CURRENT SITUATION IN KENYA

In March 2013, Uhuru Kenyatta won election as Kenya’s president and was sworn into office without much of the violence experienced by the country during elections in 2007-8. Although the election was calm, Kenya still faces high rates of corruption and the rising instability in certain regions, especially near its border with Somalia.

USIP’S WORK

The United Institute of Peace (USIP) provides education, grants, training and resources to Kenyans working for peace. USIP’s recent work includes:

**Kenyan Elections Lessons Learned Project:** USIP is working in partnership with the Constitution and Reform Education Consortium (CRECO) and the Interparty Youth Forum (IPYF) to conduct youth-led citizen dialogues and key informant interviews across ten counties to examine the March 2013 elections and lessons learned from the process.

**Developing Nonviolence Strategies for Youth from Western Provinces of Kenya:** The African Great Lakes Initiative engages youth who had participated in, or were directly affected by, the 2007-08 post-election violence through reconciliation training sessions. A total of 800 youth from the ghettos around Nairobi and hard-hit communities in the Great Rift Valley participated in 40 “Basic Alternatives to Violence” workshops.

**Applying Peacebuilding Methodologies in Kenya:** This project aimed to deliver effective, practical tools for grassroots peacebuilding in Kenya through the dubbing and distribution of the Swahili version of the acclaimed documentary An African Answer. The project also worked to empower a select group of civil society and religious leaders through an intensive six-day training-of-trainers workshop, as well as to foster reconciliation and trust between ethnic and religious groups through community interventions in three hot spots of ethnic tension.

**Center for Creative Leadership: Youth Voices for Peace:** This training-of-trainers project seeks to enhance local Kenyan capacity to deliver youth leadership training on peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The project will implement a six-day interethnic leadership training and mentoring program for Kenyan youth and will strengthen in-country capacity to deliver youth leadership training that will enhance conflict awareness, effective leadership practices for peace and interethnic dialogue on conflict prevention and mitigation issues.

GRANTS

USIP provides grants to projects aiming to promote peacebuilding, nonviolence strategies and conflict resolution in Kenya, including:

**Developing Nonviolence Strategies for Youth from Western Provinces of Kenya:** The African Great Lakes Initiative engages youth who had participated in, or were directly affected by, the 2007-08 post-election violence through reconciliation training sessions. A total of 800 youth from the ghettos around Nairobi and hard-hit communities in the Great Rift Valley participated in 40 “Basic Alternatives to Violence” workshops.

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USIP EVENTS

USIP frequently hosts events, bringing together thought leaders, scholars, experts, policy makers and elected officials to discuss peacebuilding efforts around the world and analyze current affairs. Recently, USIP hosted several events focusing on current affairs in Kenya:
**Africa and America: Partners in a Shared Future:** In July 2014, National Security Advisor Susan Rice drew attention to Africa’s progress in the past two decades and its possibilities for economic growth, good governance and long-term stability in a speech at the U.S. Institute of Peace on the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit.


**Why Were Kenya’s 2013 Elections Peaceful?** In May 2013 USIP hosted a conversation focused on Kenya’s elections, discussing the underlying conditions and triggers that set off the violence five years ago, why the circumstances were different in 2013 and the impact of interventions designed to prevent new violence.