable them exploit the economic resources they have and live a good life.

It also came to the researchers attention that peace campaigns yield much in peace building and this was represented by a mean of 1.93. Peace committee are effective approach to peace building and conflict management and that women are critical to be involved in decision making levels for peace building and conflict management and Peace committee resolutions often result in peaceful co-existence and the government provides adequate support to peace committees in Trans-Mara.

The research also established that majority of the people involved in ethnic conflict were aged between 21 and 30. This is an indication that the youths who are in their early adult hood are the most prone to participation in ethnic conflict. This has been brought about by poor education system making majority of them drop out of school and recruited in very dangerous gangs that carries out the raids. Low level of employment also plays a role in this. In case these young adults are fully absorbed in the labour markets there will no one to conduct these inhumane acts. It also revealed that the community was still relying on traditional

V. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the analysis and data collected, the following discussions, conclusion and recommendations were made. The responses were based on the objectives of the study. The purpose this study was to analyze the effectiveness of peace committee in peace building and conflict management in Trans Mara district, to investigate involvement of women and youth in peace building initiatives in Trans Mara district, to determine local measures in place to prevent recurrence of ethnic conflict in Trans Mara district

Summary of the findings

This research established that the main cause of conflict in the region was ethnic animosity which was represented by 61.1%. These findings concur with the findings of Adan & Pkalya (2006) who observed that in most communities, especially pastoralist ones, scarcity of resources was the main cause of conflict, resource management agreement helped to do reduce tensions among the many ethnic communities co-existing together. It was further established that provincial administration played significant role in conflict resolution. This shows that all representatives in the community were in involved in resolving conflict but the government played the significant role since it had resources and man power to bring volatile situations back to normalcy.

The reason behind the provincial administration being the first to respond during these calling times is because they lived

measures of conflict resolution and that council of elders was the most practiced.

Conclusion

The study concludes that main cause of conflict in the region was ethnic animosity and that provincial administration played significant role in conflict resolution. It further concludes that the reason behind the provincial administration being the first to respond during these calling times is because they lived among the community and they had the logistical capacity required to reach the scene of crimes and assist the individuals affected.

This research also concludes that there were peace building programs being carried out to promote peaceful coexistence. This is a clear indication that the individuals in the region have realized the importance of peace initiatives programmes and have also realized that no peaceful coexistence could be achieved until all parties are brought to the same platform and be made to understand the importance of peace.

The study also concludes that peace campaigns yield much in peace building and peace committee are effective approach to peace building and conflict management and that women are critical to be involved in decision making levels for peace building and conflict management.

The study finally concludes that majority of the people involved in ethnic conflict are aged between 21 and 30. This has been brought about by poor education system making majority of them drop out of school and recruited in very dangerous gangs that carries out the raids. Low level of employment also plays a role in this. In case these young adults are fully absorbed in the labour markets there will no one to conduct these inhumane actions.

Recommendations

This study therefore recommends that peace resolution initiate such as meeting people in churches, schools and launching peace campaigns should be adopted in the peace preaching process. This would play a significant role in creating awareness of peace initiatives. Organisations should use vehicles such as trailers and even hold public meetings and renew the committee's mode of doing things.

Training of youths and women should also be given more priority. This would empower them with more knowledge on what bring conflicts among communities and how to resolve it amicably. Formal education should also be encouraged among the youths which will finally promote and enhance development among other communities.

The county government should emphasize much on having local barazas whereby all the stakeholders in the district can fully participate giving their opinion in regard to peace process and train everyone to be peacemakers. Continuous monthly meetings and barazas by chiefs and assistant chiefs so that mwananchi could know that there is a government which is responsible. There should also be equal distribution of wealth and resources and a lot of transparency in sharing the resources despite ethnicity especially at this time of devolution in the county

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