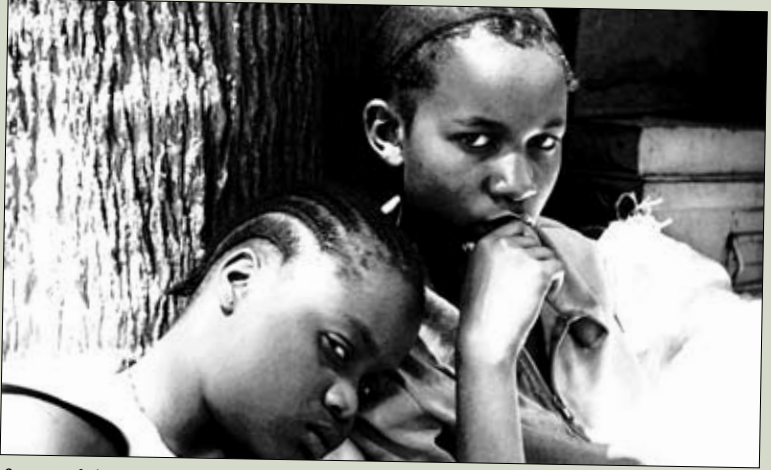


IN SEARCH FOR HEALING, RECONCILIATION

tour targets youth to influence communities



Scores of displaced people are still living in transitional settlements, too afraid for their lives to go back to where they called home for years.

December
2009

PICHA MTAANI, SWAHILI FOR 'street exhibition', is a youth led peace initiative that primarily seeks to create space for young people to reconcile.

Through an exhibition set of images taken during Kenya's 2007/2008 post election violence, we hope that by staring at the horror we inflicted on each other, we can steer the individual towards personal reflection, towards a willingness to have honest through hosted conversations sessions.

The exhibition set will tour five towns that were hardest hit by the violence including Nakuru, Eldoret, Kericho, Kisumu and Mombasa. We target to reach approximately 500,000 young persons in these towns.

As Picha Mtaani, we believe that even in the face of years of widespread impunity and a culture of unaccountability, **that the youth can rise to break this cycle, refuse to take the bait to be used in lawlessness for selfish political end and build a united Kenya.** We are committed to empowering the youth to building bridges among themselves and reconciling their communities.

As Kenya marks the second anniversary of its worst election misconduct, we cannot sit back and assume that the normalcy we are enjoying equates to peace. Here is a call to heal the nation.

At Picha Mtaani we believe that together we can do it. *Pamoja tunaweza!*

Director / Founder
Boniface Mwangi

**Co -Founder / Project
Coordinator**
George Gachara

Project Administrator
Caren Wakoli

Peace Advisor
Naila Batamuliza

Media Liaison / Editor
Bertha Kang'ong'oi

Staff
Njeri Kang'ethe
Bonney Tunya
David Mwangi

Contact:
Uniafric House, Koinange Street
3rd Floor, suite 360
P.O.BOX 17654 – 00100
info@pichamtaani.com
www.pichamtaani.com

NOTE

The opinions expressed in Pamoja Newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the UNDP, of the Picha Mtaani's donors and partners.



heal the nation.

Word from the Director

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO SALUTE you in our first issue of Pamoja, the newsletter that will document experiences as we travel across the country to hear the youth speak out and say what they can do for our beloved country to help end tribalism. Pamoja Tunaweza, believing together we can heal, forgive and move forward.

It is two years since the election violence rocked Kenya and the country is still crying out for healing. Two years on, we are just beginning to cautiously consider what exactly happened.

With scores of displaced people still living in transitional settlements, too afraid for their lives to go back to where they called home for years. The rift created is not yet a thing of the past. It is time that we ask ourselves what happened and what we can do to ensure that the madness of 2007/08 does not occur again.

The time of self-reflection should start now and Picha Mtaani initiative intends to give young Kenyans a platform to voice their concerns and get a chance to meet like-minded citizens who believe they are agents of change in this nation.

In January this year, I left the Standard newspaper newsroom, where I had worked as a photojournalist for five years. I decided to do something about my country. That is how Picha Mtaani (which means Street Exhibition) was born. I joined forces with other young like-minded Kenyans to form an organization that will go where young people are, show them the horrors of the post election violence through photography and involve them in dialogue.

Picha Mtaani will involve young people in finding local solutions for local problems without relying on rabid politicians who cause more damage every time they open their mouths. Our exhibition is where my fellow citizens will see the result of tribal politics and distance themselves from tribal politicians therefore making them irrelevant!

We are the generation that will bring real meaningful change in this nation. It's time we joined hands. Pamoja tunaweza!

Boniface Mwangi
Founder, Picha Mtaani

ITS A HEARTY AFFAIR NOW

GIVEN THE CHALLENGES of conflict and small arms and light weapons (SALW) to development, UNDP as a key development partner in Kenya has identified conflict management and small arms and light weapons (SALW) control as one of the strategic development priorities for Kenya.

As such, it has over the last five years developed and implemented intervention projects with the Government and civil society organisations that have, to a large extent, addressed the challenges of violent conflicts and SALW. These projects have contributed to some extent to the relative peace and stability in Kenya.

However, peace is not a one off event. It is a process and a goal to be constantly pursued, sometimes, with no end. This pursuit therefore, requires constant vigilance and engagement of all stakeholders including UNDP Kenya.

One of the most pertinent current challenges today in Kenya is dealing with the aftermath of the crises

In response to these challenges UNDP Kenya has dedicated a fully-fledged Unit to support the Government and People of Kenya in their pursuit for peace to facilitate development through mitigating causes and negative impacts of violent conflicts and small arms and light weapons. Crisis prevention and recovery, which forms the impetus for the interventions is one of the key focus areas of UNDP. In the support of crisis prevention and recovery initiatives UNDP provides experience in the areas of peace building, conflict and development working with Government, non-state actors, and communities; a multi-sectoral



It was the casting of votes that triggered off spontaneous and other well-planned violence.

approach and ability to deliver policy advice; highly specialized skills and solid accomplishments in the development field; capacity to adequately intervene, respond and manage crises from the early recovery to recovery to development phases; and monitoring and evaluation of conflict areas.

One of the most pertinent current challenges today in Kenya is dealing with the aftermath of the 2007 post-election crises. Interventions to address this challenge at the community level include efforts towards intra and inter-communal reconciliation as well as positive engagement of the youth in peace building. UNDP therefore is pleased to support the initiative of Picha Mtaani, which appreciates that the youth have a critical role in shaping the future and destiny of their nation and aims at providing a platform for national reflection and building local reconstruction consensus through photo exhibitions and hosted conversations.

Nirina Kiplagat
Program Officer,
Peace-Building, UNDP



Pamoja Tunaweza!

Views

As the youth, it is up to us to say no to the leaders who only incite the youth to violence and do not fulfill the mandate for which they were sent to parliament to do.

–Eldoret youth

The youth have the power to change things around in Kenya.

– Eldoret youth

It's very painful to watch, I am hoping this wont happen again. All Kenyans need to watch it.

– Rhoda Edgar

Usikubali kudanganywa, tusivutwe na upepo, this is our country and we are the ones to protect it, ama vipi?

– Remerez Odhiambo

Some bunch of politicians shouldn't affect a whole country's peace.

– Morgan Murungi

Lest we forget! This is truly the perfect forum for us to evaluate our actions during political turmoil especially in 2007. Were our actions the perfect response or were there other options that were more peaceful and thus could have saved 1000+ lives.

– Edwin Maxwell Gichuhi

Upcoming Picha Mtaani Tour / Street Exhibitions

» January 2010

from 13th to 17th, **Nakuru**

from 20th to 24th, **Eldoret**

» February 2010

from 10th to 14th, **Kericho**

from 17th to 21st, **Kisumu**

» March 2010

from 10th to 14th, **Mombasa**

April 2010, **Book launch**

Principal Partner

United Nations Development Programme

Other partners:

- Media focus on Africa foundation;
- National Youth Convention; On screen productions ltd
- The Godown Art Center
- Penya Africa