Event Report



May/2023 Country Office/Tanzania

The Inter-Religious Council for Peace Tanzania (IRCPT) partnered with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) to conduct Zonal Trainings on Peace and Reconciliation Skills for Religious Leaders. These trainings were held at Kyusa Hotel Kigoma from April 25th to 27th, 2023, and at Dolphin Hotel Tanga from May 16th to 18th, 2023. The primary goal was to equip religious leaders with the tools to prevent radicalization, violent extremism, and offensive religious ideologies from taking its roots in society. The training focused on promoting dialogue, early conflict prevention mechanisms, and media engagement to address social and political challenges.

The program directly contributed to the objectives by fostering collaboration between religious dignitaries and interfaith organizations for conflict-free solutions. Key indicators included assessing the spectrum of engaged stakeholders and the impact of joint publications in media coverage. Through participatory observation, interviews, and evaluation sheets, the implementation was monitored.

During the event, Sheikh Juma Alli Luwuchu, the core chair of the Tanga Regional Interfaith Committee, expressed gratitude for the supportive collaboration with regional leadership, allowing the interfaith committee to operate freely. The presence of Tanga District Commissioner, Mr. Juma Mgandilwa, underscored the significance of religious leaders as catalysts for shaping morals and fostering peace. He pledged government cooperation with religious committees, urging continued efforts by IRCPT and KAS in conducting training and awareness programs that contribute to sustainable peace and development. The call was also made for wider citizen involvement, particularly emphasizing the inclusion of women and youth in peace-building endeavoururs.

With the engagement of approximately 80 participants, the training sessions were marked by punctuality, interactive group work, and constructive discussions in a relaxed atmosphere. Attendees were invigorated to champion peace and acquired valuable skills for education and training purposes. The training expanded their understanding of community responsibilities, urging them to actively address conflicts, misconceptions, and interreligious tensions. Participants readily embraced the training methods, fostering a positive outlook on the event's effectiveness.

In terms of future steps, the participants agreed to create individual Work Plans for their respective districts, followed by a gathering to formulate a Regional Work Plan. This collaborative plan will align with existing government policies and legal frameworks aimed at countering violent extremism. The training's timing was deemed opportune, supported by government officials' involvement and willingness to collaborate, indicating a successful path toward fostering peace and harmony within the community.

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