

Approaches used by Rotary Club in post-conflict peace building in Nakuru County, Kenya

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ABSTRACT

Peace building approaches have been of great interest to both the government and non-governmental organization in a world marred by conflict and violence. The efforts of the state and other non-governmental organizations in Nakuru County have been as effective in ensuring sustainable peace after bouts of post-election conflicts experienced since the introduction of multiparty politics in Kenya. This paper interrogates nevertheless the approach pursued by the Rotary Club whose mission of ‘service above self’ aims to facilitate long-term peace and stability in Nakuru County. It was guided by the conflict transformation theory advanced by Paul Lederarch. The study used descriptive survey research design. The target population for this study was 250 participants: Primary data was collected from a sample size of 50 respondents using questionnaires, Focused Group Discussions and interviews guides who were selected using stratified and simple random sampling methods. The data collected was analyzed using quantitative and qualitative methods. The study established that rotary clubs have social economics and reconciliation strategies they use in peace building. Further the study found out that rotary clubs use social economic development approaches like community-based projects and reconciliation approaches such as sports, peace education and women in building long-term post conflict peace. Also, the study identified that sport is the approach that is mostly used by rotary clubs in peace building. The study revealed that contribution of women to peace building is the least used approach by rotary clubs in peace building. Further findings indicated that peace education and community-based projects are the most efficient and effective approach that is applied by rotary clubs in building peace in Nakuru county while contribution of women is the least efficient and effective approach in peace building. The study recommended that Rotary clubs need to come up with more universal and cheaper approaches for long term post conflict peace building.

Keywords: NGOs Rotary Club, Post Conflict Peace Building, Reconciliation, Social Economics Approaches

I. INTRODUCTION

Post-conflict peace building is an intricate phase of peace building that emphasizes socio-economic recovery and pursuit of justice and reconciliation. It is a transition phase that builds on cessation violence and seeks the rebuilding of society and repairing relationships (Johnson, 2023). It is a phase whose outcomes vary according to the scope of engagement of either or both the state and non-state actors, especially non-profit organizations such as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and Community Based Organizations (CBO). The driving factor for success, however, lies in the mission of the organization such as the provision of “service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders” (Canavesi & Minelli, 2022). Rotary International as a global humanitarian agency pursues its mission informed by the paradigm of service beyond self which seldom fits into the larger individualistic framework that references humanitarian activities in the Global North. In essence, its impact is experienced more deeply in addressing post conflict theaters in the Global South where communal values are often shattered by incessant conflicts (Marial, 2025).

In Serbia, for instance, the role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) has been visible addressing humanitarian challenges after the breakup of Yugoslavia and declaration of independence of its constituent parts. However, their challenges remain the sustaining post-conflict peace building processes due to the disconnect between the state and the civil society. While many NGOs are professional in their work, their productivity and real impact on long-term peace remain elusive over and above structural and political hindrances. The hostile political ecosystem has made it difficult for peace building efforts, especially those handling past atrocities (Clarke-Habibi, 2017). Further, the post-conflict situation in Croatia rendered the role of NGOs in peace building ineffective due to overdependence on

donor funding and misaligned agendas, counterproductive projects, lack of local understanding and structural and political obstacles. Seemingly, civil society was dominated by professionalized, donor driven NGOs that found it hard to maintain local legitimacy and acceptance. This largely contributed to the sluggish local peace efforts (Banks et al., 2015).

In Tanzania, NGO presence is visible in post-conflict situations especially since the return of multipartyism in the 1990s. The country has experienced conflicts in its coastal region as well as in Mtwara and Tanga regions (Walwa, 2025). Their support is largely through delivery of humanitarian aid, facilitation of community dialogue, promotion psycho-social healing, and advocating for sustainable resource management. They mostly act as trusted, neutral parties, mobilizing local and international support, developing community-based conflict resolution mechanisms, and empowering marginalized groups like women and youth to participate in peace processes. The NGOs in Tanzania play an integral role of peace building but their failure to root out real causes of conflict and promoting social cohesion making long term post conflict peace building remains elusive (Chris et al., 2021).

In Kenya, NGOs have been part and parcel of peace building efforts in all phases since independence. The country is largely characterised by a 'nuanced domestic conflict landscape' that remains volatile and that requires constant presence of active community-based organizations (Chris et al., 2021). Community-level participation effectively supplements other practices for conflict mitigation, involving early systems for warning, working with governments to develop appropriate legal and security systems among others. The process differs from place to place depending upon the environment. Approaching and working with the community enables the diagnosis of the conflicts, especially, the resource-based conflicts and building their capacity to resolve them (Andrew, 2003). The role of the Rotary Club distinguishes itself by focusing on grassroot mediation, resource security and ethic reconciliation while in the north they focus on high level diplomacy, academic theory and funding (Bazirake & Bukuluki, 2013).

In Nakuru County, NGOs' contribution is visible through community mobilization, conflict mediation, promoting social cohesion, and addressing root causes of conflict, such as land disputes. They also engage in providing essential services including enabling access to food and water, conducting peace training, and supporting women's leadership and grassroots peace initiatives. By engaging directly with communities and often perceived as neutral, NGOs bridge gaps left by state actors in conflict prevention, management, and resolution. But they have not excelled in attaining sustainable peace due to the ethnic undercurrents inherent in the cosmopolitan County (Kida & Kimokoti, 2025). This paper expounds on the role of the Rotary Club in Nakuru County. It builds on the larger mandate of the Rotary International to interrogate its role in building sustainable peace in post-conflict contexts whose underbelly still festers with potentialities of political and resource-based violence and conflict.

It is worth noting that the Rotary International's commitment to peace building was expounded in the international's presidential conference of peace and development in 2007 held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia where assurances were made to promote and endeavor of Rotarians at all levels in the arena of conflict prevention through pledges to : work together on conflict resolution using the existing programs of Rotary International and the Rotary Foundation especially Rotary Centers for International Studies; enhance people-to people diplomacy in the promotion of goodwill, world understanding and peace; increase the funds available for peace research; develop training and educational programs for conflict prevention and resolution and use Rotary resources and goodwill for the development and the alleviation of injustice, poverty, hunger, sickness and illiteracy (Bazirake & Bukuluki, 2013). The translation of this commitment to the grassroots level using channels of sports, youths and women is a particularly unique approach applied in the Global South. In particular, Rotary Clubs have made imprints in their contribution to peacebuilding in Lesotho by providing essential social services like clean water, health care, and education, which create conditions for stable societies and address root causes of conflict. They also support young people through leadership training, foster cultural understanding, and offer platforms for impartial mediation and community dialogue to resolve disputes. They support peace building by focusing on community-level development projects that address underlying causes of instability, such as poverty, inadequate education, and poor health. Local clubs also engage in specific programs that promote reconciliation and offer vocational training to vulnerable populations (Bazirake & Bukuluki, 2013). Unlike in the Gobar North where NGO focus on latent or historical conflict through international diplomacy, in the Global South they use of grass root-based approaches that generally address the present and future relations rather undue focus on historical injustices, notwithstanding their relevance.

Rotary Clubs in Kenya have been engaged in peace building through a holistic approach that addresses the root causes of conflict, promotes dialogue, and fosters community resilience. Their efforts go beyond merely stopping violence by focusing on "Positive Peace" creating conditions for well-being for all members of society. Rotary's peace building strategy in Kenya deals with underlying societal problems that often fuel conflict, such as poverty, lack of education, and unequal resource distribution. Key initiatives include growing local economies, providing clean water and sanitation, supporting basic education and literacy and improving health (Kida & Kimokoti, 2025). Rotary clubs use distinct trends like environmental peace building where rotary club's partners with global peace foundation Kenya to advance peace education and stability.

Post-conflict peace building, therefore, remains an important means of preventing continuing hostilities. There are hundreds of Kenyans who are victims of violence, trauma, physical injuries and above all social trust has dissolved. Poverty level is still high and it's affecting men, women and children. Survivors of the conflicts, the majority of whom are women and children experience serious economic deprivation. The level of mistrust among the families of those who survive conflicts and those whose relatives are suspected to be involved in conflicts remains a big challenge to overcome (Colletta & Cullen, 2000). Peace building in Kenya oscillates between political reconciliation like the 2018 handshake. Rotary clubs focus on civic education to mitigate violence frequently witnessed during subsequent election cycles (Nyagaka, 2025).

1.1 Statement of the Problem

For a long time, Nakuru County has been one of the safe heavens in Kenya paying homage to many people from all walks of life. Various organs, both state and non-state like NGOs, have tried in vain to establish sustainable peace in a cosmopolitan county like Nakuru. Despite many efforts put out by state and non-state actors in curbing violence and conflict, they haven't been effective in attaining and sustaining long term post conflict peace building. Rotary club through their economic development activities like drilling of boreholes, reconciliation and social-cultural integration through activities like sports combined with the government's efforts in disarmament stepped in to establish long-term conflict peace building in Nakuru County. Only 13% of conflicts end with clear victory, necessitating the Positive Peace pillars used heavily in Kenyan community training for long term peace (Kegoro et al., 2026). This paper interrogates the contribution of the Rotary Clubs through their economic development and justice and reconciliation approaches to post conflict building in Nakuru County.

1.2 Research Objectives

The objective of the study was to examine the effectiveness of the socioeconomic and reconciliation approaches used by rotary clubs in post conflict peace building in Nakuru County, Kenya.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Review

2.1.1 Conflict Transformation Theory

Conflict Transformation theory was introduced by John Paul Lederach in the 1900 and early 2000s. The theory states that, traditional conflict resolution was narrow because it focused on short-term solutions that were specific to certain conflicts instead of focusing on long term outcomes that consider conflict an opportunity for growth and structural change. According to Lederach, transformation deals not only with fixing the problem but considers conflict as an agent of social change. The theory focuses on transforming individual's perceptions and emotions responses to the other (Lederach & Appleby, 2010). The theory advances that conflict is natural and hence inevitable and potentially a healthy part of human relations. Further the theory assumes ant-conflict is all about damaged relationships. Thus, without reconciliation peace can't exist. Additionally, it provides that peace building is a long-term process even decades rather than a single event like a peace treaty (Rosenfeld & Jaskot, 2010). The theory has, however, been criticized for being vague on metrics. It focuses on relationships and culture which are difficult to measure compared to quantifying ownership or surrender of guns, bows and arrows by belligerents. Further, their bird's eye view is that it underestimates the role of raw power and spoilers or those who benefit from wars and have no interest in transforming their behavior. Lastly but not least, critiques hold the view that conflict transformation is resource intensive. Real structural change needs astronomical funding and political will many post conflict countries don't have.

This theory, nonetheless, underpins the relationship between approaches used and post conflict peace building in Nakuru County. The mission of the Rotary Club is to use the social economic and reconciliatory approaches to build long term peace in Nakuru in the post-election violence dispensation of 2007. Use of unique reconciliation approaches like peace education, youths, women and sport, economic empowerment through drilling of boreholes provides long-term solutions to the conflicts. These approaches go beyond the efforts of NGOs, which are often limited to humanitarian aid. Such approaches are unique in the sense that, instead of focusing on the top brass, Rotary focuses on middle- and lower-level leaders, such as religious leaders, youth, and women, who can reach the grassroots while also having access to the top tier. They prefer truth and reconciliation instead of punitive trials. By focusing on relationship building among the victims, the offender, and the community, they aim to transform the cycle of revenge into a cycle of reintegration.

2.2 Empirical Review

2.2.1 Approaches used by Rotary Clubs on Peace Building in Nakuru County

According to Woods IV (2022) use of women has been playing key roles in conflicts ranging from Sudan to the Former Yugoslavia, Burundi, Northern Ireland and India and Pakistan. In Sudan, the Sudanese Women raised their voice for Peace, met with the military leaders of various rebel groups and secured access to areas where men could not have accessed to deliver humanitarian assistance. Further this study indicated that many a times, women contribute an ocean of untapped knowledge about the territories in which they live, and the attitudes held by its peoples. Also, the study noted that Women in Northern Ireland have been used in building bridges between the Protestants and the Catholics by bringing together key members of each community as mediators to calm tensions.

Pherali and Lewis (2019) did a study on the effects of approaches in peace building. The findings of this study show that education enhances Service delivery. Access to quality education and initiating programs that improve access to education are core in post-conflict recovery. Also, the study found out those reforms in education sector leads to peace building by preventing and transformation of peace building. Further findings from this study indicate that education contributes greatly to border social transformation by advancing the level of education to be a medium of responding immediately to the effects of conflict. Finally, education leads to the shift from conflict sensitive to peace building. This study focused on the use of education as strategy towards peace building after the conflict. It failed to address other approaches such sports and economic empowerment in building peace after the conflict.

Maiyo et al. (2012) did a study on peace education for sustainable peace and development: A case of Kenya. The findings of this study indicated that peace education is a crucial element of quality basic education in Kenya; economic and social development depends on peace and can't be attained in a country where violence and social instability abound. Therefore, peace education is required as means of finding solutions and promoting better living conditions for millions of people. The study concludes that education is key for promoting sustainable development and improving the capacity of all people to address environment and development issue. Students and teachers in education sector are a force that is very powerful to pass information of knowledge and skills. Thus, institutions of learning, teachers and other stakeholders have their responsibility to increase awareness, knowledge, skills and human values required to create a sustainable peace and development in the present society and in the future. This study focused on peace education as strategy to build peace after conflict. It failed to address to identify other approaches such sports, involvement of members of society, government official economic empowerment, identify efficiency and effectiveness of each approach and major participants in building peace after the conflict that were addressed by the current study.

According to Mohammadnia and Moghadam (2019) values contained in textbooks and other learning resources are a further area of specialist concern. The usage of a single textbook policy may offer a Ministry of Education an opportunity to guarantee a 'minimum entitlement' for all pupils to basic learning resources, mainly important in low-income countries and where equal access needs to be demonstrated. However, some may ask about who controls or benefits from the production of textbooks, and about their content. Also, the study argued that in societies with contests, arguments regarding textbook content can also become cultural and ideological battlegrounds. Textbook review processes have a long history. For example, there were joint initiatives on French German textbooks during the 1920s; German Polish cooperation following the World War II; and a US Soviet textbook project in the 1970s. They raise critical issues about what might be assumed to be offensive. A project reviewing Palestinian and Israeli textbooks has been underway for some years.

Creating humour and play form key parts in any peace education programme in which children acquire skills on how to be team players, how to cooperate and how to be creative thereby training non-violent patterns of communication and behaviour. In addition, exercises for inner peace are sometimes included and said to help develop non-violent attitudes. Students are also stimulated to practice democratic values and attitudes through creation of a peaceful school environment which includes democratically organized schools and friendly relationships among students and staff and cooperative relationships with parents and community. This study focused on humour and play as strategy to build peace after conflict. It failed to address other approaches such sports, involvement of members of society, government official economic empowerment, identifying efficiency and effectiveness of each approach and major participants in building peace after the conflict that were addressed by the current study (Khalil & Hartley, 2024).

A more confrontational attitude of teachers' unions in the 'South' towards challenging neo-liberal educational reform and of the social role and responsibility of teachers is to socialize children into challenging the highly unequal status-quo. This perhaps reflects the fact that neoliberal reforms while a global phenomenon, have affected north and South in different ways and to different extremes, increasing inequality both within Countries, but also between North and South. This also might reflect differences in the histories of 'Northern' trade unions and their 'Southern' counterparts, particularly in relation to the Cold war and national independence struggle when the international trade union movement was sharply divided (McCann, 2019).

According to Tinker (2016) peace education is coherent, critical and can deal with various elements of peace and it is able to put them into action through various means. Teaching peace education is taken as the necessary instrument to enhance democracy, progress, development and civilized society without which peace may be a mirage. Thus teaching peace education is important to improve democracy, non-violence and compassion that is key for peace education and hence its envisaged as the process of developing knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviours and values that enable students to: identify and understands sources of local and global issues and acquire positive and appropriate sensitivities to these problems; resolve conflicts and to attain justice in a non-violent way; live by universal standards of human rights and equity by appreciating cultural diversity, respect for the earth and for each other. This study focused on peace education as strategy to build peace after conflict. It failed to address to identify other approaches such sports, involvement of members of society, government official economic empowerment, identify efficiency and effectiveness of each approach and major participants in building peace after the conflict that were addressed by the current study.

Chaban and Elgström (2021) assessed the roles of insider mediation in strengthening resilience to conflict and turbulence. They found out that insider mediation has enamored ability to bring conflicts to an end. Actors within countries invested in peace instability needs to be equipped with suitable skills used in mediation and dialogue and whatever needed to achieve stable peace. They further say that banking on external mediation is not obviously fruitful as it's assumed by many countries. Insider mediation counts on the tremendous strength of institutions and individuals taken and seen as 'insiders' within a certain conflict. The capabilities of organs like civic, political, and governmental leaders have immeasurable advantages of earning respect and trust hence facilitating attainment of stable peace. Insider mediation has been successful in achieving peaceful elections; facilitating dialogue, unlocking political deadlocks and establishing the groundwork for formal peace negotiations in several countries. This study focused on insider mediation as strategy to build peace after conflict. It failed to address to identify other approaches such sports, involvement of members of society, government official economic empowerment, identify efficiency and effectiveness of each approach and major participants in building peace after the conflict that were addressed by the current study.

Dayal and Christien (2020) opined that women often are unofficial members in peace processes to become involved in the public and political arenas and hence to organize them, particularly in the nongovernmental sector. Acknowledging these contributions and experiences in the field of peace building provides a different perspective when approaching the issue of peace processes, especially at the community and grassroots level. How to transfer those contributions onto the negotiating table so that women directly impact peace agreements remains critical because the cross-community dialogue at the grassroots level, women's peace initiatives and their first-hand knowledge of the war impact and post-war social needs will provide crucial social intelligence necessary for resolving conflicts peacefully. This study focused on involvement of women as strategy to build peace after conflict. It failed to address other approaches such as, involvement of members of the society, government official, economic empowerment, identify efficiency and effectiveness of each approach and major participants in building peace after the conflict that were addressed by the current study.

Akiba (2020) women take a key role in building peace. They act as activists, peace advocates; use non-violent means to pursue democracy and human rights. Also, women are peacekeepers and relief aid workers; they play a vital role in reducing direct violence. They further say that they also act as mediators, trauma healing counselors, and policymakers, women work to 'transform relationships' and address the root of violence. They take active role in educating and participating in developmental programs, building the capacity of their communities and nations to prevent violent conflict. Socialization processes and the historical experience of unequal relations and values brought about by women leads to peace builds process. This study focused on women's role as strategy to build peace after conflict. It failed to address other approaches such as, involvement of members of the society, government official, and economic empowerment, identify efficiency and effectiveness of each approach and major participants in building peace after the conflict that were addressed by the current study.

III. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study adopted descriptive research design. It's ideal thanks to their specific nature and facilitation of general understanding and interpretation of the problem. Descriptive study is not restricted to findings but may often result in the formulation of important principles of knowledge and solutions to significant problems.

3.2 Study Area

This study was carried out in Nakuru County. Nakuru borders Kericho to the south, Narok County to the west, Nandi County to the east. It pays homage to a population of about 1,603,325 people across all the 11 constituencies of Nakuru Town West, Naivasha, Molo, Gilgil, Njoro, Nakuru Town East, Subukia, Kuresoi South, Rongai, Bahati and

Nakuru Town East (KNBS, 2010). This area is chosen for this study because it was the most hit place by post-election violence witnessed in Kenya after the general elections of 2007. Accordingly, it's a matter of grave importance to understand how peace and harmony have been achieved in this area (Kegoro et al., 2026). The state and other NGOs have successfully excelled in elevating the lives of people through various economics and social programs but, they've been so successful in achieving and sustaining long term peace in the cosmopolitan County like Nakuru. The Rotary club has initiated various economic development and reconciliation programs aimed at building long-term peace after widespread post-election in the County.

3.3 Target Population

The target population for this study was 250 participants: 110 rotary club officials including the director, managers, assistant managers, 50 government officials, including County commission, deputy county commissioner 90 internally displaced people in Nakuru County.

Table 1

Target Population

Strata/club	Participants	Population
Rotary club of Nakuru	Dir (s)	4
	Managers	6
	Ass Managers	6
	HODs	94
Sub-total		110
government officials		
	CC	1
	DCC	9
	ACC	9
	Chiefs	31
Sub-total		50
IDPs/Victims		90
Total		250

Source: Rotary Club of Nakuru, Mini RYLA Nakuru and County Government NKR (2023)

3.4 Sampling Technique and Sample Size

This study adopted stratified and simple random sampling methods to obtain the respondents for the study. The sample size for this study was 50 respondents. If well selected, sample size between 10% -30% can be used to represent the population (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). For this study, the sample was equal to 20 % of the target population. Simple random sampling size was used to select a sample of respondents. From each stratum, 20% of the respondents were selected and used to get required data. The sample size was tabulated as follows:

Table 2

Selection of Sample Size

Population	Size	Sampling techniques	Sample Size 20%	Data collection
Rotary club officials	110	Stratified and simple random	22	Questionnaires
Government officials	50	Stratified and simple random	10	Questionnaires
Internally Displaced people	90	Stratified and simple random	18	Questionnaires/ interview
Total	250		50	

3.5 Data Collection

The study used both primary and secondary methods of data collection. Primary data was obtained using questionnaires, discussion with focused groups and interviews. Secondary was obtained from documentation such as books, written reports and Internet articles that were vital for the study while

3.6 Data Analysis and Presentation

Collected data was scrutinized for any errors, inconsistencies and missing values. This ensured that obtained data was accurate and ready analysis. The data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency, percentages and means with help of statistical package for social sciences SPSS. The study findings were represented in tables and figures.

3.7 Ethical Considerations

First and foremost, the researcher asked permission from Kisii University to carry out research. In addition, the study sought permission from National commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI). Further consent from informants was obtained before embarking on data collection. They were informed that collected data from the field was used for academic purposes only. Details of the respondents were also kept secret and confidential. In addition, the study ensured that biasness is avoided after and during the study period. On the other study, Permission also was sought from relevant stakeholders like the county government of Nakuru before commencing the study.

IV. FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

4.1 Approaches Used by Rotary Clubs and Peace Building in Nakuru County

4.1.1 Types of Approaches Used by Rotary Clubs (Reconciliatory and Social Economic Development)

The study sought to find out the most applied approaches by rotary clubs in post conflict building peace in Nakuru County. Findings of the study were presented in the table 3 below.

Table 3

Types of Approaches

Type of Approach	Frequency	Percent
Reconciliatory		
peace education	22	44
Sports	18	36
contribution of women	4	8
Social economic development		
community based projects	6	12
Total	50	100

According to the findings in table 3 above, the study established that Rotary clubs have various approaches they use in post conflict peace building in Nakuru County. For instance, the study depicted that, peace education 22 (44%) was most used approach by rotary clubs in building post conflict peace in Nakuru County. Additionally, the study identified that sport at 18 (36%) was another approach that was frequently used by rotary clubs in post conflict peace building Nakuru County. Further the study found out that community-based projects at 6 (12%) was another approach applied by rotary club in post conflict peace building while contribution of women 4 (8%) was the least used approach by rotary clubs in post conflict peace building Nakuru County. These findings agreed with Smith (2010), who found out that access to quality education and initiating programs that improve access to education are core in post-conflict recovery. Also, the study found out those reforms in education sector leads to peace building by preventing and transformation of peace building. Further findings from this study indicate that education contributes greatly to border social transformation by advancing the level of education to be a medium of responding immediately to the effects of conflict. Finally, education leads to the shift from conflict sensitive to peace building. In another study, Kumar (2010) noted that Peace education is coherent, critical and can deal with various elements of peace and it is able to put them into action through various means. Teaching peace education is taken as the necessary instrument to enhance democracy, progress, development and civilized society without which peace may be a mirage. Thus, teaching peace education is important to improve democracy, non-violence and compassion that is key for peace education and hence its envisaged as the process of developing knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviours and values that enable students to: identify and understands sources of local and global issues and acquire positive and appropriate sensitivities to these problems; resolve conflicts and to attain justice in a non-violent way; live by universal standards of human rights and equity by appreciating cultural diversity, respect for the earth and for each other.

4.1.2 Efficient and Effective Approach Used in Nakuru County

The study sought to determine the most efficient and effective approach that is used by rotary Clubs in post conflict peace building in Nakuru County. The findings are presented in Table 4.

Table 4*Most Efficient and Effective Approach*

Approach	Frequency	Percent
Reconciliatory		
peace education	17	34
Sports	10	20
contribution of women	12	24
Social economic development		
community based projects	11	22
Total	50	100

The study established that, peace education 17 (34%) was the most efficient and effective approach applied by rotary clubs in post conflict peace building in Nakuru county. Also, the study identified that, community-based projects 12 (24%) was another efficient and effective approach that is used by rotary clubs in post conflict peace building. Further the study identified that contribution of women 22% is the least efficient and effective approach in peace building. On the other hand, the study noted that sports, 10 (20%) was the least most effective and most efficient approach used by rotary club in post conflict peace building in Nakuru county. These findings were in harmony with Slade (2013) who established in his study on peace education for children in post-conflict societies as part of a conflict transformative approach that peace education is a precondition for stable peace and an integral part of the transformative process. Similarly, Maiyo et al., (2012) agreed that peace education is a crucial element of quality basic education in Kenya. Economic and social development depends on peace and can't be attained in a country where violence and social instability abound. Therefore, peace education is required as means of finding solutions and promoting better living conditions for millions of people. The study concluded that education is key for promoting sustainable development and improving the capacity of all people to address environment and development issue. Students and teachers in education sector are a force that is very powerful to pass information of knowledge and skills. Similarly, Kegoro et al. (2026) noted that rotary Clubs in Kenya contribute to peace building through a holistic approach that addresses the root causes of conflict, promotes dialogue, and fosters community resilience. Their efforts go beyond merely stopping violence by focusing on "Positive Peace" creating conditions for well-being for all members of society. Rotary's peace building strategy in Kenya deals with underlying societal problems that often fuel conflict, such as poverty, lack of education, and unequal resource distribution. Key initiatives include Growing local economies, Providing clean water and sanitation, supporting basic education and literacy and improving health.

4.1.3 Participation of Rotarians/Officials in the Peace Projects as Individuals

This was intended to determine the contribution of each Rotarian to peace building in Nakuru County.

The study interviewed Key informants and FGDs

It was noted that rotary club officials use other approaches like giving monthly contributions for startups that are aimed at empowering people, hence reducing dependence on scarce natural resources hence reducing disputes that arise from scarcity of resources. They further indicated that, they have started various projects targeting youths, taking part in community activities like clean ups in towns, homes, visiting the less fortunate people, provision of sanitary towels to need students, dealing with jiggers, sponsoring student from the poor families all geared towards building post conflict peace. In addition, they said that these approaches are aimed at creating harmony, cohesion and unity among community members and hence post conflict building peace.

“Rotarians as individuals normally use other approaches in post conflict peace building like giving monthly contribution for startups. These startups are aimed at empowering people, hence reducing dependence on resources hence reducing disputes that arise from scarcity of resources. They further said that “we have started various projects targeting youths, taking part in community activities like clean ups in towns, homes, visiting the less fortunate people, provision of sanitary towels to need students, dealing with jiggers, sponsoring student from the poor families. They further said these activities and projects are aimed at creating harmony, cohesion and unity among community members and hence building peace”. (CEO, Managers 8/8/23).

These findings are consistent with Maelo (2024) NGOs play pivotal roles in post peace building through community mobilization, conflict mediation, promoting social cohesion, and addressing root causes of conflict, such as land disputes. They also provide essential services like food and water, conduct peace training, and support women's leadership and grassroots peace initiatives. By engaging directly with communities and often perceived as neutral, NGOs bridge gaps left by state actors in conflict prevention, management, and resolution. But they have not excelled in attaining stable peace in the long term. Similarly, Keuleers, et al. (2014) argued that insider mediation has enormous ability to bring conflicts to an end. Actors within countries invested in peace instability need to be equipped with suitable skills used in mediation and dialogue and whatever needed to achieve stable peace.

Insider mediation counts on the tremendous strength of institutions and individuals taken and seen as ‘insiders’ within a certain conflict. The capabilities of organs like civic, political, and governmental leaders have immeasurable advantages of earning respect and trust hence facilitating attainment of stable peace.

4.1.4 Other Approaches Used to Attain and Sustain Post Conflict Peace in Nakuru County

The study also wanted to find out whether there are approaches that are used by rotary clubs in peace building apart from those identified above.

Table 5

Other Approaches Used

Other Approaches	Frequency	Percent
Social economic development		
Equal sharing of resources	28	56
Economic empowerment	18	36
Community based projects	4	8
Total	50	100

The study found out that, equal sharing of resources 28 (56.0%) was the approach that is mostly used by rotary clubs in attaining and sustaining post conflict peace building in Nakuru County. Similarly, the study noted that, economic empowerment 18 (36%) was used by rotary clubs was used by rotary club to attain and sustain post conflict peace while community-based projects was the least approach used in attaining and sustaining post conflict peace building in Nakuru county. According to Kegoro et al. (2026), global communities play imperative role to solve conflicts using community-based interventions to keep, attain and sustain peace and mitigate struggle around the country. Community-level participation effectively supplements other practices for conflict mitigation, involving early systems for warning, working with governments to develop appropriate legal and security systems among others. The process differs from place to place depending upon the environment. Approaching the community, working with the community enables to get to the root of conflicts especially resource-based, issues of conflict; and building their capacity to resolve those issues themselves, can mitigate initial incentives to violence, curbing existing conflicts and those coming from external sources.

These education, resource distribution, training and vocational skills of women are very fundamental for building women’s capacity for post conflict peace building. In many places, much belief that educating the male child is the only investment they can have unlike investment in girls’ education. This will go a long way in building the capacity of women to engage in peace processes (Adjei, 2019).

The study further interviewed *Key informants and FGDs*

It was noted that, resources meant to assist local communities are equitably distributed, empowering youths by giving funds to financial start-ups. The further revealed that rotary clubs use religious teachings, traditional teachings, social media, looking for well-wishers to help communities by developing community projects like drilling of boreholes, giving scholarships and acting as role models. These approaches enable rotary clubs to attain and sustain peace after the conflict in Nakuru County.

“Rotary clubs also ensure that resources meant to assist communities are equitably distributed; empowering youths by giving funds to financial start-ups. They also indicated that they use religious teachings, traditional teachings, social media, support from well-wishers to help communities to develop community projects like drilling of boreholes, giving scholarships and acting as role models for sustainable peace.” (Evans Wainaina. 8/8/23).

Green et al. (2010) argued that, in Tanzania, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) support local populace through delivery of humanitarian aid, facilitation of community dialogue, promotion psycho-social healing, and advocating for sustainable resource management. They mostly act as trusted, neutral parties, mobilizing local and international support, developing community-based conflict resolution mechanisms, and empowering marginalized groups like women and youth to participate in peace processes. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Tanzania they paly integral role of peace building but their failure to root out real causes of conflict and promoting social cohesion making long term post conflict peace building elusive. Using their grassroots linkages and flexibility, they complement government’s efforts by facilitating dialogue, promoting human rights, and delivering essential services.

4.2.5 The Extent to which Local Resources have Helped Rotary International

The researcher also sought to find out whether rotary clubs depend on local resources to build post conflict peace in Nakuru County. The study *interviewed key informants and FGD*

It was revealed that, rotary club of Nakuru to larger extent depend on available natural resources to build post conflict peace building peace. Further, they noted that, natural resources are exploited to benefit the community in

many ways like, empowering youths who come from less fortunate families in the society. This is key their effort in building post conflict peace in Nakuru County. Additionally, the study indicated that, in areas where natural resources are scarce, rotary clubs drill boreholes, provide tents, water tanks, schools to build post conflict peace. These approaches have led to increase in societal cohesion and stable post conflict peace in Nakuru County.

“Largely we depend on available natural resources on building peace. We ensure that natural resources are exploited to benefit the community”. “Also, empowering youths who come from less fortunate families in the society to exploit available resources is key in our effort to peace building. In areas where natural resource is scarce, they drill boreholes, provide tents, water tanks, schools to build peace. This intervention has led to increase in societal cohesion and stable post conflict peace”. (Peter Kamau 8/8/23).

According Kali (2022), rotary clubs contribute to peace building in Lesotho by providing essential services like clean water, health care, and education, which create conditions for stable societies and address root causes of conflict. They also support young people through leadership training, foster cultural understanding, and offer platforms for impartial mediation and community dialogue to resolve disputes. They support peace building by focusing on community-level development projects that address underlying causes of instability, such as poverty, inadequate education, and poor health. Local clubs also engage in specific programs that promote reconciliation and offer vocational training to vulnerable populations.

V. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Conclusion

The major objective of the study was assessed the role of approaches used by NGO especially Rotary Clubs on post conflict peace building in Kenya: A case of Nakuru County. From the findings, the study concluded that rotary clubs have both reconciliation and social economic development approaches they use in post conflict peace building. Some of these approaches were, peace education, use of sports, contribution of women, religious teachings, traditional teachings, social media, looking for well-wishers to help communities, drilling borehole use of community-based projects, economic empowerment and equal sharing of resources. The study concluded that peace education is most used approach by rotary clubs in post conflict building peace in Nakuru County. Additionally, the study concluded that sport is also another approach that is mostly used by rotary clubs in post peace building. Further findings found out that community-based projects are used. The study revealed that contribution of women to peace building is the least used approach by rotary clubs in peace building.

5.2 Recommendations

According to the findings of the study, only a handful approaches were found to be used by the NGOs. They included: peace education, sports, involvement of women and community-based projects. These approaches may be working in Nakuru County but, in other counties or countries they may not be used. Therefore, it was recommended that, Rotary clubs need to come up with more universal approaches for long term post conflict peace building. Also, some of the approaches are difficult and expensive to implement. Thus, they should come up with approaches that are easy and cheaper to implement.

Declaration of Interest

The authors declare that they do not have any known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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