

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



PEACE EDUCATION INITIATIVES IN KENYA

***A PRESENTATION MADE DURING THE ADEA PEACE
EDUCATION ICQN ROUND TABLE MEETING IN
KINSHASA, DRC FROM 26TH -28TH JULY, 2011***

Experiences of violent conflicts in Kenya



- From 1992, Kenya has experienced politically instigated sporadic peace threatening incidences especially, during the general elections held after every 5 years.
- The worst scenario was the post election violence witnessed in the country in 2007/2008. acted as an impetus towards the establishment and subsequent implementation of a Peace Education programme in the country.

Experiences of violent conflicts in Kenya



- Other dimensions that have threatened peace have been inter community conflicts over resources such as water, pasture
- Cultural practices, for example cattle rustling

Effects

- Ethnic animosity and suspicion
- Massive displacement of communities from their homelands leading to teacher shortages
- Destruction of property and infrastructure including school buildings, teaching and learning resources
- Loss of life leading to orphans
- Loss of teaching time
- Trauma
- Over crowded facilities for example schools in the IDP camps

Effects

- Economic effects, for example fear of investing in volatile regions



Peace education in Kenya

- Since independence, the government of Kenya recognizes the role of education in Peace building and conflict management.
- As such, one of the main goals of education is to enhance unity and appreciation of cultural diversity.
- At present, Peace building and conflict management is recognized as a main area of focus in the Kenya Vision 2030 (Blue print of development in Kenya).

Peace education in Kenya.



- It is therefore a tool for achieving the vision's three pillars namely the political, social and economic development.



How Kenya has responded

- Kenya recognises the fact that the education provides an avenue for promoting peace in learning institutions and the society at large has initiated
- In this regard, the government through the Ministry of Education has initiated a peace education programme whose objectives are;

Objectives of the Peace Education Programme in Kenya



- To create awareness among learners on the causes of conflicts and how to resolve them amicably.
- To prepare learners to become good citizens in their communities, nations and the world.
- To equip learners with skills that promote peace and human dignity at all levels of interaction.

Objectives of the Peace Education Programme in Kenya

- To use the classroom as a spring board through which global values of positive interdependence, social justice and participation in decision making processes are learned and practiced.
- To foster respect for cultural diversity.
- To use the classroom as a platform for fostering sustainable peace.

Achievements /Innovations



- Training of 21 master trainers drawn from the Ministry of Education and Kenya Institute of Education.
- Development of a training manual and teacher activity books
- The ministry has also produced and distributed over 60,000 copies the Peace Education materials.

Achievements /Innovations

- Setting up of a peace education coordinating unit
- Encouraged the establishment of peace clubs in learning institutions to facilitate the development of a culture of peace

Achievement contd.



- Training of 8,837 education officers and teachers and sensitized over 3,500 secondary school principals on Peace education.
- Established a national steering committee on Peace education in May 2010 following a National Stakeholders meeting.
- Provided fora for dialogue on peace education at the international and national levels.
- ✓ Between December 2008 and September 2009, we held two international conferences and one national meeting to facilitate sharing of experiences on peace education among the participants.

Achievement contd.



- Carried out a Peace education monitoring exercise in learning institutions.
- Development of a draft education sector Peace Education policy
- Development of psychosocial intervention materials to complement the Peace education initiatives.
- Provided Psychosocial support to the pupils and teachers affected by the post election violence
- Introduction of life skills education curriculum in both primary and secondary schools. Peace education is a strong component of the life skills curriculum.
- Development of a school safety and standards manual



Peace Education activities at school level

To ensure effective implementation of the Peace Education, schools are expected to:

- Establish functional Peace clubs
- Develop peace education institutional policies
- Teach peace education as provided for within the life skills curriculum and other related subjects. Peace education is not a stand alone subject.
- Ensure that all teachers within the school are sensitized on Peace Education by the teachers who attend the one week peace Education training.

Peace Education activities at school level contd.



- Use the peace education materials provided to enhance preparation for the presentation of content on Peace Education which is integrated into the curriculum.
- Promote Peace education through co-curricular activities i.e. clubs and societies, music, drama and sports among others.
- Facilitate community service programmes.
- Participate in environmental conservation and management related activities
- Foster patriotism and citizenship through inculcating national values and attitudes



Challenges

- Effective implementation of Peace Education calls for capacity building of teachers on the methodology of teaching peace education.
- ✓ Majority of the teachers are yet to be trained as the process costly in terms of resources required.
- Peace education is a behaviour change programme.
- ✓ Due to lack of community based peace education initiatives there is inconsistency between messages that learners receive in the school and at home.
- ✓ This is even more apparent when there is domestic violence
- The main carrier subject for Peace Education is life skills education. Recent evaluation of life skills education in Kenya reveals that the subject is either not effectively taught or not taught at all in some schools



Challenges

- Adopting a coordinated approach for the management of emerging issues e.g peace , in school curricular to avoid overload and overwraps
- Conflict between principles and values taught in and peace education and cultural practices at the community and family level
- Some of the issues pertinent to the establishment and maintenance of peace are beyond the realm of the education sector and appertain to national policies and systems



Way forward

In order to strengthen Peace Education in learning institutions, the Ministry intends to :

- Develop a Peace Education programme targeting pre service teachers
- Facilitate policy dialogue at the national level on Peace Education – A Senior managers sensitization meeting is scheduled for August 2011
- Finalization of the Policy on Peace Education.
- Initiate public campaigns for peace ahead of the general Election, through the education sector.



THANK YOU

ASANTE SANA