



Community Radios broadcasting for peace

Project-Newsletter 1

February 2017



Participants of the "UMOJA - Radio for Peace" kick-off workshop in Shalom-Hause, Nairobi (Photo: msw)

December 13th and 14th 2016, Kenya Community Media Network (KCOMNET) launched the "UMOJA-Radio for Peace" Project with a kick-off workshop. This capacity-building project, targeting 22 Community Radios in Kenya, is financed by the Civil Peace Service (CPS) of the German Cooperation GIZ.

Wednesday Dec 14th 5.30 pm, Laura is excited and jumping in the air. Two days of intense discussions with journalists of 10 Kenyan Community-Radios to work on the content of the "UMOJA - Radio for Peace" project are drawn to a close. UMOJA means Unity. For the next two years, radio makers, community stakeholders and community members will work on a better understanding of conflicts, how to avoid, prevent or transform them and how to report in a sensitive manner on conflict related issues. Community Radios with their three key pillars – community ownership, community service and community participation – are a powerful tool to influence the communities and their population. Promoting peace in and

between the communities is one of the most important challenges they face especially in an election year-the workshop participants underlined.

Working on conflict transformation with the Kenyan Community Radios does not only mean workshops and trainings for the journalists but also the production and the sharing of high quality radio content. Reports, features, radio-drama – the communication medium radio has a lot of possibilities to address their listeners.

To facilitate these productions and to support radio stations and journalists, the UMOJA project has set up a content production fund to grant this work with small subsidies. (see also 'The UMOJA Content Production Fund'). "Influence the behavior of the people, educating the communities that there are nonviolent alternatives to resolve conflicts and sharpen the skills of community radio journalists in conflict sensitive reporting are for me the most important elements of the UMOJA – Radio for Peace project", Sheila Ngatia, who will work as the Project Support Officer for the next years, summarized the workshop results. Nobody disagreed. (msw)



The editors word

As heightened political activities continue across the country, ours is to ensure that peace prevails in the communities. We are happy to share with you the first edition of our newsletter.

In this issue, you shall get a sneak preview of 'UMOJA' Radio for Peace Project – full facts and figures of how and when it was launched, details of the project and planned activities, photos of Nairobi & Kajiado County community radios, an exclusive Interview with a renowned Godfather of Community Radio, Mr. Tom Mboya- Station Manager KOCH FM and much more. Enjoy!



Sheila Ngatia and Michael Schweres

Imprint

The UMOJA-Radio for peace newsletter is a journalistic product designed to inform partners and participants of the project.

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implemented by:



Station visits in Nairobi & Kajiado Counties



Mid morning show presented by Molly Maina-Reuben Fm



Pamoja FM Newsroom staff



Interview at Bus Radio with Victor Juma



Radio Domus Logo - 'The Voice of Peace'



Philip Muhatia-Pamoja FM Radio Producer on air



Peaceful message Graffiti in Mukuru kwa Reuben environ - Reuben FM



KOCH FM Antennae

THE UMOJA CONTENT PRODUCTION FUND

Trainings and workshops are good and necessary but then the content production must follow. Producing good radio content, going there where things are happening, recording live sounds, getting people in front of your microphones is expensive. Doing a good journalistic work is not a low-cost product, it must be paid by a fair price.

In order to enable the community radio stations to do this work of investigative and storytelling journalism, one project activity of UMOJA-Radio for Peace is the establishment of an independent Content Production Fund. This fund will help Community Radio Stations with small grants to produce features, reports, radio-drama and digital storytelling or any other content related to the main issues of our peacebuilding project.

These productions have to be broadcasted and will be uploaded to our project website to be available as podcast or shared with other radio-stations. Therefore, the productions have to meet a high technical standard.

The content production grant is 16,000 KES. This amount has to be shared between the producing Radio-Station (10,000 KES) and the Journalist or the team of journalists (6,000 KES)

The rules of the game are the following:

* All proposals have to be channelled by the radio-stations and sent to content@umojaradioforpeace.org

* The proposals should describe shortly the planned content and how long the production will be (max 7 min)

* When your proposal is accepted by the team of editors, you can go ahead, 50% of the grant will be sent to your radio-station.

* At the end of your work we need the edited mp3-file of your production and a short english-summary of the content and the technical details (station, length, date of first broadcasting, name of journalist/producer).

* Once all this arrives in the office, it will be prepared for our website and the remaining fund will be transferred.



4 Questions to Tom Mboya, KOCH FM

Q. Tom, in 2008 PEV Korogocho was NOT burning, which role did Koch FM play in this non-violent story?

A. We urged the people not to engage in violence by involving some influential people in Korogocho i.e. opinion leaders for example; Church leaders, Imams and Catholic priests to inspire the people not to engage in violence. We also recorded short voice messages from a few young people to encourage the youth not to participate in violence. Prior to that KOCH FM had done some community conversation forums 'Vikao vya jamii' which were targeting the young people who are normally used to engage in violence, asked them why they get involved in violence and what benefit is it to them.

Q. We will have new elections this year and lots of people fear, that it might be violent again> How can community-Radio influence their listeners to avert violence?

A. Avoid politicians who use community media which are vulnerable to use as a platform to say anything they want to say-switch off the mic if possible. Use community media platforms to propagate peace and cohesion i.e. package the information in a way that it will not divide us and the listeners. Community radios should also focus on giving airtime to influential people in the community e.g. elders, church leaders, community leaders to record positive peaceful messages for the people. Lastly, we can also use reformed criminals who now

understand the importance of peace to talk to the people and try to influence behavior change.

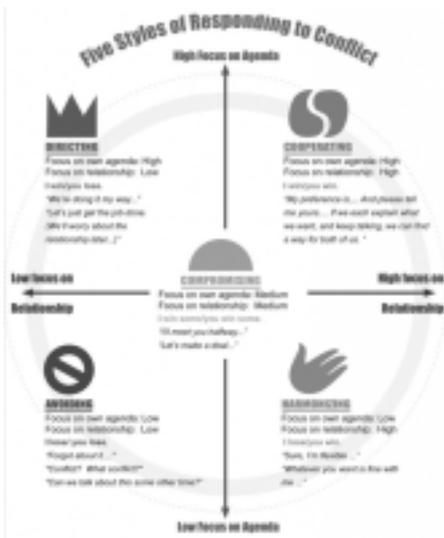
Q. Koch is "owned" by the Korogocho Community? How do they participate in their Radio?

A. There are many young jobless people who have a lot of key information who come to the Radio station often because they appreciate what we do and want to be part of KOCH FM. We use them as key informants for our content production. They also participate as volunteers at the station and others get internship opportunities.

Q. Every day you read about corruption and criminality in the newspapers, but you don't read so much about poverty, social injustice and violence. How do you give attention to these issues in your radio?

A. Priorities of mainstream media are totally different from Community media. This is because community radio are born out of a need. For example, in Korogocho, corruption had been the order of the day where local administrators used to ask the people for illegal levies commonly known as 'repair fees', the traders on the road side for illegal money, etc. Since community radio is on the business of emancipating the community, educating our people, building civic active participants thus KOCH FM managed to advocate for scraping of these fees which was an achievement through engaging the community.

(The interview was done by Sheila Ngatia)



WHAT IS A CONFLICT ?

Conflict occurs when two or more people/groups are in pursuit of mutually incompatible goals, interests, values, or objectives, where these are often insufficient to satisfy all. Conflict can be violent or nonviolent. Conflict is not always negative and can lead to positive outcomes such as enhancing self-awareness, be a medium for airing of problems, unity and

development. Conflicts turn violent when parties no longer seek to attain their goals peacefully, but instead, resort to violence. The following are types/levels of conflicts; Intra-personal; conflicts within a person, such as inner struggles. Inter-personal; Conflicts between two people or a small group of people. Intra and inter-community conflict: These include intra-community conflicts which take place between communities of the same ethnic group e.g. between families, between age-sets and within and between clans. Inter-community conflicts occur between two or more communities e.g. Turkana-Pokot, Pokot-Marakwet, among others.

Towards financial sustainability of Community Radio in Kenya

by Njuki Githethwa

Community radios in Kenya, as elsewhere in the world, are largely dependent on donors outside their communities for survival. In the efforts to change this, Kenya Community Media Network (KCOMNET) has been supported by Stem van Afrika (SvA) through the Catholic Media Council (CAMECO) for a two year project (2017 – 2018) to improve the financial sustainability of community radio stations in Kenya by enhancing community participation and collective marketing.

Details of the project and planned activities 'UMOJA' - Radio for Peace Project

UMOJA-Radio for Peace Project was created to strengthen the skills of Community Radio Journalists in conflict analysis and conflict sensitive reporting. The timeline for the first phase of the project is from 15th February, 2017 – 31st October, 2017.

The specific objectives of this project include; Build the capacities of community radio journalists and local stakeholders in conflict understanding and use of nonviolent communication tools, equip community radio journalists with the attitudes and skills to produce and broadcast high quality radio programs on peace building and alternative conflict resolution in Kenya and promote behavior change and active engagement of community radio listeners in peace building and alternative conflict resolution in Kenya.

Some of the planned Project activities for the successful implementation of 'UMOJA' radio for peace will be:

1. Assessment-Interviews and preparatory field visits of the Radio-Stations, photo, video and sound documentation of the Radio-Stations activities for networking and advertising.
2. Two or three days training-workshops on conflict understanding, mapping and analysis, non-violent communication and conflict sensitive reporting for community radio journalists nationwide in the 5 geographical clusters (before the general elections).
3. Support of production and broadcasting of quality programs, features and radio-drama on conflict related issues, peace building and conflict resolution.
4. Construction of UMOJA-Radio for Peace website and social media online platforms for networking, program-sharing and podcasting.
5. Publication of a quarterly project-newsletter for partners and participants.
6. Publication of awareness raising material and a Media-Handbook "Broadcasting for peace", Book launch at STORYMOJA Festival 2017 in Nairobi. (sgn)



Mitaani FM, Kivuli Center Dagoretti (Photo:msw)

This project intends to enable community radio to focus on the communities they serve as the first sources of their incomes. Gaining the trust and confidence of the communities they serve by ensuring active community participation, especially in their governance, programming and financial transparency and accountability, which are widely considered as key parameters in the efforts of ensuring the social, institutional and financial sustainability of community radio stations.

This project also enables KCOMNET to market community radio stations in Kenya as a collective package beyond the reach of particular community radio. The project thus fulfills the need for community radio stations to generate alternative income streams for their financial health away from over-reliance on funding from donors. Improved financial health for community radio stations will enable them to offer vital communication services that they provide to grassroots communities.