



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MINISTRY OF STATE FOR PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION & INTERNAL SECURITY

KENYA NATIONAL FOCAL POINT ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

**KENYA'S REPORT ON THE INTERRELATION AND INITIATIVE ON
ARMED VIOLENCE AND DEVELOPMENT 2011**

Introduction

Kenya is privileged and committed to the membership of the Core- Group spearheading the principles and goals of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development. The country is indeed pleased to have been selected as one of the pilot countries for a study and implementation on the integration of Armed Violence with Development.

Kenya recognizes the nexus between Security and Development that have continuously been discussed in various UN and other international forums. This linkage is critical for the attainment of the Millenium Declaration Goals (MDGs) as peace and security issues have a direct impact on the National Development Strategies.

The Government in collaboration with other citizens and other stakeholders has remained committed to implementing this Declaration. Programmes and activities in line with this Declaration have been implemented at the local, national, regional and international level through various strategies.

Among the key plans and strategies put in place is the Vision 2030. Kenya's Vision 2030 is an economic development plan that aims at producing annual economic growth rates of 10%. Fundamental to this is the peace and security thematic area which is critical to the attainment of the above.

The Vision thus recognizes that safety and security are vital enablers of the country's political, social and economic development providing an enabling environment for individuals, investment and overall improvement in the various sectors.

The plan acknowledges that the democratic provision of safety and security and the prevention of violent conflict are crucial to good

governance and to long-term development and poverty reduction. Widespread insecurity, high levels of crime, inter-communal conflicts, and Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) proliferation are acknowledged as impacting negatively on Kenya's peace and development.

In implementation of the Vision, the First Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2008-2012 has been developed for phase one. This commits the country to adopt policy, legal and institutional framework in security, peacebuilding and conflict management that will be ideal for specific strategies.

Context Analysis

In Kenya, resort to violence is fuelled by political and socio-economic factors. The increase in armed violence in most communities especially the pastoral areas, was catalyzed by proliferation of SALW, cattle rustling practices, banditry, competition for pasture and water as well as limited presence of administrative structures. This has had a direct bearing on poverty and under development.

Organized criminal gangs both in urban and rural areas remain a big challenge to peace, security and development in Kenya. There are various factors that have contributed to this phenomenon. Among these is the involvement of youths in armed violence. Socio-economic factors such as unemployment, sectarian and traditional factors that have seen a number of organized gangs maiming their kith and kin. The problem is complicated by easy availability and access to illicit SALW. More so, it poses challenges to the security apparatus whose capacity in addressing the problem has been overstretched.

The impact of armed violence on sustainable development in Kenya has been evident in many regions.

Economically, adverse impact has continued to be felt in the ASAL regions which have been the hub on illicit SALW in the recent years. Following the post-election violence in 2007 Kenya's economic development, more so in the urban centers' was adversely affected with an aggregate decline of growth rate from 7% in the year 2006 to below 3% growth rate in 2008 and 1.7% in 2009 although there are other contributing factors for this decline. Armed violence in general has perpetuated extreme poverty, increased illiteracy, increased vulnerability of gender, youth and children, unemployment, limited opportunities for job creation thus underdevelopment.

Against this background the GOK in collaboration with stakeholders have undertaken initiatives geared at addressing armed violence for attainment of the MDGs.

ADDRESSING ARMED VIOLENCE IN KENYA

- **Security Sector Reforms (SSR)** The Government has partnered with other stakeholders (*CBOS, NGOS, Development Partners, Research institutions, community structures*) to undertake various initiatives at the local, national and regional levels with a view to address the issue of armed violence. This is in recognition that SSR requires holistic approach for security in respect to fundamental rights and the rule of law.
- Following the recommendations made by the National police reform task force the government is keen on fasttracking the police reforms aimed at improving service provision by Kenya's law enforcement agencies.
- These reforms are undertaken in light of institutional strengthening, enhanced capacity building and improved service

delivery. Through the increment of numbers and facilities of operation.

Institutional Development

Specific departments in the government have been mandated to coordinate issues on SALW and peacebuilding.

The **Kenya National Focal Point on SALW(KNFP)** is an interagency responsible for co-ordination initiatives and action on small arms and light weapons (SALW) in Kenya. It operates alongside the sister unit the National Steering Committee on Peace building and Conflict Management (NSC), their mandate is derived from;

- ◆ The UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects (UNPOA) 2001.
- ◆ The UN Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition 2001.
- ◆ Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons 2000.
- ◆ The Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of the Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa 2000.
- ◆ The Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa 2004
- ◆ Conflict Early Warning Response Mechanism Protocol of IGAD states.

Under these the following key initiatives have been undertaken

Development of the Policy on Small Arms and Light Weapons

The Government has developed the Policy on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The policy provides a framework within which the problem of illicit arms will be addressed. It also provides for legislative reviews and harmonization of all existing laws on small arms. It comprehensively address the demand and supply areas with proposals on programs for averting the scenario. While the policy has not been passed by parliament, part implementation of the same is ongoing alongside the Proposed Policy on Peacebuilding and Conflict management and the Protocol on cattle rustling.

Institutional strengthening and capacity building.

The government has instituted the establishment of 8 provincial task forces, 24 district task forces, and 54 district peace committees to facilitate programmes at the local level focusing on the hot spots areas. These programmes entail sensitization on SALW and peacebuilding, initiatives related to arms control and management in the light of community policing, sensitization/awareness raising and development.

Arms marking for traceability

This programme targets the law enforcement agencies charged who are custodians of state owned firearms. This seeks to ensure accurate national record keeping of civilian and state owned stocks and to facilitate information exchange on the regional and national level. Currently, proper-records of all arms brokers and dealers are in place in the country are building steps which will address the problem of SALW in all its aspects as stated in the global and regional instruments.

Disarmament and Arms destruction initiatives

Security Teams have been organized by the KNFP/NSC to facilitate planning of disarmament conflict prone areas. This has be in tandem

with government advocacy strategy for development of the Northern Kenya .Under this programme in Dumisha Amani 1 and II exercise. Communities in Kenya have voluntarily surrendered and other been forced to surrender as a result of gross violations of human rights. Noteworthy, the exercise has been carried out in accordance to guidelines and guarantee incentive based on infrastructural development. This forum sought to review Dumisha Amani 1- disarmament and way forward for the undertaking in consideration of conflict sensitive approaches. The success of this programme is evidenced from the public destruction of more than 50,000 rounds of ammunitions ,36,000 military ordinances and 25,197 illicit SALW since 2003.

Alternative Livelihood Projects

This is a comprehensive strategy and effective design of programmes on armed violence reduction in pastoral communities *KNFP, ALRMP, and UNDP*. It seeks to assess and survey the problem of armed violence in the pastoralist **communities and contribute to** development of a national strategy for armed violence prevention by integrating traditional peace arbitration and conflict resolution justice systems with the project initiatives, secure storage of police weapons and voluntary collection and destruction of illicit weapons in the communities, raise awareness of the dangers of gun use and the negative impacts of armed violence *and* improvement of access to resources, and identification and implementation of livelihood opportunities and sustainable income generating activities

Youth and Development

The government of Kenya has prioritized youth empowerment through vocational training and has created opportunities for youth access to education. Local youth polytechnics have been revived across the

country to accommodate more youth in enterprise and business skills training. The Free Primary Education (FPE) programme has been intensified to absorb more youth. More recently, the *Kazi Kwa Vijana* (Employment for Youth) programme was launched with a view to turn the negative energies of the youth into positive and constructive energies.

Regional cooperation

Kenya is a signatory to a number of regional protocols and agreements regarding small arms and conflict management. Examples of these are the Nairobi Declaration on SALW, Nairobi Protocol, a Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism Protocol, (CEWARN) for Intergovernmental Authority on Development IGAD, UN Programme of Action on Small Arms (UNPoA), and the Ottawa Convention to ban Land mines among others. The Government has ratified and domesticated most of these instruments, as a sign of political commitment and goodwill. In addition Kenya hosts the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) that brings together 13 countries within the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa. This depicts Kenya's commitment to addressing the problem of proliferation of illicit SALW not only in the region but also in the international system.

Kenya's signature to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in Oslo, Norway in December 2008 is a clear indication of its commitment to support efforts aimed at limiting the indiscriminate effects to civilians of Cluster Munitions as areas affected are not suitable for economic development and growth. The Convention provides a vital link to these other existing Conventions and strengthens their role in limiting the proliferation of weapons and enable development in areas affected after clearance.

Kenya is strongly involved in the Arms trade treaty (ATT). It provided views on the Draft Parameters, Scope, and Feasibility and is an active member of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE). The government continues to work very closely with the Civil Society and UN agencies under the stewardship of UNDP and Civil Society Organizations (CSO's) to address armed violence and development. Among the CSO's working in Kenya on small arms issues are Oxfam, PeaceNet, Saferworld, Kenya Action Network on Small Arms (KANSA), Africa Peace Forum and Security Research information Centre (SRIC). These have been working together to consolidate national, regional and international action on SALW, notably their support to the Arms Trade Treaty process and engagement with Group of Government Experts.

Kenya government has implemented international conventions and agreements, which address issues related to armed violence and development.

At the regional level, the East Africa Police Chiefs Co-operation Organization (EAPCCO) has been instrumental in steering the process for the development of a draft protocol on Cattle Rustling. Consultative meetings between the Defence Chiefs and Ministers in charge of defence have also been enhanced in the eastern Africa region. to strengthen cross-border collaboration and information exchange, Kenya and Uganda have positioned liaison officers on both sides of the border. Kenya encourages the facilitation of cross-border peace dialogue with her neighbours.

Major Challenges

Kenya is faced with a series of challenges that impede the interventions in armed violence reduction.

- i. High unemployment rate especially among the youth who constitute over 60% of the entire population compounded by the rising poverty levels among the general population.
- ii. Problem of drug and substance abuse among the youth that often result in changing trends in crime.
- iii. Political instability among the neighbouring countries also poses serious challenges to Kenya's initiatives towards armed violence reduction.

Recommendations

To effectively address armed violence in Kenya a number of recommendations are made for consideration:

- Harmonized funding framework for armed violence reduction and development initiatives.
- Strengthening the capacities of various stakeholders.
- Enhanced international support to ensure national reforms efforts are implemented in relation to promote good governance, rule of law and accountability.
- The need for the harmonization of policy and legislation that will promote a co-ordinated approach to armed violence reduction and development.
- Strengthened awareness raising and education on issues of armed violence reduction, peace building, conflict management and small arms reduction.

- Strengthening regional and sub-regional interventions and frameworks on armed violence reduction such as the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSEA).
- Establishing a Monitoring and Evaluation reporting mechanisms in relation to the implementation of the Geneva Declaration on Armed violence and development.

Conclusion

Noting that governments are responsible for guaranteeing the security of their citizens, its imperative that States take measures to address the problem. This is a great step towards realization of the MDGS in all its aspects, in Kenya, Africa and the world at large can be realized.

Kenya is commitment to promote sustainable security and a culture of peace through implementation of the Geneva declaration on armed Violence and Development.