



Peace Initiative Kenya

USAID / John Ndeta



Peace Initiative Kenya works with community leaders and local government officials from the Maasai Mara area to develop a joint action plan to mitigate risks for gender-based violence.

Funding Level:
\$5.1 million

Duration:
June 2012 – September 2015

- Activity Goals:**
- Strengthen targeted county governments to effectively address gender-based violence as a key issue through improved provision of services and relevant policy implementation
 - Increase access and utilization of gender-based violence services provision through community outreach and publicity

- Activity Accomplishments::**
- 5,859 women took a role in peace and reconciliation and gender-based violence events
 - 8,628 individuals reached with gender-based violence services – health, legal, psycho-social, counseling, shelters, hotlines etc.
 - Supported the GIS mapping of available gender-based violence services

Implementing Partner:
International Rescue Committee, with funding to: African Woman and Child Feature Service, Coalition on Violence Against Women – Kenya, Healthcare Assistance Kenya, Rural Women Peace Link, Sauti ya Wanawake Pwani

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Phase two of Peace Initiative Kenya focuses on improving national and county-level gender-based violence service delivery systems and policy implementation. The activity strengthens county engagement in preventing and responding to gender-based violence and increases access and utilization of gender-based violence services through community outreach and awareness raising efforts.

ACTIVITY AREAS

Peace Initiative Kenya supports grassroots organizations and peace actors from county, regional, and national peace summits to address existing conflicts and develop strategies to promote peace.

The activity supports prevention of gender-based violence and focuses on improving the current response frameworks at the national and local levels. Peace Initiative Kenya also leverages opportunities catalyzed by the current political transition to county government. The transition allows Peace Initiative Kenya to advocate for the establishment and maintenance of social service delivery for gender-based violence and the allocation of financial resources for gender-based violence prevention and service provision.

The activity continues to target women and men as partners in gender-based violence prevention, with a special focus on men as agents for change and influential women as conveners of advocacy groups.

Peace Initiative Kenya also leads an innovative civic education campaign at county and national levels with opportunities for community conversations, awareness events and local advocacy.

ACTIVITY IMPACT

At 22, Pamela Achieng (below), of Nyatike, Migori County, was married and miserable, living in constant fear.

“I lived a life of tears, I was married to a man who did not respect any of my rights,” she reflects.

Her salvation came when she joined a small community gathering of women who discussed gender-based violence.

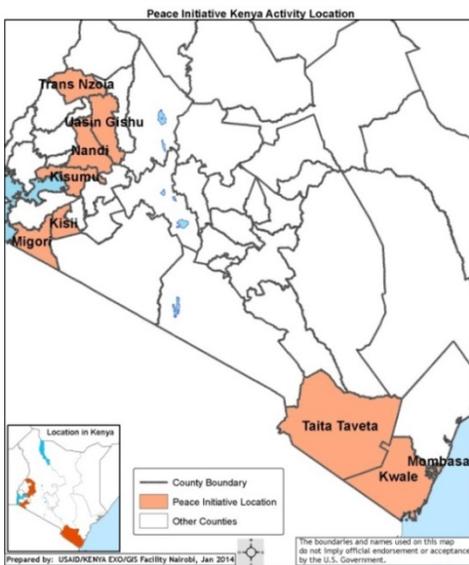
“When I joined the group, I asked myself if these were all the

Key Partners:

Kenya's National Gender and Equality Commission, the National Female Genital Mutilation Board, Judiciary, County Executives, County Assemblies, National Assembly, parliamentary caucuses, and the Ministry of Devolution and Planning - Directorate of Gender, private sector, religious groups and civil society

Activity Locations:

Nyanza, Coast and Rift, covering nine counties: Taita Taveta, Kwale, Mombasa, Kisumu, Migori, Kisii, Uasin Gishu, Nandi and Trans Nzoia.



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rights I had been missing out on,” said Achieng, now 48.

Once aware of gender-based violence, Achieng wanted to help others. She started speaking out against gender-based violence and became a member of the Start Awareness Support Action (SASA) community group in Migori, a team of 16 women and 14 men. With support from USAID's Peace Initiative Kenya activity, the group is finding ways to discourage gender-based violence in Migori County.

“I am happy that we are able to reach out to people especially in Nyatike where taboos and culture are deeply rooted,” said Achieng. “We want to encourage people to speak out,” she added.

Through door to door discussions and informal gatherings, Achieng has reached out to 20 homes within her community and



successfully helped in the legal process of two cases.

“In Migori, issues with gender-based violence are intense within the community, at first we had many challenges but now, we have become visible, the chiefs help us a lot in this fight,” she said.

USAID works to empower women to promote their own social and economic development.