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| Danish organisation | Danish Minorities’ Centre for Human Rights and Development (DMC-HRD) |
| Title of the intervention | Empowering Women As Agents of Peace and Positive Change in Kayole-Soweto Slum of Nairobi |
| Partner name(s) | SADEN Community Based Organisation |
| Amount applied for | 99.950,00 Danish Kroner |
| Country(ies) | Kenya |
| Period (# of months) | Three Months |

1. **Objective and relevance (the world around us).**

Kenya’s General Elections are usually characterized by ethnic mobilization of voters which results in violence, with the worst being the 2007 General Elections in which 1,200 people were reportedly killed and 300,000 displaced[[1]](#footnote-1). Election violence in Kenya usually starts in slums (informal settlements) and spreads to other areas. In slums, election violence manifests itself in form of sexual violence, gender-based violence, riots and destruction of property. Women in slums are the most affected by election violence owing to increased incidents of sexual and gender-based violence during election periods. A study conducted by the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the Kenya Human Rights Commission reviewed that in Kenya, elections violence also manifests itself in form of sexual violence and gender-based violence, and it predicted that the forthcoming election in August 2022 will equally be characterized by sexual and gender-based violence, an aspect that will affect the participation of women in the elections[[2]](#footnote-2). According to a March 2022 Policy Brief by the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), the forthcoming elections in Kenya are likely to be characterized by violence owing to escalating ethnic and political tensions[[3]](#footnote-3).

Being aware of the negative consequences of election violence in Kayole-Soweto slum of Nairobi, Kenya where the local partner organisation SADEN Community Based Organisation is located, this project aims at empowering women living in Kayole-Soweto slum to have the ability to engage in activities that will be aimed at sensitising community members against election violence, in particular against sexual violence and gender-based violence linked to elections, with the view of protecting the dignity of women during the election period and beyond. As part of the empowerment of women, this project shall facilitate the establishment of a platform for the continued empowerment and engagement of women in activities aimed at promoting peace and protecting the dignity of women beyond the election period.

This intervention will be conducted in phases; the first phase has the objective of building the capacity of a core group of 30 women of diverse ethnicity living in Kayole-Soweto Slum to engage in election peace campaigns and election observations with the view of preventing election violence, in particular sexual violence and gender based violence linked to elections. The ultimate goal of phase one of this project is to contribute towards creating a peaceful environment for citizens to exercise their right to vote without fear of intimidation and violence. The second phase of the project will focus at establishing and strengthening a women’s platform that will be used by women as a space for their continued engagement in promoting peace and protecting the dignity of women in Kayole-Soweto slum area of Nairobi, Kenya.

* **Why is the intervention important?**

In Kayole-Soweto slum area, women are highly affected by election violence which manifests itself in form of sexual violence, gender-based violence, rioting, killings and destruction of property. Owing to the consequence of election violence on women, this intervention is important because it shall facilitate women who are major victims of election violence to become agents of peace that will contribute towards peace during the electioneering period and beyond. Through election peace campaigns to be conducted by the women in the Kayole slum area, community members will be sensitised against sexual violence, gender-based violence or other election related violence so as to contribute towards a peaceful environment for citizens to exercise their right to vote without fear of intimidation and violence. Furthermore, this intervention is important because it shall capacity build women to have the ability monitor the extent of during the election period, as well as document and report incidents sexual and gender-based violence linked to election and other election violence. In addition, this intervention is important because it shall in the second phase facilitate the creation of a platform that will be used as a space for the continued engagement of women in promoting peace and protecting the dignity of women in Soweto-Kayole Slum area.

* **Describe the context of the intervention:**

According to the Kenyan population statistics, the informal settlements (slums) in Nairobi comprise 2.5 million people which account for about half the population of all residents in Kenya’s capital city, Nairobi. Kayole-Soweto slum located in Nairobi is a densely populated area with an estimated population of about 15,000 inhabitants. The population of Kayole-Soweto Slum mainly consists of widows, single women, children, and a few married people. The adult-child ratio in Kayole-Soweto stands at 4:7. Unemployment and poverty are very high in Kayole-Soweto slum. About 90% of the population have not completed formal education and many are illiterate. Almost all residents of Kayole-Soweto Slum live below the poverty line (under $1 a day). Most residents in the area do not have a stable income. The major source of livelihood for men and women in Kayole-Soweto Slum is being engaged in peace-work in the industrial area and as domestic workers in residential houses. Many residents of Kayole-Soweto Slum do not have access to jobs for long periods of time, a situation that makes them susceptible to engaging in crime or being manipulated to engage criminal activities, including causing violence during elections. Teenage pregnancies are very high in Kayole- Soweto slum, and as a result, there is a high level of girls dropping out of school due to teenage pregnancies. Like in other parts of Kenya, General elections in Kayole-Soweto Slum are characterised by ethnic mobilisation of voters, which result in ethnic tensions and election violence. Elections violence manifest itself in form of riots, destruction of property, sexual violence and gender-based violence.

* **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 promote collaboration, public engagement and civil organising and also contribute towards social justice in Kayole-Soweto Slum. A Community Dialogue and stakeholders’ forum will be held at the beginning of the intervention. The Forum will comprise representatives of CBOs, faith-based organisations, women’s groups, youth groups, political parties and other interest groups based in Kayole-Soweto Slum. The Forum will also include the Independent Boundaries and Election Commission (IEBC), the Police and the National Cohesion and Integration Commission of Kenya (NCIC). Through the Forum, stakeholders will be sensitised about the intervention and support will be sought for the diverse stakeholders to support the intervention. Further representatives of community stakeholder groups at the Forum will be facilitated to sensitise their respective members against sexual violence, gender-based violence and other forms of election violence. The police, IEBC and NCIC will collaborate in this intervention by ensuring the safety of the core group of 30 women who will be undertaking election peace campaigns and election observations. Through collaboration with different stakeholders to be involved in this intervention, this intervention will ultimately lead to social justice and effect social change in Kayole-Soweto slum.

* **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 and 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 organisation registered in 2014, and SADEN community-based organisation (SADEN), a Kenyan based organisation founded in 2017 and registered in 2018. The collaboration between DMC-HRD and SADEN began in 2017 when SADEN volunteers were among local interlocutors that helped DMC-HRD in conducting international election observations in Kenya. While in Kenya during the 2017 General elections, DMC-HRD and SADEN agreed to work on a joint project around electoral accountability in the next general elections to fall in August 2022. The actual process of brainstorming and drafting a proposal for this intervention began this year in 2022 with consultations being done through online meetings, WhatsApp communication and emails. In November 2021, DMC-HRD invited its Kenyan partner organisations namely, SADEN and Peace Heart Initiative Network ( PHIN) to remotely participate in a DMC-HRD capacity building workshop to train immigrants in Denmark on election observations and facilitate them to participate in the Danish Regional and Municipal Council Elections as Election Observers; the invitation of PHIN and SADEN was meant to orient them on techniques of election observation and principles of election observations as part of their capacity building to engage in election related activities and election observations.

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

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

**Brief information about partners- SADEN Community Based Organisation**

SADEN is a community-based organisation located in Kayole informal Settlement in Nairobi, Kenya run by volunteers. It was established in 2016 as a women's organisation led by activist young women to promote women’s participation in social development within Kayole informal settlement area. In connection to elections, in 2017 SADEN implemented voter rights awareness campaigns in Kayole-Soweto slum, and in connection to the forthcoming general election in August 2022, SADEN has been instrumental in mobilising community members of Kayole to register as voters and recently in May 2022, SADEN was involved in sensitising community members to participate in the voters’ verification exercise in readiness for the August 2022 General Elections. SADEN has also been involved in social economic empowerment of women, and Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) sensitisation in the community. SADEN has partnered with UNFPA, UNICEF, and Young African Leaders Initiative to implement some of its activities in Kayole-Soweto.

* **Describe the partners and other actors’ contributions, roles, and responsibilities in relation to this intervention.**

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|  | **PARTNER ROLES** | |
| **Area/aspect** | **DMC-HRD** | **SADEN** |
| 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 | SADEN 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 will follow-up and remotely monitor project implementation through online meetings and constant emailing/communication and conduct a one-time project visit to Kenya to monitor the project and provide support in coordination intervention. | SADEN 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. | SADEN will undertake local fiscal management and take responsibility for compliance with the relevant local rules/laws. |

1. Target groups, objectives, and expected results (our intervention)

* **Who will benefit from the intervention? How many people will benefit in total? How will they participate in the intervention?**

**Primary Target Group:** The primary target group of this intervention will be a group of 30 women of diverse ethnicity living in Kayole-Soweto Slum in Nairobi, Kenya. The 30 women will be carefully identified from among women who have previously been beneficiaries of activities conducted by SADEN and who will be willing to be part of the core group of 30 women for this project. The 30 women will be a ripple through which about 5000 women and community members will be reached by this intervention.

Secondary stakeholders

**Secondary Stakeholders:** This intervention will involve (20) representatives of diverse community stakeholder groups based in Kayole-Soweto slum area, and the Independent Boundaries and Election Commission (IEBC), the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) and Kenyan Police. These diverse stakeholders will be facilitated to dialogue over election violence as well as sexual and gender-based violence linked to elections, and support will be solicited from the stakeholders to support the intervention. The community stakeholder groups will include women groups, faith-based organisations, youth groups, and political parties and other interest groups based in in Kayole-Soweto slum area

**Objective**: To build the capacity of a core group of 30 diverse women living in Kayole-Soweto Slum area of Nairobi to engage in election peace campaigns and election observations with the with the view of preventing election violence, protecting the dignity of women and contributing towards creating a peaceful environment for citizens to exercise their right to vote without fear of intimidation and violence.

**The objective of this intervention will be achieved through the following specific objectives:**

1. To train a group of 30 women with knowledge and skills on how to effectively organise election peace campaigns and on engage in election observations.
2. To facilitate a group of 30 women in conducting election peace campaigns, and observing the elections, with a particular focus at monitoring incidents of election related sexual violence and gender-based violence and other forms of election violence.

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

**Community Dialogue and stakeholders’ forum:** A Community Dialogue and stakeholders’ forum comprising a diverse group of Community based stakeholders, IEBC NCIC and Kenyan Police will be held to sensitise the stakeholders over the intervention and facilitate dialogue on the effects of sexual violence, gender-based violence and other forms of election violence. Community stakeholders will be conscientised to sensitise their members in their respective organisations against election violence and support will be sought from the police to support a core group of 30 women with security when conducting election peace campaigns. Further at the Forum, Police, IEBC and NCIC will be sensitised to promptly address on any reported incidents of sexual and gender-based violence linked to elections and other forms of election violence.

**Training Workshop:** A three days’ training workshop will be held to capacity build 30 women on how to organise election peace campaigns, and also capacity built them on election observation techniques that will enable the women have the ability to monitor the extent of peace as well as document and report any monitored incidents of sexual violence, gender-based violence or any other election related violence.

**Election Peace Campaigns:** A core group of 30 women will be facilitated to conduct a 10 day’s Election Peace Campaign in shifts of 10 women each day. Working in shifts will enable the women that will be working as volunteers for long hours’ time to rest. While conducting election peace campaigns, the women will also be monitoring, documenting and reporting incidents of election violence. The election Peace campaigns will comprise motorbike caravan (motorbike fixed with public address system), printing and distribution of posters, Door-to-Door Campaigns, and Face- to face dialogues in the streets which will all involve sensitising community members against sexual violence, gender-based violence and other election violence. A Motorbike Caravan will slowly be moving in the streets and in populated areas playing entertainment music to attract many people that will listen to speeches and messages by the women sensitising community members against sexual violence, gender based violence linked to elections and other election violence.

**Voting Day Election Observation**: On voting day, all the 30 women will be allocated polling stations in pairs where they will conduct election observation to monitor the extent of peace around the polling stations and any election malpractices. In instances where incidents of violence are observed, the women will document and report the incidents to the police for quick action before the incidents escalate further.

**Debriefing Session:** A debriefing session will be held to collect information and gather experiences of a core group of 30 women during the election peace campaigns and election observation. The information to be collected during the debriefing session will be used to draft a report that will detail the extent of peace during the elections including information documented incidents of sexual violence, gender-basedviolence and other election related violence. The report on the conduct of elections including recommendations for future improvements ensuring peace during elections will be submitted to IEBC, the police and all other relevant stakeholders for action and future.

***The table below indicates the activities to be implemented, their output and their proposed timelines*.**

| **Period** | **Main Activity** | **Sub Activities** | **Output** |
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| 27 July, 2022 | Community Dialogue and Stakeholders Forum | •Organise a one-day Community Dialogue and stakeholders’ Forum comprising primary target group of 30 people and 20 representatives of secondary stakeholders | •50 Stakeholders are sensitised about the intervention and are willing to further sensitise community members against election violence as well as sexual and gender-based violence  •300 individuals belonging to secondary stakeholder groups are further sensitised against election violence by representatives that attended the Community dialogue and stakeholders’ forum |
| 29-31  July 2022 | • Capacity Building of a Core Group of 30 Women | • Arrange a 3 days’ Training Workshop for a core group of 30 women on how to organise Election Peace Campaigns, and engage in Election Observation | • 30 women are knowledgeable and skilled on how to organise Election Peace Campaigns  • 30 women have the ability to monitor, document and report incidents of election violence as well as sexual and gender-based violence linked to the elections |
| 2-15 Aug  2022 | • Election Peace Campaigns, and Pre –Election Day Observation | • Facilitate core group of 30 women to conduct a 10 days election peace campaign which will comprise motorbike caravan campaign, door-to-door campaigns, face –to-Face dialogues in the streets, and placing of posters in populated areas  • Facilitate core group of 30 women to monitor, document and report incidents sexual and gender-based violence linked to election as well as other election violence | •5000 Community members of Kayole- Soweto are sensitised by the core group 30 women against election violence as well as sexual and gender-based Violence during election  •Incidents of election violence including sexual and gender-based violence linked to elections are monitored, documented and reported for action by the police, IEBC and other relevant entities |
| 5- 14  Aug 2022 | •Project visit and monitoring | **•** Arrange one visit to Kenya by one DMC-HRD volunteer for project monitoring visit, and to provide support in coordinating intervention and also brainstorm on phase two of the project | • DMC-HRD volunteer monitors intervention and gains in-depth understanding of intervention context and provide support in coordination of intervention.  • Future steps and strategies on phase two of intervention are agreed. |
| 8-9 Aug  2022 | • Voting Day Election Observation | **•** Facilitate core group of 30 women to observe the elections on voting day election, as well as monitor the extent of peace and document incidents of any violence and any election malpractices | • Incidents of election violence and malpractices are monitored and document  •Incidents of election violence reported to the police and other relevant entities for quick action  • Presence of a core group of 30 women as election observers deters election violence and election malpractices at polling stations. |
| 15-30  Sept  2022 | • Debriefing Session and Report Preparation | • Facilitate the 30 women to share information collected during intervention for report writing and facilitate brainstorming on recommendations for future improvement | • Information for report writing is collected and report detailing the extent of peace and incidents of election linked sexual and gender-based violence and other election violence is prepared together with recommendations for submission to stakeholders. |
| 1-28  Oct | •Final Report Writing | •Draft Final Project and Financial Reports | •Final Project and Financial Reports are prepared and submitted |

1. Project-related information work in Denmark

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

Information work in Denmark is not a requirement, but an option, which applicants are encouraged to take advantage of. A maximum of 2 % of the intervention budget can be applied for (budget line 8).

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. FIDH (2021). Sexual Violence as a Political Tool During Elections in Kenya: Fact Finding Mission Report

   . <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/Africa/kenya/kenya-report-reveals-how-sexual-and-gender-based-violence-mars> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. 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-3)