

FINAL EVALUATION

Project "Jenga Amani Yetu - Building peaceful communities in Tanzania"

SUMMARY

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Project and Evaluation Background

In June 2022, the Agency for Peacebuilding conducted the final external evaluation of the project "Jenga Amani Yetu - Building peaceful communities in Tanzania", implemented by Search for Common Ground (Search) in partnership with the Legal Human Rights Centre (LHRC) and the Zanzibar Legal Services Centre (ZLSC) and with the financial support from the European Union (EU). Search and its partners implemented the project between January 2020 and June 2022, with the goal to *support and strengthen civil society organisations' contribution toward the promotion of fundamental freedom and democracy in Tanzania and Zanzibar*. The project was deployed in five districts – Mara, Zanzibar (Unguja and Pemba), Mtwara and Pwani.

The overall focus of the evaluation has been on four criteria: relevance, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. Data collection and analysis were carried out by the Agency for Peacebuilding (AP) with the support of Search's Tanzania team in June 2022. This study used a mixed approach that combined qualitative and quantitative data collection methods.

Key findings

Overall, the project's activities fully reached the expected target groups (diverse CSOs, local government representatives, and media actors). The high relevance of the project activities is due to several factors, but in particular to the context and conflict analysis identifying the main source of conflict in each location and to the ability to adapt the activities to each context focusing on the main conflict issues and potential sources of violence, from family conflicts to violent extremism (VE). The difficulty to keep together different issues under the same project umbrella could represent the other side of the same coin. Yet, Search demonstrated a remarkable capacity to see the connections between different levels of violence, for instance between family issues and radicalisation, and to plan activities in order to address the root causes of conflicts.

The project has also significantly strengthened the chain of collaboration and mutual understanding between government representatives and other key stakeholders, including representatives of CSOs, journalists and community members themselves in addressing different social disputes and other forms of conflict. The project has also had an impressive effect in transforming mutual negative perspectives among the involved groups. Importantly, the project has ensured a gender balance and responsiveness as well as social inclusion. Yet, the inclusion of people with disabilities emerged as an aspect that could still be improved.

The project was able to achieve practically all of its desired outcomes with also some unexpected changes. Firstly, it clearly contributed to reducing the use of violence to solve conflicts. Although the legitimacy of institutions remains a controversial issue in Tanzania, the analysis of the information gathered shows a rather clear increase of this legitimacy, especially due to more inclusivity and responsiveness in the decision-making processes. Moreso, the evidence shows that trust has increased in many locations and among local stakeholders. Responsiveness in decision-making clearly played an important role in strengthening institutional legitimacy.

A key dimension of the project was its media component. On the one hand, journalists were fully active in project activities as one of the three stakeholder groups involved. On the other hand, the “*Tuzungumze Amani*” radio programme represented a central activity. Rufiji and Kibiti deserve a specific mention on the media front because these locations do not have a reachable local radio and journalists are practically absent. A limited number of youth are getting information from social media, but not all are capable of buying smartphones. And for those who have smartphones, not all are digitally literate, so sometimes they find themselves getting fake news from social media.

Finally, the majority of the changes achieved have been assessed to be sustainable as they will continue to bring tangible results in the future. This is particularly true for two areas: training and established relations between different groups. Minor limitations in terms of sustainability were found regarding the diffusion of the media program (e.g. in Rufiji), the sustainability of Search’s local offices (e.g. in Mara) and financial issues (e.g. the follow-up of small grants’ projects).

Based on these findings and analysis, further action should be based on the following **recommendations**:

- Capitalise on the work done under this project with specific advocacy activities at the national level.
- Dedicate specific analysis on how to prevent violent extremism.
- Mainstream and prioritise the participation of people with disabilities.
- Dedicate more space to social media and local influencers in future media campaigns.
- Elaborate more on the connection between micro, social and large-scale conflict in Tanzania.
- Consider using street caravans to reach more community members around local peace initiatives.
- Work to develop a wider space for media in Rufiji and Kibiti.
- Target men specifically to transform social attitudes and behaviours on gender issues.
- Provide certificates of participation to trainees to increase their recognition and legitimacy.
- Revise and simplify the reimbursement and payment methods.
- Increase trust in local CSO partners.
- Use local experts for follow-up activities.

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