



World Vision Kenya

Kenya Post Election Violence
Peace and Reconciliation Project

“Amani Tour”

Project Report

August 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The post election violence that occurred in most parts of the country pitted against one another, people of regions and ethnic groups who in normal times live together, some of whom were known to one another. Six months down the line there is still deep seated suspicion between communities that were affected by the post election violence.

World Vision Kenya as part of its several other responses to the effects of the violence enlisted the support of WV Canada and arranged for a visit by Jean Paul Samputu, a musician and a victim of the Rwanda Genocide and Fatmire Feka, also a victim of the atrocities that took place in Kosovo. The two who are accomplished Peace builders in their own rights, had opportunity to hold music concerts, public speaking and dialogue with leaders. They also participated and Radio interviews in Nairobi, Eldoret, Kitale and Kisumu and TV interview in Nairobi to pursue peace.

The project was successful in terms of bringing people together for peace and helping WV to identify working with such celebrities to promote peace. It was also observed that more of such engagements are required to finally have durable peace in Kenya

I. BACKGROUND

The post election violence that occurred in most parts of the country pitted people of regions and ethnic groups who in normal times live together some of whom were known to one another. The attendant displacement, deaths and loss of property was quite devastating such that many of the displaced people do not want to go back to their homes. During a number of workshops held in Eldoret, Nairobi and Nakuru, victims indicated inability to forgive the atrocities that were meted on them due the deep pain that they still have about deaths and loss of property. The host communities on the other hand spoke of historical injustices by the past governments which included forced displacement from their land which was given to the present victims- it is not lost that some of the people did not get free land, but purchased them from the host communities. The hostilities that were expressed against various religious organizations indicated how partisan the churches were during the presidential campaign. Many churches remained divided in the middle after the violence and efforts should be employed in restoring people's confidence in churches and other religious leaders.

In view of the aforementioned events, World Vision Kenya organized a tour for Jean-Paul Samputu and Fatmire in Kenya from July 28th 2008 to August 5th 2008 to assist in the peace building and reconciliation process by visiting Nairobi, Eldoret, Kitale and Kisumu and holding music concerts, public speeches and dialogue with residents of the towns.

Jean Paul Samputu:

Jean Paul Samputu has established himself as one of the most prominent African artists on the world stage. Samputu sings in six languages and in styles ranging from soukous, and rhumba to traditional Rwandan 5/8, Afrobeat, pygmy, and gospel. A winner of the prestigious Kora Award (the "African Grammy") in 2003, Samputu travels the world as a cultural ambassador for Rwanda, bringing to his audiences not only traditional African singing, dancing, and drumming, but also a message of peace and reconciliation. A survivor of the genocide in Rwanda, Samputu takes us to the most positive place of humanity through his spirit and graciousness.

Fatmire Feka:

Fatmire Feka is a Muslim Albanian girl from an ethnically divided town. In 1999, she lost a brother and a sister in the war in Kosovo and her family's house was set on fire. She is a member of her town's Council for Peace and Tolerance and also works with Kids Clubs for Peace. Fatmire's work has had such an impact that she was among those nominated for the 1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.

2. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2.1 Project Objectives

Project goal

The goal of this project was to enhance peace and reconciliation among communities in Kenya.

Project outcome

The expected outcome of this project was to have host communities and Internally Displaced Persons in Rift Valley and Nyanza sensitized on forgiveness and reconciliation.

Output: 6000 people reached with peace and reconciliation through radio talk shows, live music performance, inter-religious forums and public speeches.

General accomplishment

Over 6000 were reached in Nairobi, Eldoret, Kitale and Kisumu through radio talk shows, TV interviews, music concerts, Public Speeches and dialogue meetings according to the following details.

2.2 Activity Descriptions

2.2.1 Activity: 01.1.1.1: Support Public speaking occasions in Nairobi, Eldoret, Kitale and Kisumu

Public speaking was conducted alongside concert performances by Fatmire and Jean Paul in Nairobi, Eldoret, Kitale and Kisumu. The message of peace was passed on by both of them as they gave brief talks in between the performances by sharing their experience in their respective countries, how they overcome hatred that consumed them after the atrocities meted on their people, and what they think Kenyans should do to heal as a nation and to prevent such occurrences in future. They stressed the importance of continued dialogue, deliberate decision to forgive for self healing and the need to address the root causes of the violence to prevent future conflicts.

2.2.2 Activity: 01.1.1.2 Support radio and TV talk shows in Nairobi, Eldoret and Kisumu

During the tour both Jean Paul and Fatmire participated in Radio and TV interviews in Nairobi, Eldoret, Kitale and Kisumu. In both cases they shared the story of their life. The same message of leaders and the rest of the citizen to take responsibility to healing the country and preventing future violence from taking place continued. Jean Paul in particular stressed the need for forgiveness while Fatmire stressed the need for people of all ages, and especially the youth to participate in conflict prevention. They both stressed the need to for Peacebuilding Organizations to focus on the younger generation as these have opportunity to influence the future generation.

A. Radio Interviews:

In Nairobi it was only Jean Paul who was interviewed by Radio Simba, and Hope FM while in Eldoret, Kitale and Kisumu the two participated in radio interviews with FISH FM, Imani FM and Victoria FM respectively.

B. Television Interviews:

Both Jean Paul and Fatmire had TV interviews with K24, and Citizen TV. Nation TV interviewed only Jean Paul. All the interviews were aired soon after.

2.2.3 Activity: 01.1.1.3 Support Live music performance in, Eldoret, Kisumu and Kitale IDP camps

Live concerts were performed by Jean Paul and Local gospel musicians in Eldoret, Kitale, Kisumu and Nairobi in that order. The Local musicians included Eunice Njeri, Rufftone, DJ-Soxxy, MC-Juliani, Samson Adanje, Mercy Masika, Eunice Njeri, Daddy Owen, and MOG. They were supported in Nairobi by Saints (dancers). Over 2500 people attended the concerts.

In Eldoret, the concert was held at the Town Hall and the attendance was over 500 people. Jean Paul and local artistes (from Eldoret) sang and danced during the concert as the participants joined. People expressed the need for more of such concerts in future. The message of peace was passed on by both Fatmire and Jean-Paul as they gave brief talks in between the performances.

In Kitale the concert was held at the Kitale Show ground. The attendance was over 500 people. In attendance were school children, adults and the youth. Government officials and the District Youth representative spoke to the people regarding peace, and a seed was planted for unity and working together. The children though enjoyed the musical performances most. It rained during process and interfered with the sessions. However when the rain receded the concert proceeded without a hitch.

In Kisumu the concert was held at Kondele grounds and attended by over 300 people. The attendance was quite low because of the annual exhibition organized by the Agricultural Society of Kenya that was going on. The message of peace was briefly passed on to the people by Fatmire in between the song performances. Jean-Paul also briefly shared his experience in the Rwanda genocide and urged the people to seek peace.

In Nairobi the concert was held at Nairobi Pentecostal Church Valley Road. The concert was a success and the attendance was huge. The church hall was filled to capacity (about 1000 people). The audience was highly receptive to the speeches and conceded that it was the role of Kenyans to bring peace to the country and not outsiders. Although it was a Christian environment, the audience really appreciated Fatmire who is a Muslim.

2.2.4 Activity: 01.1.1.4 Support inter-religious forums in Nairobi, and Eldoret.

As part of the healing process both Fatmire and Jean Paul had opportunities to meet with leaders of diverse religious background. They included Christian leaders of different denominations, Muslims and others. Forums were held in Kibera, Eldoret town, Kitale and Kisumu town. During the meetings the two shared on their experiences and allowed the leaders

to ask questions and also share their experiences. A total of 410 people attended the fora. In some instances the team came face to face with deep seated anger and pain afflicting both the victims and perceived perpetrators of the violence. However, some of the people that had shown unwillingness to forgive confessed that they would, after listening to Jean Paul and Fatmire story. They opened up to the message of forgiveness and in particular one lady who had previously declared that she would never forgive changed her stance and declared that she would forgive so that her children may have a better future. Below are the words she spoke on forgiveness.

First response

“I was sacked from my Job because I left my work station when the violence broke. The person, who reported to the Headquarters that I had absconded the job, knew well my condition, but because I am from another ethnic group, he did not care. I am now struggling with my Children in Kibera. I will never forgive the Kikuyu.”

The lady participant and a victim of Post Election Violence

Paul's response

Sometimes you really do not have any thing you can do about the particular individual or the situation. Therefore retaining the anger in your heart continues to bring pain and bitterness to you and may affect your children in future. Forgiveness is therefore not for the other person but for you that is bitter. When you forgive, you heal yourself.

Jean Paul Samputu

Later

I think I will have to forgive for the sake of my children, and if only through that I may stop the suffering I am experiencing

The lady participant

3. CONCLUSION:

In conclusion the tour was a success and managed to pass the message across. It was noted that in many of the areas a lot of work in regard to peace building is still needed. People are going back to their normal life before the post-election violence however they still have bitterness and are hesitant to forgive especially because not all the issues which caused the violence have been resolved (mainly land issues remain unresolved). However it will do much good to do another tour for a longer time, giving people more time and if possible allowing large audiences in order to have a bigger impact and also allow people to express themselves as part of the healing process.