

Challenges Faced by Damietta Peace Initiative as an Interreligious Dialogue for Peacebuilding in Nairobi, Kenya

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ABSTRACT

The Damietta Peace Initiative, DPI is a platform meant to settle down interreligious conflicts. Due to terrorism, the rivalry between Christians and Muslims (who are the majority of Kenyans) have gradually increased. During terrorism incidences, it is alleged that non-Muslims are targeted and killed. Poor interreligious interactions lead to a poor socio-economic environment and therefore less developments. The DPI is meant to solve these interreligious conflicts by providing a platform for dialogue. The platform has seen its popularity in Kenya grow; though quite slowly. The slow growth of DPI is a challenge to the socio-economic environment of most metropolitans with people of diverse religions. This study aimed at analyzing some of the major challenges affecting growth of DPI as an interreligious dialogue for peacebuilding in Nairobi, Kenya. The possible solutions to the challenges were also evaluated. The study employed a mixed method research approach was used integrating cross-sectional survey and phenomenological research designs. Questionnaires and in-depth interview guide were used as research instruments. The findings indicated that majority of organizations supported the initiative and would allow their members to participate. The major challenges associated with slow growth of DPI included; lack of sufficient funds to run Pan African Conciliate Teams (PACT) which were the major enablers of the program, fear from attendees that they were being lured to convert into another religion, priority of economic activities to DPI sessions and exclusive feelings of mistrust between religions. The research assessed that these were very serious limitations and more input was required for DPI to succeed. The major solutions identified include; allocation of more funds to run PACT and thus DPI sessions, more involvement of residents in PACT committees and more government sensitization about DPI.

Keywords: Damietta Peace Initiative, Pan African Conciliate Teams, Challenges, Interreligious conflicts

BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Conflict is inevitable in human existential dynamism, and is as old as the history of human beings. It is unavoidably present in human relationships between individuals, groups, nations, and in human interactions. However, the results of conflict are not predetermined. Interestingly, depending on how it is handled, conflict may either escalate into violence or lead to non-productive results, or be beneficially resolved and lead to peaceful coexistence in the society. Musana (2013) notes that, violent conflicts result from the human struggle for

individuation and identity which is a normal process in human growth. Wherever human beings with different identities interact, be it ethnic, race, religion, social, economic and political classes, conflicts can happen, especially when they have incompatible and irreconcilable interests and needs. When these tensions and conflicts slip into violent conflicts, it causes destruction and great suffering to the people in the society. Conflict that escalates into violence and hence a threat to peace and stability in the society is of great concern to this study, in the sense that it calls for some action to be carried out to ensure that peaceful coexistence is

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established to avoid an occurrence or recurrence of violent conflict.

Kenya has experienced recurrent violent conflicts, for example, the Mau Mau uprising just before independence in 1963, the post-election violence of 1992, 1997 and 2007/2008. The later followed the disputed presidential election results. Korir (2009) made an observation that the 2007/2008 post-election violence in Kenya opened wounds from the 1992 and 1997 post elections violence, but the level of devastation was unprecedented. Political rifts he observed, divided along ethnic lines fueled the violence that was experienced during this period. It is estimated that 1,300 lives were lost as a direct result of the violence and conservative figures estimate that 350,000 people were internally displaced. Kenya still carries the scars of this destruction (Ngari, 2012). As recent as 2014, violent conflicts have been experienced in different parts of Kenya such as in Northern, Rift valley, Western, Coastal and Nairobi. In these areas, scores of people have been killed, maimed and some displaced.

Interreligious dialogue approach is a recognizably important aspect in peacebuilding in our globalized world. As expressed in a Tonga proverb in *Peacebuilding: An introduction for communities* (2002), 'a path becomes a path if people frequently use it', peacebuilding is a long-term process as opposed to a onetime event. Diligence and consistency in pursuing peace are required. To establish the path of sustainable peace, a long-term process involving a variety of approaches that are used by both secular and religious organizations for peace building are required. Such organizations include the United Nation Security Council and United Religious Initiative respectively. This study zeroed in on the exploration of a religious approach to peacebuilding; the DPI.

The DPI is a community driven, proactive, interfaith, peace project centered upon five key values; non-violence, right relationships, harmony, reconciliation and care for creation. At the heart of the DPI is the formation of the community-based peace groups named Pan-African Conciliation Teams (PACTs) which comprises of people from different religions, ethnic communities and gender. In the course of establishing PACT groups, cross-cutting issues such as HIV/AIDS and gender have emerged,

but the main thrust still remains as peacebuilding.

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This research employed an embedded mixed methods research approach where qualitative data was collected and analyzed within a quantitative research. The information obtained from the county, program coordinators and the fieldworker were analyzed and discussed within those gathered from the PACT enablers and members. Cross sectional survey research design was used in this study to obtain data from the DPI's PACT enablers and sampled PACT members.

Target Population

Since the study was evaluating the DPI's approach for peacebuilding at grassroots, the data for the study was therefore drawn from: The Country Coordinator, Program Coordinator, Fieldworker, PACT Enablers and PACT Members. In Nairobi region where study was carried out there were about 18 PACT Enablers and approximately 160 PACT members in the region according to the information obtained from the DPI office. The researcher selected 9 Enablers and 90 PACT members to represent the entire population. The Country Coordinator is in charge of all the DPI regions in Kenya. Members in various regions within the country are harmonized by the Program Coordinator. Fieldworkers are the link between the regional office and the PACT members, they organize and supervise all the activities of the DPI at the grassroots. They work very closely with the PACT Enablers and PACT members to fulfill the peacebuilding mission of the Damietta Peace Initiative.

Description of Sample and Sampling Procedures

The sample for this study were 102 DPI members distributed as follows; the country coordinator, program coordinator, fieldworker, 9 enablers and 90 PACT members. Probability and non-probability sampling procedures were used in this research to obtain a sample. Probability sampling was chosen because the researcher sought to make generalizations of this study. The study also employed purposive sampling. Purposive sampling was used in Nairobi-Region to sample two areas from within Nairobi County (Kibera and Mathare) and two

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from outside Nairobi County; Mwanganthia ward in Meru and Namanga location in Kajiado County. The main reason for this selection is that Kibera and Mathare slums form an urban locale with cosmopolitan populace locale have experienced diverse conflicts and violence, while Mwanganthia ward in Meru and Namanga location in Kajiado county from rural settings have had no much violent conflicts. Purposive sampling was used in this research to select respondents with special responsibility; The

DPI's country coordinator, program coordinator, fieldworker and PACT enablers were automatically sampled because the researcher presumes that they have adequate knowledge and factual information required for this study. Simple Random Sampling was used in this study to select members of the PACTs to answer the questionnaires since it provided equal chance to every member in the PACT to be included. The sample distribution frame of the study is illustrated in **table 1**.

Table1. DPI Sample Distribution Frame

Respondents Categories	Number	Sampling Technique	Sample Size	Research Instrument
Country Coordinator	1	Purposive	1	In-depth interview guide
Programme Coordinator	1	Purposive	1	In-depth interview guide
Fieldworker	1	Purposive	1	In-depth interview guide
PACT Enablers	9	Purposive	9	Questionnaires
PACT Members	90	Simple random/ purposive sampling	90	Questionnaires
Total	102		102	

Table 1 indicates that the study's participants were made up of Country and Programme Coordinators, a Fieldworker, PACT Enablers and PACT Members.

Description of Data Collection Instruments

In this research, data was collected using two sources; the secondary sources and the primary sources. Secondary data was gathered from published books, journals, magazines, internet sources and encyclicals/church documents. Primary data was obtained through in-depth interview guide and administering of questionnaires (closed and open-ended questions) to respondents. The questionnaires were administered to the PACT enablers and PACT members while in-depth interviews were administered to the country coordinator, program coordinator and a fieldworker. The questionnaire enabled the researcher to obtain both quantitative and qualitative data while the in-depth interview guide enabled the researcher to obtain qualitative data from the respondents.

Validity and Reliability of Research Instruments

Validity of Research Instruments

A panel of specialists in the Catholic University of Eastern Africa checked on the content coverage by assessing what concept the instrument tried to measure. The experts also determined whether the set items accurately represented the concept of this study. Data collection validity was enhanced by instrument triangulation whereby different sets of

instruments were used. Source triangulation was used to validate the instruments by making PACT enablers and members to respond to some similar questions. Triangulation method was also employed using questionnaires, interview guides to collect similar information.

Pilot Testing

A pilot study was undertaken to determine the validity and reliability of the instruments prior to going to the field with the instruments. Research instruments in this study therefore had to be subjected to a pre-test so as to find and amend any ambiguities, inconceivable statements and errors. In this research, validity of the research instruments employed in the pilot phase were established through the pilot administration of questionnaires to two PACT groups, a fieldworker, two PACT enablers and ten PACT members. The respondents in the pilot study were taken from one of the PACT within the area of study (PACT Rongai) which did not form part of the main study. Information obtained during the pre-testing was highly encouraging for the study to proceed.

Reliability of Research Instruments

To ascertain the reliability of these instruments, the researchers compared data from one instrument with that from another from the same category to ensure that they are consistent, accurate and efficient. It was then subjected to scrutiny by 4 experts. Source triangulation was used to validate the instruments by making PACT enablers and PACT members to respond

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to similar questions. Triangulation method was also employed using questionnaires, in-depth interview guides to collect similar information. The researcher ensured employment of triangulation of data collection methods.

Data Analysis

Quantitative data was analyzed using Statistic Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software. For qualitative data, the researchers categorized data into themes according to the research questions. Thematic analysis was then used to discuss the findings and presented them in form

Table 2. Organizations Involved in Peacebuilding in Nairobi –Region

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	86	98%
No	2	2%
Total	88	100

This study established that majority, 98% of the respondents indicated that other local institutions were involved in peacebuilding process in Nairobi-Region, Kenya. Information gathered from the interviews revealed that organizations such as Justice and peace, Chemichemiyaukweli, Peace Net Kenya, Kenya Muslim Youth Alliance, Franciscan Family Association, Jesuit Hakimani, United Religion Initiative (URI), Mother Earth Network and Franciscan International-Kenya also work for peace in this region. This confirms, the existence of some peacebuilding organizations involved in peacebuilding in Nairobi-Region, Kenya.

Maina (2013) noted that conflict prevention and peacebuilding is not a preserve of one initiative, the duty to foster a peaceful and harmonious coexistence is vested with each and every person and institution, however, each differs in their target groups, duration (short, long-term), approaches and methodologies among other factors. The uniqueness of DPI is on the development and functioning of the local community peace groups (PACTs) who work together practically to enhance peaceful coexistence for all. The Country Coordinator in an interview gave the following report about the uniqueness of the DPI;

The recommended number of the PACT members is between 10-20; The PACTs have inclusivity of all peoples who are diverse in culture, race, gender and religion; the emphasis on self-transformation and skills development in the living out of the Franciscan spirituality of non-violence, reconciliation and care for creation at the local level gives PACTs their uniqueness.since conflict is part and parcel

of narratives and direct quotes. Qualitative data was then analyzed and interpreted within quantitative data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Organizations involved in Peacebuilding at the Grassroots

The respondents were asked to indicate whether there were other organizations involved in peacebuilding process at grassroots in Nairobi – Region, Kenya. **Table 2** shows the findings of the study.

of life and needs to be managed; this strategy provides continuity, social support and opportunities for the involvement of all the DPI stakeholders.

The county-based conflict mapping and profiling baseline report by Wambua (2012) revealed that more than 80% of the counties have moderate to high risk of violent conflict and hence merit continuous monitoring, the areas that were worst affected by post-election violence for example Nairobi county merit closer scrutiny since with little provocation like some political pronouncements ignite violent conflicts. Based on this information, the county coordinator's report can be taken to mean that through the trainings offered to the PACT members, they are in a better position to monitor and resolve any kind of conflicts before they degenerate into violence.

Challenges Faced by DPI in Peacebuilding at the Grassroots

In this section, the study sought to find out major challenges faced by DPI's interreligious dialogue approach in peacebuilding at the grassroots in Nairobi- Region, Kenya. The qualitative responses from all the participants divulge diverse challenges faced by the DPI. The major ones were as follows: inadequate funding; forum allowances demanded by recruits; people thinking that they are being converted to religions other than their own and poor attendance of PACT meetings. A detailed discussion of each of these challenges is presented.

The most repeatedly cited challenge facing DPI in its endeavor to promote sustainable peace and

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care of the environment at grassroots was identified as lack of sufficient funds. The results from the interviews concurred with those from the qualitative responses from the questionnaires. The Country Coordinator explained;

Peace building requires not only patience and experience but also financial resources. There are many DPI programmes and activities that need to be organized and carried out in various PACTs within Nairobi region; however, due to an element of financial constraint, some of these activities are put on hold. This condition slows down the growth and development of the PACTs. The fieldworker who needs to visit different PACTs for monitoring and evaluation of the progress of each PACT and the need to split or create a new PACT is delayed hence some PACTs exceeds the required number of members 10-20; some PACTs have up to twenty-five members.

From these findings, one may deduce that DPI might be having various activities that require more money than the organization is able to source. Whatever the reason might be, it is evident that DPI needs sufficient funds to run its daily activities especially the PACTs trainings, forums and workshops which are necessary for the acquisition of key values and knowledge in a dynamic society. Having more members in the PACT than the recommended, (10-20), may be taken to mean that the organization lacks adequate funds to run the fast-growing number of PACTs within a given area. This may, to a certain extent, have hindered to a certain extent the spread of DPI in the region. The results concur with previous studies showing that finding funds to carry out different activities which will provide opportunities for peace building is one challenge among others to peace builders (Maryknoll, 2009). It is evident that funding can matter a great deal in the success of the DPI approach. Building sustainable peace requires not only patience, experience, trainings and good network but also financial resources to access relevant actors in order to bring out change on a large scale in a region within a shorter period.

Another challenge is that people ask for money/ payment whenever asked to attend the forums and workshops. The Programme Coordinator and the Fieldworker revealed that the challenges faced by the DPI office in its ministry are social

economic advancement of the grassroots communities and individuals. The Programme Coordinator had this to say:

Surrounded by so many donation-giving organizations, some people struggle to understand our operations and programmes, expecting financial grants and favors from us when they are invited to attend forums and workshops with the aim of starting a process of building teams and getting in touch with their own ability to solve conflicts nonviolently.

It was noted that much time is taken educating new members on issues pertaining finances and correcting the notion that NGO are there only to give handouts to the locals. On the contrary, the main objective of the DPI is to realize an Africa where peace through non-violence is a way of life and where people are motivated by the values of right relationships, harmony, reconciliation and care for creation.

The study also revealed that the respondents think that interreligious dialogue aims at converting them to either Christian or Muslim religions alternatively. The fear to be converted into another religion becomes a hindrance to bringing all people on board. This finding echo some of the challenges, where Christians and Muslims, due to their missionary approach, lean towards some of their exclusivist principles. For instance, the belief that 'evangelistic mission is vital' is a threat to interreligious dialogue for peacebuilding.

The Programmes Coordinator on this issue reported;

Some of the new Christian PACT members argue that interreligious dialogue might undermine their Christian mission and witness; they are suspicious that the Muslims might use the opportunity to convert them to their religion. This view is also held by some Muslims who acknowledge Muhammad as the apostle of God....the missionary aspect of interreligious dialogue make some to be very suspicious.

For both Christians and Muslims, the mission to convert others people to their faith is an essential obligation, this stems from the central beliefs and conviction that their religious founders are the only and universal savior of whose fundamental duty is to convert others to their religion through missionary activities. Braybrooke (1998), confirms that this

exclusivist attitude is still present in religious communities. He confirmed that “all religions claim insights into truth”.p.5. These attitudes could be associated with the long history of suspicion, prejudice and enmity between Christians and Muslims, as deduced from Saint, Francis of Assisi’s encounter. Those who advocate and engage in dialogue still face some obstacles as is evident from the findings. Some Muslims still suspect that the DPI’s interreligious dialogue might be a new guise for Christian missionary activity. The suspicion can emanate from the fact that the DPI is basically a Christian initiative where Muslims are invited to work together with the Christians for purposes of peacebuilding at the grassroots.

The findings also disclosed the existence of some exclusive feelings among the Christians and Muslims. Stories of terrorism and the so called “War on Terror”, have given Christians in Kenya a pretext to perceive Muslims as untrustworthy and violent, even after a long history of relative Christian and Muslim peaceful coexistence compared to other parts of the world. The Programme Coordinator also reported that ‘the recent attacks which are in public domains in Coastal region; Mpeketoni, Mombasa and Northern part of Kenya; Wajir, Mandera, though were not exclusively religious attacks, the killing of only non-Muslims created a lot of suspicions and mistrust for the Muslims by the Christians within the PACTs’.

The Programme Coordinator’s report concurs with Butime (2014) who made an observation that between 15thJune and 17thJune 2014; more than 60 people were killed in attacks in and near Mpeketoni, Kenya; the target was non-Muslims. Brady Tara and Blake Mathew 2014 for example said,

‘My husband told them we were Christians and they shot him in the head’: How al-Shabaab militia went from door to door killing non-Muslims as a Kenyan village watched World Cup’.

In Mandera, 28 people died in an attack on a bus that targeted non-Muslims and on 2 December 2014, in the same area, many of the killed quarry workers are reported to have come from the south of the country where Christians predominate (Variyar, 2014). These series of attacks increased the levels of suspicion among the Christians, and the view that Muslims needed to be converted in order to stop the killings.

The County Coordinator also acknowledged that such views as exclusivist, prejudice and mistrust can exist among adherents of different religions specifically among Christians and Muslims as is the case in the history of Christian and Muslim relations. This is also evident from the need for the first stage in DPI PACT training as illustrated in the conceptual framework; building trust between diverse people in the PACT at the grassroots.

Ujeneza (2012) affirmed that exclusivist principles, if not interpreted through the lens of peace, may appear to be extreme and such attitudes can be obstacles to welcoming others in a dialogue. The DPI therefore, encourages members to share their different insights and get a better understanding of each other as this is the main objective of interfaith dialogue. The DPI recognizes that different truths about each religion notwithstanding, people who commit themselves to coming together for dialogue towards conflict transformation and peace building should think beyond these exclusivist statements.

Poor attendance to the meeting is another challenge faced by DPI as indicated by the respondents. This can be interpreted in relation to the respondents who expressed that the IRD aims at converting Christians to Islam or vice versa. Fear of being converted by the locals boils down to low turn up to meetings. The flip side of it is that lack of attendance denies people the chance to learn the purpose of DPI which is far from converting anyone to an alternative religion.

The researcher noted that the challenges faced by DPI in Kenya as mentioned previously, vary from those experienced by DPI in South Africa. As Grzelakthe (2009) in South Africa, DPI is faced by lack of clarity concerning job descriptions and governance of the project and staff shortage. This variation owes to the fact that Kenya and South Africa and by extension other countries with PACTs are different in many elements including; geographical and socio-economic realities among others. This implies that the challenges faced by the DPI vary from context to context, and since we live in a dynamic society, these challenges could also vary from time to time depending on different settings. There is therefore, the need to constantly evaluate the progress of establishing and developing the PACTs to discover ways to strengthen and accelerate them in different

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settings. The PACTs remain in need of constant support, shaping and re-shaping in order to meet the challenges of a given time.

Possible Solutions to Challenges Faced by the DPI at the Grassroots

In this section, the question sought to find out from the respondents' possible solutions to major challenges encountered by the DPI in peacebuilding at the grassroots in Nairobi-Region, Kenya. Some possible solutions were suggested as follows: More funds to run the DPI programmes; financial allowance only for DPI leaders to organize PACT meetings; more sensitization on the need for IRD and that people should be encouraged to attend DPI seminars.

A viable solution to the cited challenges faced by the DPI in the previous section as suggested by the respondents is sourcing for more money to run the DPI programmes. With donor funds being inversely proportional to DPI activities, there will be need for alternative means and sources to keep the activities going on. Information gathered from the interviewees show that the DPI stakeholders are working towards alleviating the challenges they are currently facing. The Country Coordinator had the following to say;

In an attempt to solve the funds issue, the DPI is in the process of coming up with income generating projects for the PACT members which will in turn help in promoting peace activities in terms of financing it where money will be required. We also encourage PACT members to come up with innovative ways of organizing local fundraisings for the running of their Peacebuilding activities within the PACTs...But while this is on the activities are carried.

On the same issue the Program Coordinator reported that;

Much of our work has been mostly done on voluntary basis since the programme is people-centered and community-based. The realization of relevance of DPI in the maintenance of peace through non-violence and reaching out to others to be part of team has been a motivator to DPI working team. A sense of ownership of the programme by the people has also gone a long way into alleviating DPI major challenges.

From the above two reports, it can be deduced that though the DPI faces some challenges, these challenges have not hindered the development and functioning of the DPI PACTs at the grassroots. This implies that DPI training has equipped the PACT members with innovative skills and knowledge for the organization and sustenance of PACTs and its activities.

That people should be sensitized on the fact that they should not be paid to attend meetings since these meetings are meant for their own good and the society, was suggested the respondents. Notably, the response from the participants revealed that more sensitization is also required on the need and purpose of IRD. These views are closely related in that they call for the last solution as indicated by those who are of the opinion that people should be encouraged to attend DPI seminars and workshops. The Fieldworker on the same issues said:

Apparently, from the above remarks, it can be deduced that more It is only through encouraging the members to attend trainings, PACT meeting, forums and workshops that people would be enlightened on the main peacebuilding purpose of DPI..... within the PACTs there is already a change of attitude among those who have participated in these ongoing trainings, that's why DPI's PACT has tremendously increased in number since it was introduced in Kenya. Through various peace and care of environment related activities the DPI approach has impressed and convinced many.

Training to the grassroots groups can help to overcome some of the major challenges facing DPI. This could enhance self-transformation and skills developments in living out the DPI values at the local level which gives the PACTs its uniqueness as mentioned previously

When interviewees were asked to give suggestions on how the above challenges could be dealt with in future, the Program Coordinator said;

Considering that more training of the PACTs is essential to the success of the DPI's approach, more training to the grassroots groups will be carried out continuously to help overcome some of the major challenges especially to overcome misconceptions of the

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Muslims among the Christian towards the Muslims and vice-versa.

On the issue of finances, the following report was given;

Collaboration and networking with like-minded teams or organizations that fund or sponsor empowerment programmes do assist in overcoming some of the challenges. It also enhances transformation of the local communities socially and positively. DPI will also continue to encourage the carrying out of PACTs peacebuilding activities which do not necessarily need money such as cleaning their surroundings, organizing peace forums, within the surrounding communities. These activities can be organized by the PACT Enablers in collaboration with PACT members.

From the above remarks, it is evident that the DPI's interreligious dialogue for peacebuilding relies heavily on its strategic training of the PACT members in order to attain its vision of sustainable peace in the society. It can also be deduced that some peacebuilding activities can be carried out with little or no funds at all.

As pertains the vision of the DPI in future, the respondents who were interviewed were all in agreement that, they are striving to fulfill the vision of the DPI which as indicated by Thonissen (2011) states that; "The DPI's envisioned end is an Africa and by large a world where peace through non-violence is a way of life and where peoples are motivated by the values of right relationship, harmony, reconciliation and care of creation" (p.3).

The Country Coordinator specifically said; "as long as societies are in need of peace and its benefits, DPI will always have work to do in future since its vision is peace for all people and taking care for the environment which is God's creation".

The Program Coordinator had this to say; "The PACTs should grow in order to continue influencing the grassroots communities and to become more pro-active in maintaining peace."

Generally, the respondents would like to see that local grassroots communities are developed, transformed and that all people coexist peacefully. They hoped to see a future in where people embrace each other in peace and harmony, a situation where people continue to apply the mechanism, values and attitudes as

advocated by DPI at the grassroots in their areas and spreading them to the neighboring communities. The DPI also encourages a network of people committed to promote a culture of non-violence throughout Africa and beyond.

The researcher concludes from the findings in this section that the Damietta Peace Initiative has all it takes for building respect and values which can support the process of peacebuilding in the society. It is inferred that one of the ways of channeling all energies in bringing about the changes to challenges posed conflicts is by creating a peaceful environment at the grassroots level through the formation of PACTs.

CONCLUSION

Despite the important role played by DPI in peacebuilding at the grassroots in Nairobi-Region, Kenya, as evident in the discussion of the findings, the approach has faced some major challenges in the process of carrying out its programmes. The main challenge, as discussed, is inadequate funding. The DPI-Kenya lacks sufficient funds to carry out all its intended activities in Nairobi-Region and to extend their activities to various parts of the county. The problem of insufficient funds is further compounded by the need to meet logistics that enable facilitators carry out their roles within and outside PACTs. Poor attendance to PACT meetings hinders proper planning and implementations of intended peacebuilding activities that the members may resolve to carry out within and outside the PACTs. Another major challenge is the misconception about the main objective of DPI's interreligious dialogue approach. As a result of the missionary approach within the teachings of the two religions (Christianity and Islam), some people fear being converted to Islam or Christianity.

The study established that one main strategy to counter the challenges experienced by the DPI is through the training of PACT members. This requires that it is done frequently in order to sensitize members on emerging issues in a dynamic society. Despite, some challenges faced by the DPI in carrying out its peacebuilding the region. The PACTs are still running and the trainings and workshops are being carried in order to equip its members with relevant peacebuilding skills for sustainable peace in the region.

RECOMMENDATIONS

DPI should come up with an innovative way of organizing a local fundraising for the PACTs and also for smooth running of its activities. DPI should come up with income generating project for the PACT members which will help in running their peacebuilding activities in terms of financing it where money will be required. It will also aid PACT members on matters such as economic empowerment; this would reduce idleness seen in many youths who are easily incited into violent activities in their areas.

The study also recommends that DPI's effectiveness be enhanced through a continuous acceptance of social strengths; existing opportunities and economic opportunities that can make people depend on others less. More DPI peacebuilding trainings and workshops could be organized within and outside the PACTs in order to sensitize more PACT members and society at large on the need for a sustainable peace in society.

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