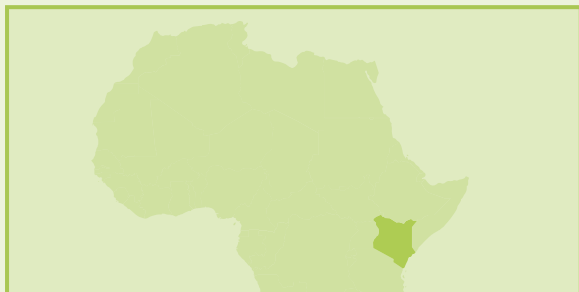


## Conflict prevention, peace and economic opportunities for the youth (Youth programme) in Kenya



### EU Trust Fund for Africa – Horn of Africa



#### EUTF PARTNERS:



German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) and Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation (SAIDC)



**COUNTRY:**  
Kenya



**BUDGET:**  
EUR 14.3M



From **09/2016**  
to **02/2022**

### Objective of the programme

To contribute to increased peace, stability and inclusive economic opportunities for youth in marginalised areas in Kenya

### Key successes

- > Income increased by 28% for beneficiaries of the Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation and employment among beneficiaries of the Kenya Red Cross Society increased from 47% to 91%
- > Mentees who did not identify any benefit of terrorism increased from 88% to 95%
- > Improved productivity was reported for SAIDC beneficiaries in terms of production yields (158 kgs of harvested cashews per season at baseline to 1,132 kgs at endline)

Communities in marginalised areas of Kenya experience high levels of exclusion, lack of opportunities, inequality and poverty. Through four different projects, the Youth programme aimed to improve conflict prevention, peace and economic opportunities for vulnerable youth and the general population in targeted areas of Kenya, particularly in the north-eastern and coastal counties as well as in urban areas. **The targeted communities now benefit from increased economic opportunities and improved relations with other community members and law enforcement officers.**

Through the Youth programme, the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) targeted 4,500 young people in eight counties in Kenya through income-generating activities, vocational training and conflict prevention support. The KRCS organised events to bring young people together, including a football match between Majengo and Shella youth groups in Malindi, Kilifi County. The match was organised following reports of rivalries and retaliatory attacks between the two groups and aimed to improve relationships between their members. An event was also organised to promote better relationships between the young people and security officers from the community by actively engaging them in dialogues.

*'My friends and I were so excited [to have the opportunity to participate in a soccer match] and we felt really nice because it makes us feel like we were an important part of the society', said Mudhir Adnan, Coach of the Zaragoza Youth Football Club from Kilifi County, Kenya.*



Zaragoza Youth Football Club in Kilifi, Kenya. © Kenya Red Cross Society

*The coach continued: 'We had the dialogue at the Red Cross offices after the match and it was very exciting and important to have law enforcement officers present. At least we all had a chance to discuss issues freely and make peace and, in one way or another, it helped in creating an understanding and, had we not gotten this opportunity, then the [tensions] between security officers and youth would never come to an end.'*<sup>1</sup>

### How did the EUTF help?

The programme carried out vocational skills training for 3,160 marginalised and vulnerable youth, offered income-generating activities for 4,500 youth, conducted mentoring activities for 253 youth at-risk to reduce the influence of violent extremist groups, and delivered trainings and support to link 15,000 smallholder farmers with private sector actors in Kenya's cashew sector.

The programme led to notable changes for the participants, including enhanced economic outcomes, better conflict prevention and strengthened efforts in preventing and countering of violent extremism.<sup>2</sup>

The income-generating activities and vocational trainings helped **improve economic opportunities, income and productivity** for both marginalised individuals and the broader community. By the end of the programme, the proportion of KRCS beneficiaries in employment increased from 47% to 91%, while 73% of people trained by the GIZ secured jobs following their training.<sup>3</sup> People trained by the SAIDC and GIZ also saw their average salaries increase by 28% and 10% respectively, and 83% of KRCS's beneficiaries reported an increase in their income of more than 10%. Production yields for SAIDC beneficiaries increased from 158 kgs of harvested cashews per season at baseline to 1,132 kgs at the end. Over 98% of the farmers surveyed had accessed organic or fair trade certification or were undertaking the process of doing so.

**Improved conflict prevention awareness and practices** were also reported among youth, community members, law enforcement officers and media actors. For example, KRCS-trained youths' awareness of various methods of conflict resolution increased from 75% to 98%. Radio professionals trained by RUSI reported increased awareness of conflict-sensitive journalism practices. RUSI also reported a positive **shift in attitudes towards violent extremism**, with the percentage of mentees who saw no benefits in joining violent extremist groups rising from 88% to 95%.

## Keys to success

**Consortium approach:** The combination of the specific capacities of each implementing partner allowed for a more comprehensive approach to countering and preventing violent extremism in their areas of expertise or operation. The expertise leveraged included KRCS's experience in operating in high-risk areas, GIZ's experience in vocational skills training, and RUSI's research expertise on conflict prevention.

**Context-specific conflict prevention interventions and dialogue:** Both RUSI and KRCS built on existing traditional 2015 'Nyumba Kumi Initiative' developed in response to systems for handling grievances and conflict, such as by involving community or religious leaders.

KRCS built on the Kenyan government's community policing strategy (the increased violence and terrorism in Kenya), promoted county forums, and empowered youth peace committee members to act as ambassadors between security officials and communities. RUSI facilitated dialogue between law enforcement and community actors, and its unique **mentorship approach** (pairing youth at-risk with peer mentors and support groups) helped create supportive networks and foster positive social identities. RUSI also developed a mentorship manual to help guide other similar mentorship approaches.<sup>4</sup>

**Private sector involvement:** Most projects engaged private sector actors from the design phase and throughout implementation. For instance, SAIDC collaborated with Ten Senses Africa, a processing company, to integrate beneficiaries in supply and production chains. Similarly, KRCS and GIZ facilitated connections by linking its trainees with private institutions to access apprenticeships and employment opportunities.

## Building on success

The partnerships the programme has created with private sector actors offers strong potential for sustainability by facilitating more long-term support for the project beneficiaries, independently of the programme. The EU will also continue working with or supporting some of the private actors involved in the Youth programme. The EU-funded 'AgriFI Kenya Challenge Fund' will keep supporting Ten Senses Africa to establish a processing plant in Kilifi County, purchase machinery and support the purchasing of cashew nuts from the 15,000 SAIDC-trained farmers.

For the other projects, continuity will be partially ensured through new technical and vocational education and training and livelihoods programmes funded by the EU and other donors. These programmes include: 'Promotion of youth employment and vocational training' (German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, €79M), 'Reducing insecurity and violent extremism in northern and coastal regions of Kenya' (UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, £20M), and a NDICI-funded project supporting the digital sector (€10M).

<sup>1</sup> EUTF, 'Reconciling youth groups through soccer', 24 May 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, 'Enhancement of livelihoods in the Kenyan coastal region by supporting organic and fair-trade certification of smallholders', 2022; Fisher, T., et al. 'Evaluation of 'Strengthening resilience to violent extremism (STRIVE II)', September 2020; KRCS, 'Conflict prevention, peace and economic opportunities – End-term evaluation report', March 2021.

<sup>3</sup> Altai Consulting, 'Lessons learned from a consortium approach to stability and conflict prevention in Kenya', January 2019.

<sup>4</sup> RUSI, 'A mentorship manual for countering violent extremism', 2020.



EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa

### Disclaimer

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