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*International Women's Day celebration at Melako Conservancy in Marsabit County. Photo courtesy of Vivian Jebet.*

## KENYA

### PEOPLE TO PEOPLE RECONCILIATION PROGRAM

The USAID People to People Program supports peaceful coexistence between different ethnic groups (Samburu, Turkana, Borana, Gabra, Pokot and Somalis) in Northern Kenya by promoting a culture of peace and non-violent conflict resolution among communities. The activity is implemented by Northern Rangeland Trust (NRT) and engages community conservancies as the key drivers to support the Government of Kenya's (GoK) peacebuilding efforts. The People-to-People program brings different ethnicities, religions, and political allegiances together to trusted, safe spaces for dialogue. Through this dialogue and connection, division and prejudice can be reduced, mutual understanding and tolerance created, and positive relationships built.

#### OUR WORK

NRT's community conservancy model is community-owned and led and supports communities to govern their land, identify and lead development projects, build sustainable economies linked to conservation, spearhead peace efforts to mend years of conflict, and shape government regulations related to conservation and land management. The model espouses high standards of corporate governance for ensuring leadership, accountability, representation, transparency, communication, participation, and effective operations. The peace ambassadors from civil society are selected by communities based on their respect and credibility within their society. This bottom-up approach creates a coordinated, grassroots movement that guides work within national and county governments.

The community conservancies work with peace ambassadors, youth, women, and religious leaders in partnership with NRT, Pact Kenya, County and National Government, the National Cohesion and Integration Commission and other non-governmental organizations. These relationships are multi-faceted. Government ward administrators and members of the county assembly sit as ex-officio members of the conservancy boards and of County Governments, allowing for collaborative

information-sharing. Specialized consultants with extensive leadership in conflict and political expertise is appointed to assist with specific government and political engagements.

## TECHNICAL APPROACH

NRT's peace program helps to build peace through a community-led, grassroots approach that facilitates the engagement of peace ambassadors, elders, inter-faith religious leaders, youth, and women from the local communities. Together county and national government agencies address ethnic and natural resource-based conflicts. Community conservancies are strong, well-governed community institutions which provide a neutral, non-political, trusted forum for dialogue between different ethnic groups. These institutions play a vital role in supporting national and county government efforts and in ensuring the continuity of community-led, sustainable, and localized peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The project includes the following activities:

- conflict analysis and mapping,
- peace ambassadors' program,
- peacebuilding committees,
- women and youth peace activities,
- government engagements, and
- development of water infrastructures.

As a result of these activities, the project expects the following results:

1. Transformed attitudes which reject violence and increased understanding, tolerance, and conciliation between different communities.
2. Stronger local institutions that promote peace and provide a neutral and trusted platform for peace dialogue.
3. Increased political participation in peace dialogues resulting in peace accords.
4. Reduced frequency of conflict and insecurity incidents; and
5. Increased inclusion and opportunities for women and youth.

**BUDGET:** USD \$1,199,942

**DURATION:** 2020-2023

### ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Marsabit, Isiolo, Samburu, West Pokot and Baringo counties, Kenya.

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Northern Rangelands Trust

### KEY PARTNERS

39 community conservancies within NRT representing a population of 404,000 people (2019 Census).

County Governments of Samburu, Isiolo, Marsabit, West Pokot and Baringo. Pact Inc. USA.

Ministry of Interior local administration; and National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC).

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