

**CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN TO PEACEBUILDING IN KENYA: A CASE
STUDY OF THE POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE IN KIBRA CONSTITUENCY,
NAIROBI CITY COUNTY**

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REG. NO. N69/68729/2013

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE INSTITUTE OF
ANTHROPOLOGY, GENDER AND AFRICAN STUDIES IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF
ARTS IN GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
NAIROBI**

NOVEMBER, 2015

DECLARATION

This research project paper is my original work and has not been submitted for examination in any other University.

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This research project paper has been submitted for examination with my approval as University Supervisor.

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DEDICATION

This project paper is dedicated to my husband Clement Tongi and my daughters Nana and Gigi for their support and understanding during my study.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to thank the almighty God for the strength, good health, wisdom, favor, knowledge of understanding and financial break through as I undertake this study. My sincere thanks to my supervisor Isaac Were for the guidance and understanding. To my classmates at the university, thank you for sharing and caring. It wouldn't have been any easier without the discussions, e-mails, what's App group and phone calls on the way forward. I am grateful to all of you. Furthermore I really enjoyed all the opportunities given to me to present group work.

ABSTRACT

The study investigate the contributions of women to peacebuilding in Kenya, a case study of the post-election violence in Kibra constituency, Nairobi City County. Peacebuilding challenges in Kenya include inadequate resources, equipment, and infrastructure to cover large areas populated by different communities. The study reviewed literature on peace building in general, global situation of women in peacebuilding, women's contribution in peacebuilding, challenges facing women in peacebuilding and theoretical framework. This research employed descriptive research design. The study area was Kibra constituency as it is considered one of the hot spots of 2007/8 post-election violence (PEV) in Kenya. The target population was members of women's groups, women's group leaders, and women leaders in the local administration. The study targeted 20 women groups, 20 women group leaders and 7 women leaders in the local administration. A stratified random sampling was applied to select the respondents, a sample size of 103 respondents out of 141 people was picked using Proportionate sampling techniques. Primary data was collected using a questionnaire and interviews guide by the researcher. The study established that violence against women influences their participation in sustainable peace building in Kibra region; Nairobi, Kenya. The wild scale of discrimination, violence against women and the impunity with which it continues to be perpetuated remain the central obstacles to disseminating the good work being done by women peace builders in Kibra-Nairobi. The study concludes that there is a great potential in achieving women's full participation in sustainable peace building. Harnessing this potential requires cushioning recognition for women, commitment, leadership and integrity, transparency and accountability, improving institutional capacity and increasing the financial and human resources in the formal, informal peace and the human security sectors. The study recommends that governments should sign national level peace contracts and commitments. This could include National Peace Action Plans with specified time lines to guarantee and to ensure support for women's full participation in positions of leadership and the peace process.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACLED	Armed Conflict Location and Event
CBO	Community Based Organization
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration
GOK	Government of Kenya
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
KANU	Kenya African National Union
KNAP	Kenya National Action Plan
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NARC	National Rainbow Coalition
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSC	National Steering Committee
PEV	Post-Election Violence
SCR	Security Council Resolution
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Scientists
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund Women

1.0 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

African societies in post-independence era have experienced devastating conflicts, becoming the norm rather than exception. At least 24 of the 54 nations have experienced conflict in one form or another (ACLED, 2014). A majority of these have occurred in the Horn of Africa, which has, over the years, experienced both intra and inter-state conflicts. The effects of protracted conflict on men and women has been different with the latter being more adversely affected in terms of deaths, physical injuries, displacement and loss of livelihood. Women form at least 80 percent of refugees in most camps in and out of the country. As such, women are more often than not depicted as victims and casualties alongside children in times of conflict (Oyugi, 2005). Whereas this is a fact, women act as combatants or peacemakers, or a combination of both. Besides, they have had to take up the role of household head following absence due to war of men. Consequently, as women experience the immediate effects of conflict, they are the first to work at peace and are likely to continue doing so after the gun shot sounds die (UN, 2013).

In an ideal peace building situation, men and women are supposed to enjoy the same rights and opportunities across all sectors of society, including economic participation and decision making. The differences in behaviour, aspirations and needs of women and men are also equally valued and favoured. Contrary to this, women are rarely involved, and when this happens, they tend to occupy peripheral and informal roles that are rarely given recognition (Dharmapuri, 2013).

Kenya was ruled by the iron hands of two men in succession from 1963 to 2002: Jomo Kenyatta (1963-1978) and Daniel Moi (1978-2002). In 2002, there was a change: the ruling political party, the Kenya African National Union (KANU), that had ruled the country since independence, collapsed. It collapsed beneath a new political party comprised of an alliance formed by the major Kenyan communities. This political stakeholder was named the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC). The election victory was a landslide (Mutua, 2008). Mwai Kibaki of the NARC won 62% of the vote on a platform of fighting corruption, forming a coalition government that shared power amongst the various communities, and changing the constitution within 100 days of being elected to limit the executive power that had ballooned over the previous four decades. People across Kenya from all communities felt hope that the country's government was finally on the verge of a system of governance that would have accountability through shared power (Mutua, 2008).

Yet, within weeks of the election, the memorandum of understanding (MOU) that forged the tribal factions into the NARC alliance and that got Kibaki elected had effectively collapsed (Mutua, 2008). The agreement in the MOU to share power within the cabinet did not occur, as four key positions that were to be created, including that of a Prime Minister, did not materialize. Kibaki, from the Gikuyu community, broke his election promise and filled many appointed positions with fellow tribesmen, thus following in the footsteps of his presidential predecessors by selecting people for appointed positions primarily through tribal bias (Mutua, 2008). This in turn led to discrimination of many people of other communities who were more qualified.

Whether the decision to keep the massive executive power that Kibaki had campaigned to reform was premeditated, or whether he succumbed to certain pressures by his fellow tribesmen to hoard power within the community once in office may never be known. The result was the same: the disintegration of the NARC party and the broken promises of a shared government and new constitution. This left many citizens frustrated over what should have resulted from the new government coming to power in 2002. This frustration fueled the violence that took place after the election in 2007 (Calas, 2008).

The carnage was horrific. Most of the atrocities happened in the first 14 days after the 2007 Kenyan general election. The severity of this conflict unfolded in a span of 59 days between Election Day, 2007 and 2008, when a political compromise was reached. The magnitude of the trauma and structural violence that took place in Kenya after the fourth multi-party general election took both Kenyans and the international community, alike, by surprise (Maupeu, 2008). In retrospect, the violence that occurred could not only have been predicted, it could most likely have been prevented.

1.2 Problem Statement

The UN Resolution 1325, Kenya National Peace and Security Building Policy, and the Kenya National Action Plan (KNAP), advocate for active participation of women in conflict prevention, peace processes and post conflict reconstruction. Traditional and modern cross-border peace mechanisms have been tried in Kenya, but the level of participation of women has not been adequately documented, (GOK, 2011). The existing peace structures in Kenya, both traditional and modern, have perpetually excluded

women from peace building processes, yet they play a vital role in harmonization and resolution of conflicts in many communities (Peace Net Kenya, 2010).

Peacebuilding challenges in Kenya include inadequate resources, equipment, and infrastructure to cover large areas populated by different communities. Women's level of contribution in peace processes remains one of the most unfulfilled aspects of the women, peacebuilding agenda, (UN Women, 2010) yet women and children make up 80 % of the people affected by lack of peace and security in Kenya. Women participate in different roles in peacebuilding at the household, community and national level. Their substantial contributions to peace, social unity, and family and community survival are not necessarily recognized at the political level.

An analysis of SCR 1325 implementation in 13 countries by (UNIFEM, 2004), argues that studies on women peace and security mostly focus on the impact of armed conflict on women and view women as victims. Yet, women are not only victims of armed conflict but also active agents and participants in conflict. They can also indirectly negatively influence peace and security, (Chandra, 2001).

In a world marred by conflict and violence, peace building is becoming increasingly important as a means of preventing continuing hostilities. Peace building missions and efforts have focused on emphasizing such factors as security and governance to prevent these potentially volatile situations from erupting into full-fledged conflicts. This approach, however, has neglected the gendered dimensions of peace building. That is, it

does not recognize the particular needs of women during the peace building phase, nor does it acknowledge their role and challenges in contributing to effective peace building (Lacayo, 2004).

Women's contribution in peace and security process needs to be recognized and analyzed based on women initiatives at community service providers and organizers, professionals and activists.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1.3.1 General Objective

To investigate the level of women's contributions to peacebuilding in Kibra Constituency, Nairobi City County in Kenya.

1.3.2 Specific objectives

1. To assess the level of women's contribution to peacebuilding in PEV in Kibra Constituency, in Nairobi City County.
2. To assess challenges facing women in peacebuilding at PEV in Kibra Constituency, in Nairobi City County.

1.4 Assumptions of the Study

1. Women play a contributing role in peacebuilding.
2. There are challenges facing women in peacebuilding.

1.5 Justification of the Study

The protracted conflict in 2007/8 PEV in Kenya redefined the roles of men and women. Many women groups, NGO's and community based organisations (CBO's) have been formed to champion peace building activities in Kenya. Due to the power of traditional structures, women were largely excluded in such activities, but there has been a shift since the adoption of UNSCR 1325 on the role women play both in conflict and peace building.

The reality is that men continue to take the leading role in virtually all formal peace processes and women are ignored hence diminishing their potential capabilities for peace building (Hudson, 2010). Ensuring women participate in peacebuilding is not only a matter of women and girls' rights. Women are crucial partners in shoring up the three pillars of lasting peace: economic recovery; social cohesion; and political legitimacy (Luchsinger, 2010). According to Luchsinger, several of the world's fastest growing economies began their ascent from ashes of conflict. Their success, it is argued, stemmed, in part, from women's increased role in production, trade and entrepreneurship.

Therefore, it is necessary to understand the role women in Kibra Constituency, in Nairobi City County play in the new socio-cultural and political environment. It is also important to understand what has informed their contribution in peacebuilding, the challenges they face and what their participation in governance systems means. This study may benefit policy makers in determining the specific interventions that relate to the overall needs of

women in the Kibra Constituency, in Nairobi City County, as it stands to gain from their increased participation in peacebuilding.

1.6 Scope and Limitations of the Study

This study sought to present information on contribution of women in peace building in urban Kenya focusing on the Post-Election Violence. The study was conducted in Nairobi City County, at constituency level. The limitations of the study may be lack of full disclosure by participants for fear of being labelled or discriminated against by the local community.

1.7 Definition of Terms

Level of contribution: The involvement level of women in different functions in matters to do with political, protective and preventive activities of peacebuilding.

Negative peace: This is the absence of violence.

Positive peace: This is when there is restoration of relationships, recreation of social systems that serve the needs of a whole population and there is constructive resolution of conflict.

Peacebuilding: This involves a range of measures targeted to reduce the risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strengthening national capacities at all levels for conflict management, and lay the foundations for sustainable peace and development.

Women: Female adults over 18 years as defined by the constitution of Kenya (GOK, 2009).

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Peace Building in General

Peacebuilding underpins peacemaking that aims at a voluntary settlement between parties in armed conflict and peace keeping that refers to interposition of international armed forces to separate fighting parties by addressing structural issues and long term relationships (Ramsbotham, Woodhouse and Miall, 2011). The three concepts having developed over time within the UN system, point to Galtung's theory that recognises three types of violence in a conflict: direct, structural and cultural (Galtung, 1990). In order to reach 'positive' peace, Galtung argues for a strategy that integrates the whole society as opposed to just ending direct violence, which is usually the primary focus once conflict breaks out. The cessation of hostilities leads to 'negative' peace since society cannot be peaceful unless the unjust structures and relationships are addressed and removed (Galtung, 1964; Ramsbotham et al, 2011).

Using Galtung's model which views contradiction, attitude and behaviour as three parts of a conflict that are constantly changing and influencing each other, the three forms of violence can then be integrated into a framework of understanding how to resolve and manage conflicts (Galtung, 1996). Thus, direct violence can be reduced by changing conflict behaviour, structural violence by removing structural contradictions and injustices, and cultural violence by changing attitudes (Ramsbotham et al, 2011). These, in turn, can feed into the strategies of peacekeeping (controlling actors to prevent them from destroying each other), peacemaking (transforming attitudes and assumptions) and

peace building (overcoming contradictions at the root of the conflict) (Galtung, 1996; Ramsbotham, 2011).

Adding a gender-conscious approach, structures of domination and hidden power relations can be better understood, hence complementing Galtung's theory (Confortini, 2006). The argument is that peacemaking occurs at the very national level, but for its success, there is need to cascade its implementation up to the lowest level so as to enhance the inclusion of all those affected by the conflict. Therefore, peace building requires the effective intervention by internal and external actors to create conditions conducive to peace; the relief and reconstruction of war-torn society; and the creation of inclusive political and socio-economic institutions to build trust and to create a sense of security (Bumsumtwi-Sam, 2004).

2.2 Global Situation of Women in Peacebuilding

Building lasting peace requires women's participation. Half of the world's population cannot make global peace. Over a decade after the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1325 on increasing women's participation in matters of global security, the numbers of women participating in peace settlements remain marginal. While improvements have been made, women remain underrepresented in public offices, at the negotiating table, and in peacekeeping missions. The needs and perspectives of women are often overlooked in post conflict disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR), as well as in security sector reform, rehabilitation of justice, and the rule of law. Many conflicts have been marked by widespread sexual and gender-based

violence, which often continues in the aftermath of war and is typically accompanied by impunity of the perpetrators. A continuing lack of physical security and the existence of significant legal constraints in post conflict societies hamper women's integration into economic life and leadership.

Best practices for increasing women's participation include deployment of gender balanced peacekeeping units, a whole-of-government approach to security sector and judicial reform, and more intentional solicitation of the input of women at the community level on priorities for national budgets and international programs (UNHCR, 2006).

2.3 Women's Contribution in Peacebuilding

The concept of protection includes three important dimensions: legal protection, social security and economic security. These three dimensions are interdependent because in principle, the recognition of women's rights (legal protection) should act as a safeguard for the social and economic security of women. Legal protection should also guarantee the socio-political rights of women, including the right to participation and representation. Unfortunately, many African countries lag behind in a number of important areas, such as land rights, education, and HIV prevention and care, (UN 2000).

The connections among women and peacebuilding are not difficult to make. Scholars and practitioners alike understand that peacebuilding efforts are more likely to be sustainable if they include women generally, and that focusing on women deepens and broadens the narrower and more traditional view of peace work (Maria B., Kristina M., and Rachel K., 2010). On October 31, 2000, the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed

Resolution 1325 (SCR 1325), focused on women, peace, and security. SCR 1325 recognizes that women have important roles to play in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding, and that armed conflict affects women in particular ways.

Women and men have different experiences in violent conflicts. To begin, women very often suffer more than men and are more likely to be victimized. As Ralph Pettman observes, “In nearly every sphere of contemporary experience, women are made more vulnerable than men, and more susceptible to threat.” (Jacqueline2010) gets more specific: “Women face the trauma of rape, sexual slavery, and child motherhood.” She points out that orphaned families headed by girls are more vulnerable. Female orphans are more disadvantaged because they take care of the family and therefore are more likely to skip out on school, are prone to facing sexual abuse, and are generally part of unsecured child headed homes.

Accounting for the different experiences of women in conflict and their responses to conflict helps to break free from traditional, and often limited, approaches to conflict resolution that tend to be dominated by elite perspectives. As Ralph. (2005), argues, “To exclude women is to neglect a particular set of opportunities that have often been neglected.” Women’s skills and social positions give them different perspectives on issues of peace and conflict, and across the globe, women have demonstrated their abilities to achieve common ground and work effectively to better their communities in instances where men have failed.

Prevention impact aims at preventing relapse into conflict and all forms of structural and physical violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender based violence. The three main outcomes for prevention includes; Operational gender-responsive systems in place to monitor and report on violations of women and girl's rights during conflict, ceasefires, peace negotiations and post-conflict; International, national and non-state security actors responsive to and held to account for any violations of the rights of women and girls in line with international standards; Provisions addressing the specific needs and issues of women and girls included in early-warning systems and conflict prevention mechanisms and their implementation monitored, (UN WOMEN, 2012).

2.4 Challenges Facing Women in Peacebuilding

The destruction of schools in conflict, attacks against schools, teachers or students and the overall poor security situation in many cases further decrease the already limited opportunities of women and girls to obtain education and their possibilities of participating in economic and social life in the long-term. (United States Institute of Peace, 2011). There is a worldwide consensus that economic recovery is important for stability in countries transitioning from conflict to peace. Determining who has access to economic opportunity has important implications for sustainable peace.

In situations of armed conflict warfare and civil strife its evident that women undergo the most pain. However, when it comes to conflict resolution and peace building the contribution of women is often ignored. Therefore understanding the conflict from a gender perspective is the best way of ensuring that policies and programs designed to

implement peace will guarantee protection, rehabilitation and the healing of the whole society.

Burke (2012) and her colleagues argue that as peace processes are evolving quickly there is need to put in place parliamentary government and local administrative institutions that will help place women in decision making processes. Otherwise if this is not done women will be left behind and the whole process of conflict resolution and peace Women have rarely been involved in peace processes, power sharing and reconstruction programs. Potter, (2008) outline four categories of peace building effort: Waging conflict non-violently, reducing direct violence, transforming relationships and building capacity. They also outline the role of women in each category. Potter, recommend the promotion of UN Resolution 1325 of 2000 and the ratification of the convention on elimination of discrimination of all forms of violence against women by all states.

Burke (2012) and her colleagues recognize that women are concerned with a peaceful society. However, the society has denied them a chance to effectively address peace issues according to the values they hold most dear. Burke (2012) recognizes that the male gender dominates in initiating conflicts and fighting during war. The female gender on the other hand takes an active role in seeking peace. Burke (2012) recognizes that the roles gender play in conflict can lead to more conflicts if the society is male dominated. Men have excluded women in almost all spheres of life.

This is because of the view that wars create more female heads of households and force more women to become active in informal markets so their families can survive. Reconstruction offers countries the opportunity to take a new look at the constraints women face in building businesses (United States Institute of Peace, 2011).

2.5 Theoretical Framework

The study is premised on the theory of social exclusion, a multidimensional process of progressive social rupture, detaching groups and individuals from social relations and institutions, and preventing them from full participation in the normal, normatively prescribed activities of the society, where they live (Silver, 2007). Individuals or groups may be discriminated against owing to their age, gender, colour/race and class among others. The result is that affected individuals or groups are unable to fully participate in the economic, social and political spheres of society.

Women, on account of their gender, face social exclusion in many forms. The feminist movement of the 1970s was indeed a direct result of marginalisation of white women from the labour force and undervalued house work (Moosa-Mitha, 2005). As such, feminists argue that men and women should equally participate in the labour, public sector and home with due regard to their capabilities.

Luchsinger (2010) argues that in a conflict and post-conflict situation, there is systemic exclusion of women from the public sphere (and war), which becomes difficult to move out of. This, according to Luchsinger, is referred to as “The Vicious Cycle of Exclusion.”

Women are excluded from the process of designing peace agreements and recovery frameworks which results to insufficient attention to redressing gender inequalities and women insecurity. As such, the needs of women are not met, and their capacity and potential to participate in peace building and recovery remains unutilised. MacCarthy (2011) argues that the chances of achieving sustainable peace are diminished by under participation of women, yet they form a sizeable part of the population.

2.5.1 Relevance of the Theory

The relevance is social inclusion which relates to affirmative action to change the habits that lead or have led to social exclusion. World Bank (2013) defines social inclusion as the process of improving the ability, opportunity and dignity of people, and disadvantaged on the basis of their identity to take part in society. This provides the basis of for example, women quotas in politics, and lower selection criteria among others. It denotes deliberate interventions, and more so from the government institutions. This is exemplified by Rwanda, for example, whose participation of women is considered among the highest in the world (Mzvondiwa, 2007). The success of such a country emerging from conflict can be attributed to deliberate interventions aimed at increasing the number of women, especially at the decision making level (Maina, 2012).

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This section describes the research study design, research site, the target population, sampling method and sample size. It further, describes the data collection methods, and ethical considerations.

3.2 Study Design

This research employed descriptive research design. This is because the primary purpose of a descriptive research is determining frequency of occurrence of a phenomenon by asking individuals about their perceptions, attitude, behavior or values (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003).

3.3 Research Site

The study area was Kibra constituency as it is considered one of the hot spots of 2007/8 post-election violence (PEV) in Kenya. Muchiri (2010) maintains that Kibra constituency has the largest, most populated and the poorest slums in East and Central Africa at large. Kibra constituency is characterized by lack of basic services and infrastructure such as adequate access to water, sanitation, garbage collection, roads and footpaths, drainage, electricity and public lighting. Housing units are semi-permanent in nature. Social amenities are inadequate, with facilities such as schools and hospitals unable to cope with the population demand (Lang'ata District Development Plan, 2002-2008).

3.4 Target Population

The target population was members of women's groups, women's group leaders, and women leaders in the local administration. The study targeted 20 women groups, 20 women group leaders and 7 women leaders in the local administration. Each women group consisted of 6 members. The total number of targeted women is 147.

3.5 Sampling design

Purposive sampling was adopted as case study requires that one works with a small sample of people, nested in their context and studied in-depth (Miles and Huberman, 1994). It was also based on extensive literature review, which provided a likely guide of the key respondents.

3.6 Sample size

A sample size is a subset of the population to which researcher intends to generalize the results. Any statements made about the sample should also be true of the population (Orodho, 2002). A stratified random sampling was applied to select the respondents, a sample size of 103 respondents out of 141 people was picked using Proportionate sampling techniques this is where the sample size of each stratum is proportionate to the population size of the stratum this means that each stratum has the same sampling fraction. The study specifically samples comprised of 76 members of the women group, 20 women group leaders and 7 women leaders in the local administration. This is necessary because the technique gives all people a chance of being selected into the sample.

The sample was obtained by calculating the sample size from the target population by applying Cooper and Schindler, (2003) formula.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where: n= Sample size, N= Population size e= Level of Precision.

At 95% level of confidence and P=5

$$n = 147 / 1 + 147 (0.05)^2$$

$$n = 103$$

3.7 Sampling frame

For qualitative data, the sample size was purposively selected. 7 key informants were interviewed and this included women leaders in the local administration.

3.8 Data Collection Methods

Primary data was collected using a questionnaire and interviews guide by the researcher. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), a response rate of 50 percent is adequate, 60 percent is good and over 70 percent is excellent. The questionnaire tool included both structured and semi-structured questions which were arranged thematically into two broad areas: namely understanding perceptions to peace, security and peace building and the challenges faced by women in contribution of peacebuilding. The interview guide had open ended questions

3.9 Data Analysis Procedure

Data was collected, examined and checked for completeness and clarity. Numerical data collected using questionnaires was coded and entered and analyzed with the help of computer Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) versions 21 software programme. Frequency tables with varying percentages were used to present the findings. Results of interviews went through a critical assessment of each response and were examined using thematic interpretation in accordance with the main objectives of the study and thereafter presented in narrative excerpts within the report.

3.10 Ethical Considerations

The respondents were informed appropriately of the purpose, duration and potential use of research results. The informants were also assured of their anonymity during publication of the findings. Other ethical considerations such as research permits and authorisation were also be obtained from the relevant institutions.

The researcher conducted the focused group discussions by herself as well as interview key informants personally. Information gathered therein was treated with all confidentiality. Participants were voluntarily chosen to participate in the study. The researcher ensured that the analysis of the research findings was done objectively, accurately and credibly.

4.0 DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

The chapter covers data presentation and analysis of the research findings. The main objective of the study was to determine the level of women's contributions to peacebuilding in Kibra Constituency, Nairobi City County in Kenya. In order to simplify the discussions, the researcher provided tables and figures that summarize the collective reactions and views of the respondents. This chapter also attempts to explain the findings in comparison with the relevant literature reviewed as established by other author's women's contributions to peacebuilding. The data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics, mean, standard deviation. a total of 103 questionnaire were distributed and only 95 were returned fully filled. This gave a response rate of 92.2% which is sufficient for the study.

4.2 Demographic Information

The study sought to establish demographic information in order to determine whether it had influence on level of women's contribution to peacebuilding in Kibra region, Nairobi; County. The demographic information of the respondents included: age; academic background and their current occupation.

4.2.1 Age of Respondents

The respondents were asked to disclose their age. The findings are shown in the table below.

Table 4.1: Age of respondents

Age	Frequency	% Rate
18 to 25	19	20
26 to 35	35	36
36 to 45	30	32
46 and above	11	12
Total	95	100

The study found that majority 36% of the women were aged 26-35 years, this was followed by those aged 36 – 45 years at 32%. Those aged 18-25 years were represented by 20% while the category with the least respondents was those aged 46 and above.

4.2.2 Level of Education

The following table illustrates the respondent's level of education. The findings are shown in the table below.

Table 4.2: Level of education

Level of education	Frequency	% Rate
Certificate	36	38
Diploma	30	31
Undergraduate	20	21
Postgraduate	9	10
Total	95	100

Majority 38% of the respondents had attained education up to certificate level. This was followed by 31% who had attained education up to diploma level, 21% had attained upto undergraduate while 10% had attained their postgraduate degree.

4.2.3 Occupation

The respondents were asked to indicate their occupation. The findings are shown in the table below.

Table 3: Occupation

Occupation	Frequency	% Rate
Business	42	44
Employed	28	29
Non –employed	19	20
Farming	6	7
Total	95	100

From the table above, majority 44% of the respondents were in business, 29% were employed, 20% were not employed while 7% were famers.

4.3 Women’s Contribution to Peacebuilding

4.3.1 Extent of Women Contribution to Peacebuilding in PEV

The respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which women contribute to peacebuilding in PEV. The findings are shown in the table below.

Table 4.4: Extent of Women Contribution to Peacebuilding in PEV

Extent of women contribution to peacebuilding in PEV	Frequency	% Rate
Very high	27	28
High	40	42
Low	17	18
Very low	11	12
Total	95	100

Asked to indicate the extent to which women contribute to peacebuilding in PEV, the respondents agreed to a high extent 40% that women contributed to peacebuilding. This was followed by 28% who agreed to a high extent that women contributed to peacebuilding, 18% were of the opinion that women contributed to peacebuilding to a low extent while 12% were of the opinion that women contributed to peacebuilding to a very low extent.

4.3.2 Ways in which Women Contribute to Protective and Preventive Measures to Peace Building

The study sought to find out the ways in which women contribute to protective and preventive measures to peace building. The findings are shown in the table below.

Table 4.5: Women Contribute to Protective and Preventive Measures to Peace

Building

Ways in which women contribute to protective and preventive measures to peace building	Frequency	% Rate
Legal protection	18	19
Social security	36	38
Economic security	41	43
Total	95	100

The findings in the table above shows that majority 43% of the respondents agreed that women contribute to protective and preventive measures to peace building through providing economic security, 38% indicated that women contribute to protective and preventive measures to peace building through providing social security while 19% indicated that women contribute to protective and preventive measures to peace building through providing legal protection.

4.3.3 Factors on Women's Protective and Preventive Contribution to Peacebuilding

The respondents were asked to rate the factors provided on level of women's protective and preventive contribution to peacebuilding. The findings are shown in the table below.

Table 4.6: Factors on Women’s Protective and Preventive Contribution to Peacebuilding

Description	Mean	Standard deviation
Prevention aims at preventing relapse into conflict	4.3741	0.5554
Preventive measures include all forms of structural and physical violence against women and girls	3.6873	0.4124
There are operational gender-responsive systems in place to monitor and report on violations of women and girl’s rights during conflict	3.3651	0.8647
Women addresses the PEV through raising their voices	4.0233	0.8101
Women ensure that conflict resolution mechanisms are implemented	3.0215	0.3261
Women are involved in guarantee the socio-political rights of women	4.2572	0.9517
Participation of women in peacebuilding efforts has been justified on the basis of justice and equality	3.2658	0.5628
women are essential components of civil society and civil society as a pre-requisite for peacebuilding has not been thoroughly explored	4.0325	0.9654

The respondents agreed that prevention aims at preventing relapse into conflict with a mean 4.3741. This was followed by the agreement that women are involved in guarantee

the socio-political rights of women with a mean of 4.2572. They continued to agree that women addresses the PEV through raising their voices with a mean of 4.0233 and women are essential components of civil society and civil society as a pre-requisite for peacebuilding has not been thoroughly explored with a mean of 4.0325. The respondents moderately agreed that there are operational gender-responsive systems in place to monitor and report on violations of women and girl's rights during conflict with a mean of 3.3651. The respondents moderately agreed that participation of women in peacebuilding efforts has been justified on the basis of justice and equality with a mean 3.2658. The respondents agreed that women ensure that conflict resolution mechanisms are implemented with a mean of 3.0215.

Women's marginalization was also cited by the respondents as one of the major factors influencing their participation in sustainable peace building in Kibra region; Nairobi. Some of them averted that women's peace movements can and do affect many sectors of the population. They observed that women are a powerful force and an engine that should be tapped for eradicating violence, building democratic and participatory public institutions, particularly during and soon after the post-conflict peace settlement period. Women organizations should be identified at the onset of peacemaking processes and helped to work within the broader peace initiatives and to communicate their peace messages to both the residents of the Kibra community and the Kenyan universe.

The interviews revealed that Kibera has embraced initiatives geared towards enhancing peace in the area. For example there is a group called Kibera Women for Peace and Fairness (KWPF) which is leading in promoting harmony and peace in the area. This is a group that was formed shortly after a young girl was attacked and killed at the height of 2007 violence. The program was started in order to promote tolerance and coexistence among communities living in Kibera.

Women are affected by conflict yet they are not visible when it comes in addressing conflict especially in intra-state conflict and therefore should not be left out in state construction and nation settlements, marginalization of women in peace process remains a detriment in managing peace and ending conflict in many communities. The linkages between women participation in peace processes and gender equality and equity have to be clearly defined and hence the need for more women in decision making positions. In any form of conflict and post conflict situation, the dominant narrative is the immense suffering of women and children. These groups are often described as victims, a fact that sometimes glosses over the important role they play as active agents in conflict as well as in peace building.

The interviews revealed that programmes should be established to empower and strengthen women's capacity to enable them maximise their potential to bring peace and strengthen their involvement in peace processes. However the challenge lay in the implementation of peace intervention as most of the programmes are short-lived and therefore not sustainable.

4.4 Challenges Facing Women in Peace Building

4.4.1 Role given to women during peace building

The respondents were asked to indicate the role given to women during peace building.

The findings are shown in the table below.

Table 4.7: Role given to women during peace building

Role Played	Frequency	% Rate
Providing for the security of the household	22	23
Securing shelter	64	67
Making decisions and managing affairs	43	45
Participating in combat and noncombat war activities	30	32
Providing the fighting forces with food	46	48
Ensuring comfort for the fighters	38	40

The findings in the table above show that majority 67% of the respondents indicated that women had the role of securing shelter during peace building. They went ahead to indicate that women had the role of providing the fighting forces with food as shown by 48% followed by 45% who indicated that women were involved in making decisions and managing affairs. The table shows that 40% of women indicated that women were ensuring comfort for the fighters, 32% indicated that women were participating in combat and noncombat war activities while 23% indicated that women were tasked with providing for the security of the household.

4.4.2 Challenges Facing Women in Peace Building

The respondents were asked to rate the factors provided on contribution of Women's socio demographic characteristics and peace building. The findings are shown in the table below.

Table 4.8: Challenges Facing Women

Description	Mean	Standard deviation
Due poor security majority of women and girls do not obtain education	4.6712	0.6653
Women have fewer possibilities of participating in economic and social life in the long-term	4.3191	0.8688
Women play their role when doing their activities like farming and hose chores by education their children and relatives on peace building	3.9167	0.7541
Women and their attitude influence peace building	4.1732	0.6857
Political feminism challenges societal structures regarding gender relation	3.4029	0.6648
there are common themes within feminism that can be related to knowledge and justice issues	3.2658	0.5467
wars create more female heads of households and force more women to become active in informal markets so their families can survive	4.0517	0.5463
Role and goal of Peace Committees is to promote peaceful co-existence of the different groups	4.1544	0.7548
role of peacebuilding structures includes facilitation of peace dialogue	4.2651	0.3271
The structures facilitate reconciliation forums within the affected area	4.3257	0.4567
Community social groups are forums created for women to	3.1779	0.8655

participate in peace building		
Kenya has a good peace infrastructure and institutional framework	2.2524	0.8651
Women at community levels come up with their own institutional structures on peace building	3.0625	0.3265

The findings in the table above shows that the respondents strongly agreed that due poor security majority of women and girls do not obtain education as shown with a mean of 4.6712. The respondents agreed that women have fewer possibilities of participating in economic and social life in the long-term with a mean of 4.3191 and they continued to agree that women's attitude influence peace building with a mean of 4.1732. The respondents agreed that the women play their role when doing their activities like farming and hose chores by education their children and relatives on peace building with a mean of 3.9167. The respondents moderately agreed that Political feminism challenges societal structures regarding gender relation with a mean of 3.4029. The respondents moderately agreed that there are common themes within feminism that can be related to knowledge and justice issues with a mean of 3.2658.

The findings show the respondents agreed that the structures facilitate reconciliation forums within the affected area as shown with a mean of 4.3257. This was followed by the agreement that role of peacebuilding structures includes facilitation of peace dialogue as shown with a mean of 4.2651. The respondents agreed that women role and goal of Peace Committees is to promote peaceful co-existence of the different groups with a mean of 4.1544. The respondents moderately agreed community social groups are forums created for women to participate in peace building with a mean of 3.1779 and women at

community levels come up with their own institutional structures on peace building was agreed moderately with a mean of 3.0625. The respondents disagreed that Kenya has a good peace infrastructure and institutional framework with a mean of 2.2524.

The interviewees indicated that Women and girls in Kibra were disproportionately affected by conflict. When violence erupted after the 2007 general elections, they became targets of sexual and physical violence. Despite the gender dimensions of conflict, women in Kenya are excluded from the peace-building process. They have unique perspectives and needs, especially in relation to land and natural resource-based conflicts. Since they are not offered a place at the table, their full peace-building potential is yet to be realized.

From the interviews it was found that Women and girls continue to remain at risk to all types of violence whether in relative peace or at war time. While Kenya has largely been viewed as an island of peace, when it comes to gender based violence things are not the same. During electioneering periods, women in Kibera have suffered all forms of violence. They have also not been safe during the inter-ethnic conflicts including those that involve cattle rustling as well as fights over pasture and water. Different forms of gender based violence are perpetuated at different stages of conflict. Women and girls are particularly targeted by the use of sexual violence, including in some cases as “a tactic of war to humiliate, dominate, instill fear in, and disperse and/or forcibly relocate civilian members of a community or ethnic group

The interview discussions also highlighted that these factors pivoted as the key elements which influence the participation of women in the sustainable peace building process. Most government structures such as organizing for peace forums and supporting women's peace projects influence women's participation in sustainable peace building in Kibra region; Nairobi. Cultural practices were also found to be determinants of women's participation in sustainable peace building in Kibra region; Nairobi County. This is because most of the communities are inherently patriarchal in nature. In Kibra unfortunately, just like in most other regions of the world, peace building is still a "man's world" Most of the women's peace organizations are intimidated and looked down upon as toothless dogs! In addition, "many" face the barrier of seeing gender in security as a „women's issue“ rather than an essential component of overall security.

The interviews revealed that breaking stereotypes regarding how gender is understood has been a century struggle to very little or no avail at all in some cases. With minimal institutional structures and ingrained traditional and government structures promoting women's participation in conflict and post conflict societies cultural barriers, many women as well as their organizations face ongoing challenges, difficulties and resistances when it comes to accessing the peace and security sectors.

The interviewees recommended the establishment of an implementation framework to facilitate the enforcement of recommendations within the TJRC report to address the historical injustices and promote healing and reconciliation, the establishment of a policy and legal framework to push the peace initiatives and to institutionalize peace building

and conflict transformation structures to include women as key players in the peace building processes.

From the interviews it was found that Kenya is in the midst of transitioning to a new system of governance. Devolution, or the shifting of certain powers and resources from the national to the county level, creates opportunities for women in leadership. The programs in place will help women creatively use this space and establish themselves as full and equal partners in the promotion of a peaceful society. The program activities are: Promoting the participation of women in peace committees nationwide; Equipping women leaders with practical skills and tools to design, implement and influence peace-building processes; Helping communities better understand how women are harmed by conflict; and Ensuring women's needs are considered in peace and reconciliation processes.

The interviews revealed that while women would have brought in a unique perspective to peace in this region, cultural norms have marginalized women from taking decisive roles in peace and security matters. In most communities, culture does not recognize sexual and gender based violence as an offence.

Women leaders noted that local chiefs are not helping balance genders in peace committees and in most cases women are not well informed about the meetings that are set to elect the officials. They suggested that the committees be composed of women who are not affiliated to any political party for them to conduct fair deliberations. They

promised to form and launch a County peace committee to act as an umbrella body in the county. The leaders revealed that binding laws on GBV, peace and security are not well known by women in most parts of the country including the informal settlements in Nairobi yet women have worked hard to ensure that people co –existed peacefully.

The interviews revealed that women in Nairobi have played a role in maintaining peace through the formation of forums, sports and composition of songs that promote peaceful co-existence. This has improved networking that in itself has led to the up scaling of activities that has led to dissemination of information amongst people living in informal settlement. It was noted that insecurity, rivalry, high expectations and resources remain a challenge to the whole process of peace and security.

4.5 Discussion of the Study

The study found that women have a role in peacebuilding. Though women peace building initiatives is affected by various factors. This studies are in line with studies by Bushra (2010) who avers that women’s status in a male dominated society remains subordinate to that of men. As such, women tend to be the objects of sexual gratification which occasionally manifests itself in form of physical violence when men do not get their way. Chart and Baksh (2005) observe that women’s desire to participate in peace building is bedecked by slow entrenchment and lack of full implementation due to partly discriminatory practices in traditions, cultures and policies. Women have rarely been involved in peace processes, power sharing and reconstruction programs. Potter, (2008)

outline four categories of peace building effort: Waging conflict non-violently, reducing direct violence, transforming relationships and building capacity.

Some of the challenges faced by women during peace building include lack of education, lack of participation in politics and their attitude. This study is line with studies by Thompsion and Eade (2002) underscored the same when he observed that male roles undermine women's participation in peace building. For instance, men are usually the politicians, diplomats or even the soldiers and do the talking; strategizing and the fighting hence they are perceived as the "doers" and the most suitable agents for peace building, conflict prevention and management. Rotberg (2002) avers that peace building is a process which requires financial resources to initiate and sustain. It involves civic education, campaigns, engaging in socio-economic activities which foster peace such as sports and theatre arts. Lack of resources among women and in access thereto, seriously undermines their peace efforts. Parry (2004) notes that women need their fair share economically to meaningfully play their role in building lasting peace.

Women's level of education and training affected their participation in sustainable peace building. Women's academic capabilities and skills were grossly undermined. Women's potentials and contributions in war prevention and peace building were underutilized, undervalued and unrecognized. Contrary to the study's findings, Aolain (2009) found women to have demonstrated unique strengths in academics, skills and forming coalitions across parties that were once in conflicts and bring them together. Garcia (1994) states that women's emotional strength transcends pain and suffering and that their

predisposition to peace provides them with greater potentials for peacemaking and nurturing a peace culture than their male peers.

Institutional factors such as government structures and policies, further, affected women participation in sustainable peace building. Thompsion and Eade (2002) suggest that government should involve women in peace building as they would be more unlikely to send their children out to kill other people's children unlike their male counterparts. Women are also more predisposed to peace. The findings established that women were grossly underrepresented and excluded in peace forums. This is but a departure from Adamson, Briskin and Mephail (2008) who established that a peace negotiation table requires the proportion of the delegates

5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary of the findings it also gives conclusions and recommendations of the study based on the objectives of the study. The chapter further presents the key findings, conclusions drawn based on such findings and recommendations on what can be done on the level of women's contributions to peacebuilding in Kibra Constituency, Nairobi City County in Kenya.

5.2 Summary of the Findings

The study established that violence against women influences their participation in sustainable peace building in Kibra region; Nairobi, Kenya. The wild scale of discrimination, violence against women and the impunity with which it continues to be perpetuated remain the central obstacles to disseminating the good work being done by women peace builders in Kibra-Nairobi and other regions of the world. A vast majority of women's organizations and women leaders are doing commendable work in peace education under quite difficult and very challenging circumstances. The daily struggle for survival greatly limits the number of women who would otherwise want to become peace activists and builders. Notwithstanding, their skills and potentials and capabilities are quite significant. However, since those who are courageous and capable of involving themselves as catalysts in peace building are an endangered minority, they should be supported, safeguarded and strengthened with regular funding, training and capacity building in peace activities. Women should also be meaningfully included in peace

assessment missions, conflict prevention and resolution as well as other decision-making forums and mechanisms that shape the most fundamental questions of peace, human security, harmonious human co-existence and survival.

Some of them averted that women's peace movements can and do affect many sectors of the population. They observed that women are a powerful force and an engine that should be tapped for eradicating violence, building democratic and participatory public institutions, particularly during and soon after the post-conflict peace settlement period. Women organizations should be identified at the onset of peacemaking processes and helped to work within the broader peace initiatives and to communicate their peace messages to both the residents of the Kibra community and the Kenyan universe.

With regard to governance, women in the County somehow faced challenges related to the prevalence of a traditionally patriarchal culture that resulted in their exclusion from political parties, governance structures and decision-making processes. While this led to an ignorance of women's needs and concerns, women's organizations mobilized to make their demands known. By identifying their needs and concerns, establishing organizations, developing political platforms and lobbying for increased representation, women were able to achieve relative successes and laid the foundation for continued action that may encourage women's efforts and participation in the future especially with the inclusion of women representatives in the National Assembly

5.3 Conclusion

There is a great potential in achieving women's full participation in sustainable peace building. Harnessing this potential requires cushioning recognition for women, commitment, leadership and integrity, transparency and accountability, improving institutional capacity and increasing the financial and human resources in the formal, informal peace and the human security sectors. Further, collaboration and team-spirit is particularly needed in preventing and fighting sexual violence against women. This includes working with parties to conflict, conflict resolution and prevention not to mention, enhancing early warning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms both locally and regionally.

5.4 Recommendations

Governments through relevant agencies should sign national level peace contracts and commitments. This could include National Peace Action Plans with specified time lines to guarantee and to ensure support for women's full participation in positions of leadership and the peace process. These commitments should be fully resourced, they should be developed and implemented in collaboration with civil society, be systematic, inclusive and also should embrace regular reviews and evaluation.

Also, of significance is the formulation of peace and human security networks. Women's organizations and civil society should promote strong and sustainable peace networks at the rural and community level. Current women's networks predominantly operate in

urban settings and greater efforts must be taken to access rural and community-based women's organizations.

Women's organizations and civil society must develop the skills and technical expertise of women to operate in the peace and human security sectors and ensure that women's voices are not only heard but also incorporated into peace programs and policies that mandate gender mainstreaming within the peace and security structures in the society.

There should also be proper co-ordination between International NGO's and the local peace actors. The NGO's and CBO's must regularly consult with local civil society peace networks and women's organizations. More so, the NGO's should consult with the governments and multilateral organizations (such as, the UN and the World Bank). NGO's must also ensure that there is meaningful coordination on the ground and prevent duplication of programming and as well regulate the funding of peace programs and activities.

Women could expand their local experience and knowledge to neighbouring communities where other women have yet to respond to their own needs and concerns. Initiatives may include sharing their experiences and speaking about the women-led programs and projects they have been involved in. These efforts could offer much needed insight and advice to those women that do not know how or where to respond to their own unique situations post-conflict.

Women's groups should continuously work to expand the scope of women's networks post-conflict. Increasing the effectiveness of women's movements post-conflict requires that local level alliances align and form regional and national women's networks so that women can address issues collectively. Interaction among various women's groups is essential if women intend on meeting the challenges of marginalization during peacebuilding.

5.5 Suggestion for Further Studies

The study suggests a research to be done on mechanisms to enhance the effectiveness of women participation in sustainable peace building.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire is to collect data for purely academic purposes. All information will be treated with strict confidence. Do not put any name or identification on this questionnaire. *Answer all questions as indicated by either filling in the blank or ticking the option that applies.*

SECTION A: PERSONAL INFORMATION

1) Age(tick one)

18 to 25 () 26 to 30 () 31to 35()

2) What is your academic background

Certificate [] diploma [] undergraduate [] postgraduate []

3) What is your current occupation

Business () Employed () Non –employed () Farming ()

SECTION B: CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN TO PEACEBUILDING IN KENYA

Women's contribution to peacebuilding

4) At what levels do women contribution to peacebuilding in PEV

Very high () High () Low () Very low ()

5) In which ways do women contribute to protective and preventive measures to peace building?

Legal protection () social security () economic security ()

6) Kindly rate the following statements based on your level of agreement.

	Strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	Strongly agree
Prevention aims at preventing relapse into conflict					
Preventive measures include all forms of structural and physical violence against women and girls					
There are operational gender-responsive systems in place to monitor and report on violations of women and girl's rights during conflict					
Women addresses the PEV through raising their voices					
Women ensure that conflict resolution mechanisms are implemented					
Women are involved in guarantee the socio-political rights of women,					
Participation of women in peacebuilding efforts has been justified on the basis of justice and equality					
women as essential components of civil society and civil society as a pre-requisite for peacebuilding has not been thoroughly explored					

Challenges Facing Women in Peacebuilding

7) Which of the following best suits the role given to women during peace building

Providing for the security of the household ()

Securing shelter ()

Making decisions and managing affairs ()

Participating in combat and noncombat war activities ()

Providing the fighting forces with food ()

Ensuring comfort for the fighters ()

8) Kindly rate the following statements based on your level of agreement.

	Strongly disagree	disagree	neutral	agree	Strongly agree
Due poor security majority of women and girls do not obtain education					
Women have fewer possibilities of participating in economic and social life in the long-term					
Women play their role when doing their activities like farming and hose chores by education their children and relatives on peace building					
Women and their attitude influence peace building					
Political feminism challenges societal structures regarding gender relation					
there are common themes within feminism that can be related to knowledge and justice issues					
wars create more female heads of households and force more women to become active in informal markets so their families can survive					
Role and goal of Peace Committees is to promote peaceful					

co-existence of the different groups					
role of peacebuilding structures includes facilitation of peace dialogue					
The structures facilitate reconciliation forums within the affected area					
Community social groups are forums created for women to participate in peace building					
Kenya has a good peace infrastructure and institutional framework					
Women at community levels come up with their own institutional structures on [peace building					

APPENDIX 2: INTERVIEW GUIDE

Level of women's protective and preventive contribution to peacebuilding

- 1) How would you define peace and security in this area?
- 2) What are some of the women socio demographic factors that promote/ hinder women level of contribution in Peacebuilding in this community?
- 3) Describe the situation of peacebuilding in this community?
- 4) How do women participate in peace building of this community?

Challenges Facing Women in Peacebuilding

- 5) Describe the factors that are promoting/ hindering peacebuilding in this community
- 6) Do women have their own ways of peace building and what are these ways that they use?
- 7) What is your hope for building Peacebuilding in this community?
- 8) What characteristics do women portray in peace building?
- 9) What are the institutions involved in Peacebuilding activities in this community
- 10) What is the level of women's contribution in Conflict prevention (dialogue, negotiation, mediation)
- 11) What is the level of women's contribution in Post conflict peace building
- 12) What is the level of support given to women by the institutions involved?