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| Danish organisation | Danish Minorities’ Center for Human Rights and Development (DMC-HRD) |
| Title of the intervention | Empowering Youths to be agents of peace in Eastleigh |
| Partner name(s) | Peace at Heart Initiative Network (PHIN) |
| Amount applied for | 99.990,00 Danish Kroner |
| Country(ies) | Kenya |
| Period (# of months) | Four (4) months |

1. **Objective and relevance**

**• What do you want to achieve through the intervention?**

With the view of protecting citizen’s right to vote and contributing towards peace during the forthcoming August 2022 Kenyan General Elections, this intervention is aimed at building the capacity of a core group of 30 youths of diverse ethnicity living in Eastleigh area of Nairobi Kenya to engage in activities that will be aimed at promoting peace and contributing towards a peaceful environment for citizens to exercise their right to vote without any intimidation, coercion or violence. The background of this intervention lies with the fact that Kenya’s General Elections are usually characterised by ethnic mobilisation of voters and electoral violence with the worst having been witnessed during the 2007 General Elections when the country experienced widespread election violence in which 1,200 people were reported killed and 300,000 people displaced[[1]](#footnote-1). According to a March 2022 Policy Brief by the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), the forthcoming August 2022 elections in Kenya are likely to be characterised by violence owing to escalating ethnic and political tensions[[2]](#footnote-2). Like in other parts of Kenya, youths in Eastleigh are usually at the centre of the election violence because they are mobilised by powerful politicians to engage in election violence; it therefore this reason that this intervention has been planned to focus at building the capacity of youths to become agents of peace that will be promoting peace and protecting the right to vote during the elections.

Eastleigh is an area mostly inhabited by Kenyans of Somali ethnic group; one of the minority ethnic groups in Kenya. Eastleigh is currently lacking in open spaces and appropriate venues for the civic engagement of youths, hence, by having youths as the primary target group of this intervention, this intervention will be providing the much-needed space for the civic engagement of the youths in Eastleigh. Peace at Heart Initiative Network (PHIN), the local partner organisation in Kenya is strategically located in Eastleigh, enabling it to deliver this intervention from within the geographic community.

**• Why is the intervention important?**

This intervention is important because it shall facilitate youths who have been at centre of election violence in the past, and who are prone of being mobilised to cause violence, to become agents of peace during the election period; this intervention shall facilitate youths of diverse ethnic background to take lead in undertaking activities aimed at promoting peace during the elections period. Furthermore, this intervention is important because it shall facilitate youths to get engaged in election observations by monitoring and documenting the extent of peace and the extent to which international election standards (citizens’ political rights linked to elections) will be respected during the elections, and therefore protecting the right to vote and the integrity of the elections**.** In addition, given the ethnic tensions that characterize elections in Kenya, this intervention is important because by mobilizing youths from diverse ethnic groups to work together towards promoting peace across different ethnic groups in Eastleigh and holding of a community dialogue meeting to comprise stakeholders of diverse ethnic background, this intervention will not only contribute towards peace during the elections but will also contribute towards social cohesion beyond the election period.

* **Describe the context of the intervention**

This intervention will be implemented in Eastleigh, a suburb located in Nairobi, Kenya. Eastleigh has a population of about 230,000 inhabitants and it is divided into three administrative areas known as Wards. The majority of the inhabitants in Eastleigh are Kenyan citizens of Somali ethnicity. Other than Somalis, the area comprises Kenyans of other ethnic groups and is home to many refugees from mostly around the horn of Africa including Somalia. According to a report by the Rift Valley Institute of Kenya, Kenyans of Somali ethnicity in Eastleigh are marginalised and stereotyped as terrorists largely because they share the same ethnicity as Somalis from Somalia, a country which the Kenyan government had deployed its military to fight al-Shabaab, a terrorist group based in Somalia. The stereotyping of Somalis as being terrorists has caused mistrust between Somalis and other Kenyan ethnic groups in Eastleigh and across Kenya. The perception of Kenyan-Somali residents in Eastleigh as foreigners and terrorist gained traction when the Kenyan Government had at one time “targeted Eastleigh in massive security sweeps, resulting in thousands of Eastleigh residents being detained and an estimated 500 people being deported”[[3]](#footnote-3).

Like in other parts of Kenya, poverty and unemployment are very high in Eastleigh. Unemployment is a major challenge that affects youth in Eastleigh and across Kenya. About 80% of Kenyans below 35 years old (census 2019) are unemployed. As a result of limited or no opportunities to access meaningful and gainful employment, the majority of youth are not able to realize their potential and explore their talents to sustain their livelihoods. Due to economic factors such as unemployment, youths living in Eastleigh area of Nairobi are susceptible to being mobilised and influenced by powerful individuals, politicians, and political parties to engage in violence during the election period.

Furthermore, the youth residing in Eastleigh do not have a space for effective civic participation. Most civil society organizations (CSOs) working on youth issues in the area are focused on welfare and religious issues; there are no CSOs that deal with matters that could be attractive for the civic participation of youths in Eastleigh. Coupled with poverty and unemployment among the youths, the vacuum in spaces for youth engagement makes it easy to mobilize youths to engage in violence during the election period.

**• Describe how this intervention can contribute to supporting collaboration, public engagement and civil organising and how this in time will contribute to social justice**

This intervention will contribute directly to supporting collaboration, public engagement and civil organising, and will ultimately contribute towards social justice. During the implementation of this intervention, diverse community stakeholders comprising community-based organisations, women groups, faith-based organisation and business leaders will be mobilised and organised to support youths in promoting peace during the period leading to the 2022 General Elections and beyond; this will be done through a Community Peace Dialogue Meeting to be held as part of this intervention. During the Community Peace Dialogue meeting, youth and stakeholders will collectively pledge to promote peace during the election period so as to create a peaceful environment for citizens to exercise their right to vote without intimidation, coercion and violence. Other than community stakeholders, this intervention shall also facilitate collaboration between the youths and the Independent Boundaries and Election Commission (IEBC), a body responsible managing elections, the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) a body responsible for mitigating and addressing inter-ethnic conflicts, and the Kenyan Police; The police, NCIC and IEBC are key stakeholders in prevention of electoral ethnic violence, and therefore their involvement this intervention will help creating a conducive environment for citizens to exercise their right to vote in a peaceful environment. Through the collaboration with different stakeholders to be mobilised to support this intervention, this intervention will ultimately lead to social justice and social change in Eastleigh.

• **What climate and environmental conditions do the partnership and/or the intervention need to respond to?**

Though this intervention does not directly deal with environmental issues, special consideration will be taken to ensure that this intervention does not contribute to harming of the environment; for this reason, all services and materials to be used in this intervention will be environmentally friendly and of a low carbon footprint; further efforts will be made to reduce pollution and conserve electricity throughout the period of implementing this intervention. As a strategy of contributing towards protecting the environment, use of vehicles during the intervention will be minimal and where transport will be required, high carbon emitting vehicles will not be used as transport in this intervention. Furthermore, to reduce the carbon footprint of this intervention, there shall only be one project visit from Denmark to Kenya involving international flights.

1. The partnership/collaborators (our starting point)

This intervention is a joint project between the Danish Minorities’ Centre for Human Rights and Development (DMC-HRD), a Danish NGO registered in 2014 and Peace at Heart Initiative Network – (PHIN) a local partner organisation based in Kenyan registered in 2013. The collaboration between DMC-HRD and PHIN began in 2017 when PHIN was one of the local interlocutors that was involved in sharing information with DMC-HRD at the time DMC-HRD was engaged in international election observations in Kenya. While in Kenya, it was agreed between DMC-HRD and PHIN to work on a joint project that would promote peace during the 2022 General Elections. This intervention is a result of a collaboration between PHIN and DMC-HRD which began in 2017. The actual process of brainstorming and drafting a proposal for this intervention began in February 2022. Consultations between PHIN and DMC-HRD in drafting this proposal have been done through online meetings and emails. Since 2017, DMC-HRD and PHIN have been collaborating through information sharing and best practices, for instance in November 2021, DMC-HRD had invited PHIN and another Kenyan partner NGO to remotely participate in a DMC-HRD capacity building workshop that was held to train immigrants in Denmark on election observations and facilitate them to participate in the Danish Regional and Municipal Council Elections as Citizen Election Observers; the invitation of PHIN and another Kenyan NGO was meant to orient them on techniques of monitoring the conformity of elections to International Election Standards.

**Brief information about partners – DMC-HRD**

DMC-HRD is an organisation run and managed by volunteers. DMC-HRD has a focus on working on projects that seek to promote human rights and democracy. DMC-HRD has since 2017 been involved electoral accountability activities as well as building the capacity of CSOs in some African countries to engage in activities aimed at increasing citizenry participation in governance processes DMC-HRD has been involved in election observations and building the capacity of CSO around election related activities in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Kenya. DMC-HRD is currently implementing a CISU supported project in Zambia

**Brief information about partners- PHIN**

PHIN is a Kenyan community-based organization located in Eastleigh, Nairobi. PHIN has a particular focus on promoting peace and human rights. PHIN has in the last five years been a working in partnership with CARITAS Kenya and the Kenya Legal Resource Foundation on conflict transformation, conscientizing residents in Eastleigh around their rights, and faciliting community dialogue on typical issues of concern in Eastleigh. PHIN possesses experience of having worked on election activities; during the last Kenyan General Elections held in 2017, PHIN was in involved in voter education campaigns. In preparation for the forthcoming 2022 General elections, PHIN with the support of CARITAS, had conducted a training for youth on Conflict Transformation.

**We give an overview of the roles and responsibilities in the table below:**

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|  | **Partner role** | |
| **Area/aspect** | **DMC-HRD** | **PHIN** |
| Overall project coordination | From the Danish side, DMC-HRD oversees the overall project coordination – setting into place implementation frameworks and plans for ensuring that the project is a success | PHIN facilitates DMC-HRD to understand local context in relation to the ambition to realize this project, and inputs into the entire planning process context-based knowledge that optimizes project success |
| Local implementation in Kenya | DMC-HRD has the responsibility to follow-up and remotely monitor project implementation through online meetings, bi-monthly reports, and constant emailing/communication and conduct a one-time project visit to Kenya to monitor project and support the coordination of election observation activity. | PHIN is the responsible partner for implementing project activities in Kenya. PHIN also has the responsibility to conduct local monitoring, bi-monthly reporting to DMC-HRD (both narrative & financial) and participating in online meetings for monitoring. |
| Budgets and accounting | DMC-HRD, as overall coordinator, will oversee budgets and accountability across the project, and report to CISU. | PHIN will undertake local fiscal management and take responsibility for compliance with the relevant local rules/laws. |

1. Target Groups

**Primary Target Group:** The primary target group of this intervention will be a core group of 30 youths of diverse ethnicity living in Eastleigh area, Nairobi Kenya who are aged 18 to 35 years[[4]](#footnote-4) . The 30 youths will be identified through community-based organizations, youth organizations, women’s groups and faith-based organizations that collaborate with PHIN and located in Eastleigh Area. The 30 youths will be a ripple through which a total of about 7,000 community members including youths will be reached by this intervention.

**Secondary Target Group:** 30 community stakeholder organizations comprising political parties, women’s groups, private sector, community-based organizations, and youth groups will be involved in this intervention through a Community Peace Dialogue Meeting and a Stakeholders’ Forum to be held towards the end of the intervention. Another group of secondary stakeholders will be IEBC a body responsible for managing elections in Kenya who will provide necessary information for election peace campaigns and election monitoring; The National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), a body responsible for mitigating and addressing inter-ethnic conflicts who will be available to deal with emerging ethnic conflicts monitored by the youths and Kenyan Police who will deal with any monitored violence by the youths and ensure the security of the youths as they undertake election peace campaigns and monitoring of the election process.

**Overall Objective:** *To build the capacity of a core group of 30 diverse youths living in Eastleigh area of Nairobi Kenya to have the ability to engage in activities that will be aimed at safeguarding the right to vote and contributing towards a peaceful environment for citizens to exercise their right to vote during the elections.*

**The overall objective will be achieved through the following specific objectives:**

1. To train a core group of 30 youths in planning effective election peace campaigns and facilitate them to engage in activities aimed at promoting peace during the August 2022 General Election period.
2. To orient a core group of 30 youths with knowledge and skills on election observations and facilitate them to engage in election monitoring of the elections as way of protecting the right to vote and safeguarding the integrity of the electoral process

•**Describe how the intervention will be implemented:**

A one day Community Stakeholders’ Peace Dialogue Meeting to sensitize secondary and primary stakeholders on the intervention will be held. During the Dialogue Meeting, primary and secondary stakeholders will be facilitated to brainstorm on how to mitigate against election violence and promote peace, and will also be facilitated to collectively pledge to promote peace during the elections and beyond. After the Dialogue Meeting, a training workshop will be conducted to build the capacity of a core group 30 youths with knowledge and skills on how to undertake a series of election peace campaign activities and engage in election monitoring. After the training workshop, the 30 youths will work as volunteers in shifts of 15 youths per day conducting election peace campaigns and monitoring the extent of peace in the streets, bus stations, markets and other populated areas in Eastleigh in Nairobi; working in shifts will allow room for the youths to rest before taking on another long hours of conducting peace campaigns. Whenever electoral conflicts and violence occur during campaigns, the youth will document and report such incidences. On Election Day, youths will be deployed to polling stations to serve as Citizen Election observers that will be monitoring extent of peace on polling day and the conformity of the elections to international election standards. After the elections, a Post-Election Stakeholders Meeting will be held where youths will present their election monitoring report and recommendations for future improvements in the conduct of elections and mitigation of ethnic violence to community stakeholders, IEBC, Police and NCIC.

***The table below shows how activities will be implemented, their output and their proposed timelines*.**

| **Period** | **Main Activity** | **Sub Activities** | **Output** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 15-20 July  2022 | Community Stakeholders Peace Dialogue Meetings | •Hold one day Community Stakeholders’ Peace Dialogue Meeting comprising youth and community stakeholders from across Eastleigh | • 60 individuals comprising 30 representatives of Community Stakeholder organisations and 30 are sensitised on the intervention and pledge to support the youths in promoting peace and also pledge to sensitise their respective members not incites or engage in election violence  • 300 community members affiliated to 30 stakeholder organisations are sensitised through their representatives against inciting or getting involved in election violence |
| 25-30  July, 2022 | Capacity Building on how to design election peace campaigns and conduct election observations | •Hold a Three days training workshop on developing electoral peace campaign activities and election monitoring techniques | •30 youths are empowered with knowledge and skills on how to conduct election peace campaigns and monitor the elections  • Election Peace Campaign activities are planned and ready for implementation |
| 31 July -8 Aug  2022 | Facilitate Holding Election Peace Campaigns and Pre-Election Day Monitoring of Peace | • Through Public Address System, facilitate youths to disseminate messages of peace across Eastleigh  • Facilitate youth to distribute fliers and place posters with messages promoting peace across Eastleigh  • Facilitate youth to posting messages promoting peace and against election violence on Social Media | •3000 youths and other community members working and found in the streets, bus stations, markets and other populated public spaces in Eastleigh listen to messages by the youths and are conscientized against engaging in electoral violence  •2000 community members read posters and fliers with messages against election violence and are sensitised against engaging in electoral violence  •2000 youths linked to the core group of 30 youths read social media posts by the 30 youths with messages against election violence and are sensitised against engaging in electoral violence |
| 5-15  Aug 2022 | •Project visit and monitoring | •Arrange and conduct one project monitoring visit by a DMC-HRD volunteer with expertise in election Observations to monitor implementation of the intervention in Kenya and provide support towards the coordination of the intervention and also use visit to brainstorm on future joint project with PHIN | •DMC-HRD monitors intervention, attends some activities and gains in-depth understanding of intervention context  •Through offering guidance in coordinating intervention, the capacity of PHIN is strengthened to effectively coordinate the intervention and future activities linked to elections and voter rights  •Future steps on joint projects between PHIN and DMC-HRCD are agreed so as to commence the drafting of a proposal for the next joint project. |
| 9-15  Aug  2022 | Election Observation | • Arrange and facilitate Youth to mmonitor the extent of peace and the conformity of the election to Kenyan Election regulations and international election standards | •A core group 30 monitor and document the extent of peace and the conformity of the election process to Kenyan Election regulations and international election standards during elections, and Post-Election Period (during vote counting, announcements of results, and final declaration of winners). |
| 25-30  Aug  2022 | Compile Election Monitoring report | • Prepare and Compile an Election Monitoring Report | •Report detailing the extent of peace during the elections, and the conformity of the elections to international elections standards, as well as recommendations for future improvements in promoting peace and protection of the right to vote is ready for submission to stakeholders |
| 15-30  Sept 2022 | Post-Election Community Meeting to discuss and submit Election Observation Report and Recommendation to stakeholders | • Arrange and hold one Electoral Stakeholder’s Meeting to discuss Election Monitoring Report and its Recommendation  •Submit Election Monitoring Report to community stakeholders, IEBC and other electoral stakeholders | • 30 representatives of community groups, political parties, and organizations based in Eastleigh and representatives of IEBC, Police and other national electoral stakeholders receive monitoring report and discuss the report and its recommendations for future improvements in promoting peace and in protecting the right to vote in Eastleigh. |
| 1-30  Oct 2022 | •Final Report Writing | • Prepare and draft final Project and Financial Report | •Final Project and Financial Reports are prepared and submitted |

1. **Intervention-related information work in Denmark**

**NOTE: reply only if the intervention includes information work in Denmark.**

1. HRW (2008). UN human rights team issues report on post-election violence in Kenya. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2009/10/un-human-rights-team-issues-report-post-election-violence-kenya> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. DIIS (2022). Policy brief- three factors may spark violence in Kenya’s 2022 elections. <https://www.diis.dk/en/research/three-factors-may-spark-violence-in-kenyas-2022-elections> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Jacob Rasmussen (2014) Meeting Reports- Eastleigh and Beyond: Rift Valley Institute. <https://riftvalley.net/publication/eastleigh-and-beyond> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The Kenyan Constitution defines a youth as anyone aged 18 to 35 years.

   https://youth.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Kenya-Youth-Development-Policy-2019-Popular-version.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-4)