



ImpactHope is a registered charity that focuses on helping and empowering communities to break the cycle of poverty. We are proud to partner with KEDHAP (Kenya Economic Development and Human Advancement Project) since 2020 in their efforts to develop their community through various initiatives. We value working alongside and empowering project leaders as they implement solutions to poverty based on the assets and needs of their region. We believe that making a long-lasting impact within a community must be spurred and led by locals in a holistic and participatory approach. This means there's not one solution to eradicating poverty; all must act to make a difference in their own lives.

KEDHAP is a true example of a project that ensures those receiving are not only equipped but play a role in breaking their cycle of brokenness. This is evident in how they approach peacemaking and restoring peace to their region.

Project Overview

KEDHAP Foundation is the peace, relief and development arm of the Kenya Mennonite Church in the Diocese of Kisumu East. Started in the year 2000 in response to the scourge of HIV/AIDS, we empower hardworking women and men with economic, social and spiritual resources to build on their capacities and help them escape the cycle of poverty. Our mission is to empower and transform our local communities in Kisumu, Nandi and Kericho Counties to allow them to realize their potential.

KEDHAP uses an ecumenical approach to alleviating poverty by equipping the poor and vulnerable. Over the past 22 years, with the help of our development partners, we have seen first-hand that vulnerable and impoverished families can be transformed through collaborative approaches.

We promote peace-making and resilience through transformational development. This initiative calls on communities and all people of goodwill to commit themselves to a journey of peace. It's an appeal to all people to work to empower those oppressed by violence and to act in solidarity with those struggling for justice, peace and the integrity of creation. It also urges all people to repent of their complicity in violence and to engage in reflection to overcome the spirit, logic, and practice of violence.

KEDHAP embraces fundamental values such as human dignity, peaceful coexistence, learning and setting ethical standards, honesty, and integrity, and improving participants' skills and resilience.

Regional Conflict History

KEDHAP operates within the jurisdiction of the Kenya Mennonite Church's Kisumu East Diocese on the border between Kalenjin-occupied and Luo-occupied lands. The area includes the communities of Awasi, Chemelil, Kopere, Miwani, Muhoroni, Nyangore, Tamu and Songhor within Kisumu County, and Mombwo, Owiro, Senetwo, and Soba in Nandi County and Kuniyak and Chilchila in Kericho County. The area stretches from the Kano Plains in the southwest to the Nandi Hills in the northeast. This largely rural region is predominantly a sugar-cane growing zone, with tea being produced on the slopes of the Nandi Hills. Many migrant casual labourers work for the large landowners in the area and stay in the village centres. The resident rural population mainly owns plots between one and three acres, usually practicing subsistence farming (predominantly maize) and growing cash crops. According to the Kisumu County Statistics in the latest Poverty Index report (2016), 59.5% of residents live on less than US\$ 1 per day. The area also has one of the largest populations of 'squatters' on both private and public lands. Since the area was resettled following Kenyan independence, periodic clashes have occurred along the Kisumu-Nandi and Kisumu-Kericho county borders, usually between the Kalenjin and Luo tribes. Historical land tenure, disputed administrative boundaries, cattle rustling, and political incitement have divided the communities along ethnic lines for decades. These ethnic clashes have led to the closure of schools, the burning of homes, the torching of sugar cane, the destruction of family food crops (mainly corn and beans), the displacement of residents, and even claimed lives.

KEDHAP's programs always have and will continue to consider the history and interests of all ethnic communities within the border area and actively involve community members in peacebuilding, integration, and cohesion, including the co-ownership of projects involving both ethnic communities.

KEDHAP's Approach

KEDHAP supports under-resourced local schools and vulnerable students and builds the life skills of local residents, including peacebuilding and reconciliation. We train community leaders in non-violent conflict transformation skills through workshops targeting the established border peace committees to ensure active peace ambassadors are always in place to monitor and respond to the early warning signs of conflict.



Peace ambassadors trained in early warning signs of conflict.



Chiefs and their assistants meet for a peace and security meeting at the KEDHAP resource center in Songhor.

We also improve and strengthen relationships between Kalenjins and Luos in the border communities by ensuring that local dispute resolution (peace) committees are established, and where peace committees are present, we strengthen them through frequent training and capacity building; we insist that these peace committees resolve disputes brought to them in a non-violent manner. The success of such interventions hinges on involving all stakeholders, including Kalenjin and Luo leaders and youth, along with local administrators and police, to participate in joint dialogue sessions to ensure they take ownership of the peace process. This peace initiative is also extended to schools, where we hold workshops to train members of the life clubs to use and disseminate the tools of peace.



Peace building meeting between the Luos, Kalenjins, administration and the security personnel.



Youths meeting for a peace meeting at the KEDHP resource center in Songhor.



Youths attend an inter-ethnic nonviolent conflict resolution meeting at the KEDHAP resource center in Songhor.



Elders talk to youth to foster peace during a peacemaking meeting held in Senetwo in Nandi County.

We also use sports to build cohesion and integration among the youth by holding ball games and athletic competitions, including initiating ‘connector projects’. We are keen to enhance engagements and dialogue, use monitoring and evaluation tools to recognize the early warning signs of conflict, and, whenever possible, undertake mitigation before conflict erupts.



The Luo youth participating in a peace tournament with the Kalenjin youth.

What is to come...

ImpactHope looks forward to providing pathways for our projects to gain applicable training and support from field experts. We are so grateful to Nigerian Dr. Dorcas Ettang, a Senior Lecturer in Conflict Transformation and Peace Studies Programme at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, where she earned her Ph.D. in 2015, for being willing to provide solutions to some of the challenges KEDHAP is facing in their tribal peacemaking initiatives on April 29th at 10 AM EDT. Our project leaders look forward to implementing her feedback to improve the quality and outcome of their peacemaking ministry. ImpactHope will continue to update all donors on the progress that is seen by the end of the year.

For those unable to attend or who missed the opportunity to participate in this LIVE Zoom webinar, a recording and article of the event will be published so that you may learn alongside us.

Shalom!

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For more information on KEDHAP's initiatives, please visit www.impacthope.ca/KEDHAP.