

Global Grant for Sustainable Peace in Laikipia, Kenya **October 1, 2017 - September 1, 2018**

Host Club: Ngong Hills Rotary Club, Kenya, District 9212

International Club: Berkeley Rotary Club, District 5160

Global Grant Title: Warriors to Peace Guardians:
Building Inter-Ethnic Collaboration; GG#1756350

Frequently asked Questions

Why should Rotarians help these communities?

A few years ago, this area was suffering horribly from war between ethnic communities. Violence reached its peak with the Kanampiu Massacre, where 44 mostly women and children were killed. In response, the “professionals” – the educated sons and daughters of this area – came together and created an indigenous peace process called the Laikipia Peace Caravan, which brought peace between Laikipia’s five communities. *But no one went back* after the peace agreement was signed, until a former warrior invited Mediators Beyond Borders International (MBBI) in to help. MBBI, together with co-researchers from the five communities, interviewed community members and professionals to find out why their peace process had kept the peace for five years. The people told us what worked for them, how they had hung on without any continuing support, and what they still needed to keep their hard-earned peace.



Unfortunately, support did not come in time. Peacebuilding funding disappeared after nonviolent 2013 national elections, so MBBI started working with the Ngong Hills Rotary Club to devise a project to help Laikipia. However, we were warned that the project would have to complete two years before the 2017 elections, thus we could only plan for a project to start right after the August 2017. In the meantime, a horrific drought took hold in Northern Kenya, and desperate – and well-armed, politically manipulated – herders migrated from surrounding counties into Laikipia in search of water and pasture, engulfing Laikipia again in violence this year.

Yet the people of Laikipia remain committed to peace and hold hope for our support. Ngong Hills and MBBI members have met with the inter-ethnic peace committee members, who declared their desire to become Peace Guardians and get the skills to advocate for the “peace dividends” they were promised but never received. They want what the Baringo Peace Guardians received from MBBI’s US Institute of Peace project – new ways to work together more effectively, the skills to create their own community based organizations, and a new strong voice with government and other stakeholders. Ngong Hills livestock experts met with Laikipia herders who described how improved genetics could help their only form of wealth – their livestock – withstand the droughts, and provide the funding they need to send their children to school and access health care.

Through the combined efforts in partnership between Rotary International and Cooperating Organization MBBI, these high need communities of North Kenya can make significant advances in increased economic viability and intercommunity peace. This is also a unique opportunity for Rotarians to better understand this area of focus and develop action plans for Rotary’s growing contribution to world peace.



Which ethnic communities will be involved?

Pastoralist communities in Laikipia, Kenya are highly marginalized, living off very arid lands far from schools and medical care. There are four pastoralist communities in our target area, as identified by the community members: Pokot (pop. 35,000), Samburu (pop. 50,000), Tugen (pop. 40,000) and Turkana (pop. 30,000), plus some non-pastoralist Kikuyu (3,000-5,000) members of their community. Significant in its breadth, this approach deviates from the historically tense relationship between non-pastoralist, or farming, communities and pastoralist herding communities in rivaling for pasture versus cropland.

How were the needs assessed?

This program developed through collaboration between MBBI, Ngong Hills Rotary members, and the Laikipia communities to identify key community issues: supplementing close to 50 empirical research interviews of community members and Nairobi-based kin, Rotary and MBBI members met directly with community representatives to outline specific needs and solutions. These communities understand the connection between scarcity and traditional retributive practice, and the lack of development they suffer. They tell us: ***Without peace, there is no development – but without development, there is no peace.***

How will the project address community needs?

Working in partnership, volunteer mediators from MBBI, Kenyan Pastoralist Peace Guardian trainers who are graduates from previous MBBI peace programs, and Ngong Hills Rotary Club members whose members have great expertise in that veterinarian services will ***a) Build resilience against violent conflict, b) Build capacity for community collaboration, and c) Establish processes, tools, skills and livelihood improvements to achieve Positive Peace.*** These objectives will be met through:

1. Using a tiered training and mentoring process, MBBI volunteers will train pastoralist trainers in communications, problem solving, community building, community dialoguing, consensus decision-making, bias recognition, mentoring and other peace building skills, as well as grant writing, development advocacy, working with them to develop a local training curriculum. Pastoralist trainers will in turn speak in the local dialects to their own communities and train a new cadre of 60 local Peace Guardians, increasing inter-ethnic bonding and relations building and connecting them to an expanding network of Peace Guardians in adjacent countries for early conflict warning and response. The project plans at least 48 hours of training and will involve 9 pastoralist trainers/ground coordinators, building on MBBI's five years of experience in Laikipia and surrounding counties.
2. Local Trainers, supported by MBBI, will train an inter-ethnic group of literate community members in community advocacy and how to apply for government funds to meet local service and development needs. Community dialoguing, joint planning and grant writing, and education on civic engagement will aid in community cohesiveness and enable the communities to learn how to jointly and more effectively access government resources for development needs. Working with a local official that understands the national funding system, a Peace Dividend Notebook will be prepared that identifies all current sources of development funding, contacts, applications and application processes, and provided to the new inter-ethnic team of Peace Guardian Advocates. This activity will provide the skills and tools to access funds for development and livelihood support, and mentor Peace Guardians in developing at least one funding proposal for submission.
3. New Peace Guardians, with mentoring by MBBI and Ngong Hills, will design and conduct community dialoguing and joint planning for livestock, animal feeding and conservation activities. This will increase local skills and capacity for inter-ethnic cooperation and support the communities in accessing the "dividend" of Positive Peace by providing experience in cross-ethnic collaboration in livelihood enhancement that emphasizes the value of community cooperation.



4. Increase size and health of family herds to withstand droughts and reduce the pressure to relocate or steal the animals from other ethnic communities, reducing the need for violence and cattle rustling. Inter-ethnic project activities include:
- Improved Genetics:** sharing of new genetic material introduced into the cattle and goat herds through artificial insemination of cows and does, to reduce inbreeding, improve milk production, resistance to diseases, introduce genetic breeds that will increase the health and size of the herds, as well as introduce slower cattle that won't run well for cattle rustlers.
 - Improved Feed:** training in pasture management and mineral feeding, use of acacia pods, the need to conserve grasses around the homestead for small-scale hay making, and practice in collaboratively renting and using baling equipment to improved feeding practices.
 - Improved Communal Understanding** of the importance of methods for shared community conservation of grasses around the communal pastures as grass banks and for small scale haymaking, through establishing pasture plots and practicing conservation training on better animal feeding practices to enhance the size and health of family herds.

What are the project funds going to cover?

- \$40,000: Training of trainers, peace guardian training, and public dialoguing to address cross-ethnic group collaboration and create on going conflict resolution systems to support sustainable peace. Funds will support bringing world-class international MBBI trainers from MBBI and support travel, meals, accommodations, in country transportation (remote location), and venues within Kenya for trainers and participants to training, meetings, mentoring, and monitoring and evaluation.
- \$50,000: Veterinarian artificial insemination doses to improve genetics of cattle and goats; community training on improved animal husbandry practices, pasture management and mineral feeding techniques, pasture plots, etc.; meals, lodging, transportation, equipment rental, supplies.
- \$6,000: Local coordinators, local vet assistants and field monitors
- \$4,000: Contingencies

Is this project sustainable going forward?

The project is designed to build sustainable peace and resource infrastructures with local community members. Through empowering and training local leaders in community dialoguing, consensus decision-making, bias-recognition, conflict resolution and grant-writing skills, the program seeks to create and expand a tiered network of peace guardians. Nine new Pastoralist Trainers representing five local ethnic groups will add local training and facilitation capacity, and 60 new Peace Guardians trained in conflict resolution and practical advocacy skills, such as civic engagement, will add the capacity to more effectively lobby for development resources ongoingly. Measurements in the forms of individual and focus-group surveys will monitor and evaluate progress. The project will further develop a “living” Peace Dividend Notebook for pastoralist communities to use to access existing funding sources, building upon five years of capacity development within pastoralist communities, part of which was previously funded by the United States Institute for Peace.

Additionally, the program addresses resource-based conflict drivers by improving livestock resilience and health, and building capacity for local feed sources during droughts. Ngong Hills Rotary Club veterinarians and conservation experts' work with community members will build skills in mineral feeding techniques and pasture management, and improve livestock resilience through enhanced genetic material which will sustainably improve herds. Measurements will be taken through pregnancy diagnoses as well through surveying cattle age. In all, the project seeks to meld skill-sharing with traditional and practical wisdom. Through the process, the communities will develop the means to better connect across ethnic groups and collaborate on accessing resources in ways that empower self-organization and community resilience against violent conflict.