FCA Finn Church Aid

Evaluation of the Kenya Country Programme

Type of Evaluation: **Country Programme Evaluation**

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Executive Summary:

The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the Country Programme (CP), lessons learnt and make recommendations to support future programming and secure future funding. The tasks entailed assessing the impact of results realized through implementation of three thematic areas namely: Right to Peace (R2P), Right to Livelihood (R2L), and Right to Quality Education (R2QE). The evaluation also assessed the programme's effectiveness, relevance and sustainability, for the period between 2014 to 2017. In addition, the evaluation sought to analyse the different FCA modalities as well as FCA's main partnerships and how they contributed to realization of programme impact. These include partnership with Catholic diocese, NETWS and Tupando. The geographical areas of focus for FCA are: Baringo, Turkana, Marsabit, Wajir, Isiolo and Garissa counties. A qualitative approach was adopted in this evaluation and using the impact analysis approach, the evaluation sought to explore and document the changes that have resulted from the programme interventions. Review of programme documents complemented by Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and Key Informant Interviews (KII) were the primary methods of data collection. Sampling was mainly purposive, though randomisation was applied in the selection of the sample categories.

There are several pointers to impact from the R2P interventions. The evaluation establishes that frequency and severity of incidents of tensions and inter-community conflicts have reduced over the evaluation period. Compared to 5 years ago, the frequency, intensity and effects of inter-community conflicts manifesting themselves mainly as livestock rustling/thefts, border/boundary disputes, natural resource disputes (mainly grazing land and water), banditry and occasional politically instigated conflicts have reduced.

The evaluation observes that KECO's R2P interventions contributed to the strengthening of the capacity of peace building structures such as peace committees and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The report notes that even after FCA scaled down its R2P interventions in 2016, trained peace committee members, chiefs and community members continued to organize peace meetings on their own, where they shared early warning information with their communities and counterparts. The capacity building support provided by KECO contributed to strengthening and linking informal peace structures to local authorities in target areas (counties) over the evaluation period. In addition, there has been a change in community perception and attitudes towards drivers of conflict in the target areas: Across the KECO intervention counties, communities' perception of each other have improved.

As at the end of 2016, 22 documented and ratified agreements had been arrived at by warring communities. Unlike previous agreements, these were owned by the local communities, local leadership and supported by the authorities, hence there was little room for sabotage – either for political or profiteering reasons. The agreements led to relative peace between different communities, like the Pokot and Turkana, Pokot and Marakwet, Samburu and Turkana, and between Ajuran sub-clans in Wajir County, amongst others.

However, the evaluation noted some gaps with the agreements, especially in their implementation, as there was lack of clear timelines for implementation, and lack of clear enforcements for non-compliance. In addition, whereas most of the agreements are not specific and seek to address a myriad of problems, most are not anchored on culture/custom/tradition or religion practices, which ordinarily bind communities together as one way of contributing to the acceptability, ownership, implementation and enforcement of agreements.

Since 2013, FCA has been a member and host of the secretariat of Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers (NETWS). FCA in conjunction with NETWS has partnered to implement various Countering/Preventing Violent Extremism (C/PVE) projects. In 2015, they implemented a project on community response to violent extremism.

Both global and country plans, as well as strategies, identify R2L as a key component of FCA's work. Since 2014, there has been minimal uptake of livelihood activities by the country programme and limited effort to secure funding for implementation of livelihood activities. The explanation provided revolves around programme preparedness and gaps in

terms of resources. These include the need for stabilization following conflicts, before livelihoods can be supported and lack of a regional technical advisor on livelihood to provide guidance and support to KECO. Findings affirm that albeit minimal, livelihood interventions in the form of peace dividends issued by FCA under the NOTKID project in Baringo and Elgeyo Marakwet had a positive impact in the lives of the beneficiaries and their families, and the community at large. The findings indicate that livelihood support contributed to peace in the target areas. Most peace-divided beneficiaries were no longer willing to participate in raids. Women interviewed during the NOTKID evaluation reported tremendous reduction in domestic conflicts with their husbands, given their ability to contribute to household incomes. This evaluation noted that these testimonies by the supported women and youth were a clear indication of the close link between livelihood and peace.

According to the evaluation report, impact from the Right to Quality Education (R2QE) interventions is clear. Increase in enrollment was attributed to the different FCAs interventions, which included provision of learning and supportive infrastructure such as classrooms, desks and latrines. These attracted many children to Early Childhood Development (ECD) and to primary schools' levels. Furthermore, from review of documents and data from the programme, the evaluation team noted that for the entire programme period of 2014-2017, dropouts from school tremendously reduced. FCA implemented interventions geared towards creation of child friendly learning spaces making the school compound safe for children. By constructing dormitories, FCA was not only able retain girls in school but they also protected them from possible incidences of abuse through early marriages and female genital mutilation (FGM). FCA mentorship programme has also seen young mothers supported to remain in school as reported by mentor teachers.

Evaluation findings show that there is a consensus among stakeholders that overall, the quality of learning had improved across the supported schools. There are positive changes among children and community members towards education. This is notable from the increased number of children enrolling to school.

Access to adequate school infrastructure such as classrooms and toilets remained a challenge in most of the schools. Enrolment in most classes was almost three times the recommended standard. This highlights the common challenge of shortage of teachers and facilities across all schools. The toilets were also widely reported to be inadequate in most schools. In addition, toilets appropriate for children with special needs were lacking. There was need for additional secondary school bursaries for girls and boys that perform well in their examinations and finally, vocational skills training for those children who do not manage to transit to secondary schools was missing despite being one of the main focus areas for FCA.

Recommendations

R2P

1)   CVE is increasingly becoming a major contributor to instability and insecurity in KECO's counties of focus. This will necessitate scaling up R2P programming in line with CVE County Action Plans (CAPs).

2)   Following lessons learnt from KECO's experiences, FCA global should consider changing the 3-step approach to a 4-step approach to include conflict/situational analysis before the actual intra and inter community/group peace dialogues commence.

3)   In future KECO should consider scaling up the Do-No-Harm trainings to include county governments, county assemblies and community conservancies among other stakeholders. This is more the case given the increased resources to the counties which many see as a potential source of conflicts. Given the sheer size of County Government projects in terms of funding and geographical scope, mainstreaming Do No Harm approach in County Government Development would perhaps contribute to more cohesive societies in ASALs.

4)   Peace structures such as peace committees are facing several problems, including limited government support and resources to support their activities. The county governments have shunned a good number of peace committees since they are perceived as national government structures. To address this problem, KECO should join hands with institutions such as National Steering Committee on Peace Building and Conflict Management to support and advocate for the adoption of County Peace Policies and County Peace Bills.

R2QE

1)   In line with the FCA's linking Learning to earning programming, it is highly recommended that FCA supports Business Technical Vocational Education and Training (BTVET) for youth and prepare them to transit to the job market.

2)   FCA should step up efforts to fundraise and or mobilize like-minded organizations to support the education interventions to improve access, enroll and retain more girls in school.

3)   Future infrastructural developments in schools (classrooms, toilets etc.) should incorporate the needs of children living with special needs

R2L

1)   There is a close and inseparable linkage between improved livelihoods, peace and education. The programme should therefore plan for, and roll out of, livelihood programmes such as restocking of vulnerable households as a way of improving resilience among the vulnerable target groups

2)   Future alternative livelihoods and peace dividend projects should be informed by thorough analysis of what constitutes alternative livelihoods within these communities . Preference should be given to livelihoods that resonate with the culture, tradition and the geographical environment of the targeted communities.

General

1)   To promote the sustainability potential of local level structures that work with the programme, future programmes should more strongly incorporate in their designs, modalities to promote collaboration and networking between local structures such as grazing control committees, and key stakeholders especially in government such as Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs, relevant county officials so as to ensure continuity in collaboration and networking as and when necessary following programme closure.

2)   The evaluation notes that for programme work to meet the intended objectives there is need to invest in fundraising personnel and ensure presence of a clear fundraising strategy.

3)   It is recommended that clear indicators and targets and benchmarks are set for each outcome and objectives. As noted, it is not possible to accurately quantify programme achievements due to lack of clear baseline information, milestones and targets.

4)   The programme should consider developing a country advocacy plan with clear goals and strategies. The plan should be embedded in Country plans and reviewed each year.

5)   The programme should consider strengthening staff capacity on M&E and consequently review and define staff roles in efforts to improve quality of documentation done.

6)   While, there appears to be a direct connection between the field staff in the counties and the head office staff, FCA should consider recruiting technical support officers for each thematic area, to be stationed at the KECO office. Such officers, will increase efficiency of interaction between field staff and the technical team in Helsinki, besides reducing the workload on both ends. This will be even more necessary with growing scope of interventions for the Kenya programme.