

PROPEACEKENYA

Project for the Promotion of Peace and Cohesion in Kenya by Preventing and Mitigating Electoral Conflicts



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INTRODUCTION



*ECES Kenya Team meeting with Dr. Fred Matiang'i
Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Interior & Coordination of National Government, Kenya*

The “Pro-Peace Kenya” is a project for the Promotion of Peace and Cohesion in Kenya by Preventing and Mitigating Electoral Conflicts, dubbed “Uchaguzi Bila Noma 2022”. The Project is funded by the European Union and implemented via a partnership between the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES) and the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC).

NCIC is a Constitutional Commission mandated to promote national unity, equity and the elimination of all forms of ethnic discrimination by facilitating equality of opportunities, peaceful resolution of conflicts and respect for diversity among Kenyan communities. ECES is an independent, non-partisan and not for profit Foundation established in 2010 that has implemented activities already in **more than 50 countries**, mainly, but not only, in Africa and the Middle East, primarily with funding from the EU and EU Member states.

ECES and NCIC entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote joint activities for a peaceful electoral environment from 2021 to 2023. The resulting “Pro-Peace Kenya” Project supports the interventions of NCIC and aims at preventing election related conflict and violence in the general and presidential elections of 2022 and beyond. The Project builds on the various experiences of collaborating partners in working to promote peace and cohesion to prevent and mitigate conflicts and electoral related violence, as well as to build trust, inclusion, cohesion and political space, notably in view of supporting the “Road Map of Peaceful Elections 2022” published by NCIC.

BACKGROUND

Kenya population is 47,564,296 as per the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) census data 2019 (of which 23,548,056 49.5% were male; 24,014,716 50.4% female; 13,777,600 29% Youth). In 2017, registered voters were 19,611,423 (10,469,148 53.4% male; 9,142,275 46.6%; 9,930,315 51% youth).

Kenya is a multi-party democracy with a presidential system consisting of a National Government, 47 County Governments, 290 constituencies, 1,450 wards.

Kenya Constitution establishes a Presidential Republic in which sovereignty is exercised by the people through democratically elected representatives. In 2010, as necessitated by the 2007 post-electoral violence, a revised Constitution introduced a number of key changes designed to create a more decentralized political system, particularly with respect to balancing presidential powers and established a new devolved system of 47 local counties, which replaced 8 provinces and 46 districts.

Since the first multiparty elections in 1992, the electoral integrity in Kenya has been a contentious issue, with a history of elections marred by violence. The open seat presidential elections (1992, 2002, 2013) were relatively more peaceful than the ones when the incumbent sought re-election (1997, 2007, 2017). The 2007 elections are widely considered as the most violent in Kenya's democratic history. The post-election violence saw approx. 1,150 killed and over 300,000 displaced.

General Elections are held every 5 years. There are 6 elective positions in Kenya, namely:

1. The President: This is the Head of State and National Government elected by voters of the Republic of Kenya
2. Member of National Assembly (MP): Member of Parliament elected to represent a Constituency in the National Assembly
3. Senator: Member of Parliament elected to represent a County in the Senate
4. County Woman Member of the National Assembly (County Woman Representative): Female Member of Parliament elected to represent a County in the National Assembly
5. Governor: The elected Chief Executive of the County Government
6. Member of the County Assembly (MCA): An elected member representing an electoral Ward in the County Assembly.

The upcoming General Election is scheduled for Tuesday 9th August 2022 as stipulated in the Constitution of Kenya (CoK 2010) Article 101 (1).

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of “Pro-Peace Kenya” is to promote peace, cohesion and political dialogue and to prevent, mitigate and manage conflicts and political and election-related conflict and violence ahead of the new electoral cycle in Kenya.

The project is articulated through 4 main areas aiming to achieve the following specific objectives:

- **Specific objective 1:** To strengthen capacities of peace, cohesion and electoral stakeholders to prevent conflicts and electoral related violence at the local, county, and national levels
- **Specific objective 2:** To Strengthen conflict resolution and peace infrastructures that effectively resolve conflicts and curb electoral related violence
- **Specific objective 3:** To increase understanding, tolerance, trust, and peaceful co-existence among Kenyans
- **Specific objective 4:** To Reduce incidences of electoral violence, hate speech, ethnic contempt in traditional and social media, and in public spaces

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

The European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES)



ECES Website: www.eces.eu

ECES promotes electoral and democratic strengthening through the provision of advisory services, operational support and management of large projects mainstreaming capacity and leadership development, via peer exchanges and comparative experiences, dialogue and the prevention and mitigation of electoral conflicts.

ECES has obtained the TRACE certification for its financial management transparency and the ISO 9001 certification for its Quality Management System. ECES has crafted and copyrighted its strategy called "A European Response to Electoral Cycle Support - EURECS", which is implemented via specific methodologies and tools also copyrighted by ECES. EURECS is an innovative delivery mechanism to implement electoral and democracy assistance activities that are consistent primarily with European values and EU policies, targeting the facilitation of the cooperation on electoral matters between the EU, the EU member states and their partner countries. ECES together with the College of Europe and other partners, is implementing on behalf of the EU the ERMES project, the European Resource for Mediation Support. ECES is providing the key expertise and the office for the project that is a strategic tool for the EU role in mediation and dialogue. In this context ECES is also a member of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office network, the biggest and leading civil society European platform of 40 independent organisations and think tanks from 16 European countries committed to peacebuilding and the prevention of conflict.

www.eces.eu

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC)



NCIC Website: www.cohesion.or.ke

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) is a statutory body established under the National Cohesion and Integration Act No.12 of 2008. The establishment of NCIC recognized the need for a national institution to promote national identity and values, mitigate ethno-political competition and ethnically motivated violence, eliminate discrimination on ethnic, racial and religious basis and promote national reconciliation and healing.

The mandate of NCIC as provided for in Section 25(1) is to facilitate and promote equality of opportunity, good relations, harmony and peaceful co-existence between persons of the different ethnic, racial and religious communities of Kenya, and to advise the Government on all aspects thereof.

NCIC is mandated to facilitate and promote equality of opportunity, good relations, harmony and peaceful co-existence between persons of the different ethnic, religious and racial communities of Kenya, and to advise the Government on all aspects thereof. Their Vision is a Just and Equitable Society living in peace, unity and dignity; NCIC Mission is to promote national unity, equity and the elimination of all forms of ethnic discrimination by facilitating equality of opportunities, peaceful resolution of conflicts and respect for diversity among Kenyan communities.

www.cohesion.or.ke

Collaboration with the African Union (AU)



ECES Team with and Bankole Adeoyemira, Commissioner for Political Affairs and Peace and Security of the African Union

On 20th May 2021, Fabio Bargiacchi, Founder and Executive Director of ECES, and Bankole Adeoyemira, Commissioner for Political Affairs and Peace and Security of the African Union, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at consolidating their comprehensive partnership in the areas of Electoral Integrity, Prevention of Electoral Conflicts, Human Rights and Women Political Participation. The MoU intends to further strengthen the cooperation and synergies between ECES and the African Union (AU), recognizing their complementarity in support of electoral processes including in countries like Kenya.

Collaboration with other Electoral Stakeholders in Kenya

ECES in Kenya is collaborating with other Electoral Actors with an aim of formulating synergies and areas for collaboration. The Agencies and organisations with which ECES will collaborate in Kenya are the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), Commission on Administrative Justice – CAJ (The Ombudsman), Political Parties Liaison Committee (PPLC), Electoral Law and Governance Institute for Africa (ELGIA) and Election Observation Group (ELOG).

ACTIVITIES

Key Focus Area 1: Strengthening capacities of Peace and Cohesion Electoral Actors

- 1.1.1: Undertake Electoral Political Economy Analyses (EPEA) to identify underlying factors, frameworks (formal and informal) and dynamics that shape stakeholder perceptions, motivations, values and ideas regarding electoral processes, with a focus on electoral integrity.
- 1.1.2: Undertake Quarterly Electoral Security Threat Assessment (ESTA) to identify and monitor localized conflicts and external threats affecting electoral and political scenarios in Kenya.
- 1.1.3: Map relevant actors, including potential spoilers and pro-democracy and pro-peace groups at the national, regional, county and local levels.

Key Focus Area 2: Establishment and support to conflict prevention and resolution infrastructures

- 2.1.1: Establish, train and mentor an inclusive Conflict and Electoral Violence Prevention and Response Coalition (EVPRC) and an electoral complaints referral mechanism to guide regional and local committees and to coordinate action to prevent and respond to conflict and electoral related violence (CERV.)
- 2.1.2: Establish, train, and mentor Independent alternative conflict resolution mechanisms and facilitate their involvement in conflict mediation

- 2.1.3: Implement LEAD training programme for members of the inclusive electoral violence and conflict prevention and response coalition at the national and regional level.
- 2.1.4: Facilitate intra and inter-communal dialogues in conflict hot-spot areas.
- 2.1.5: Strengthen conflict early warning response systems and enhance linkages with the National Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) system.
- 2.1.6: Train security officers on peace, cohesion and electoral security
- 2.1.7: Develop an information guide on the role of security forces and good practices on fruitful collaboration between security forces and other electoral stakeholders.
- 2.1.8: Hold Multistakeholder confidence building seminars
- 2.1.9: Build the capacity of the traditional and local peace infrastructure to coordinate peace building initiatives.

Key Focus Area 3: Civic, Political and Voter Education on Peace building

- 3.1.1: Support to NCIC county level partners to conduct communication campaigns
- 3.1.2: Build the capacity of IEBC and NCIC with INNOV-ELECTIONS to enhance their knowledge and increase conflict management/prevention in the conduct of elections and in the adjudication of elections disputes.
- 3.1.3: Conduct Peace education for political party leaders
- 3.1.4: Finalize peace education section for the IEBC's voter education handbook and conduct Peace education for actors working on election-related programmes.
- 3.1.5: Undertake audio -visual campaign of pro-peace messaging especially in areas where citizens do not have access to electricity, internet and cinema.
- 3.1.6: Hold dialogue meetings to promote adoption of ADR and conflict resolution mechanisms
- 3.1.7: Conduct national and regional symposia with partners and thought leaders on themes that enhance violence-free elections.
- 3.1.8: Facilitate cohesion and trust building platforms between community members, security agencies and political leaders.

Key Focus Area 4: Media Monitoring of hate speech, ethnic contempt and incitement to violence

- 4.1.1: Train journalists, editors and media owners, including vernacular radio stations, on conflict-sensitive election reporting.
- 4.1.2: Monitor mainstream media (social and traditional) media platforms and public spaces to detect and address hate speech ethnic contempt and incitement to violence through the MMU
- 4.1.3: Establish and build the capacity of NCIC's Media Monitoring Unit (MMU) and other actors on media monitoring conflict and election related violence
- 4.1.4: Undertake an integrated media-led campaigns to promote peace, cohesion and peaceful elections.
- 4.1.5: Monitor and observe electoral processes for hate speech, ethnic contempt and incitement to violence.

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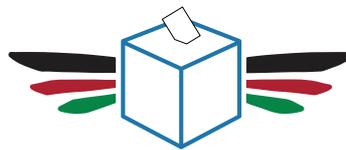
Pro-Peace Kenya Project Website: www.democracy-support.eu/kenya



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