

# Uraia

Kenya's National Civic Education Programme

## **RAPID RESPONSE INITIATIVE (RRI) - FRAMEWORK**

### **1.0 Background:**

In the period following the post-election violence of 2007, Uraia through the support of development partners put in place a rapid response mechanism that was aimed at enabling civic society organizations to respond and mitigate conflict and enhance peaceful coexistence of communities across the county. In its programming for the Uchaguzi Bora Initiative of 2012 – 2013, Uraia integrated an objective to ensure Kenyans had a peaceful election, and in this regard further put in place a rapid response facility to mitigate and respond to emerging threats ahead of the 2013 elections. The Rapid Response facility was aimed at allowing for early response to matters of national importance and hence help the civil society have a coordinated and organized way to deal with any ensuing tensions or violence. The facility helped to finance Rapid Response Initiatives (RRI) in the form of short-term projects (activities or interventions) –targeted at preventing conflict, managing and diffusing conflict, as well as research and documentation of conflict. It is worth noting that the facility was established to supplement issues of importance for the country as the nation strived towards a true democracy through the 2013 general elections and to allow Uraia to scale up and enhance its efforts to respond to matters of national importance.

### **1.1 Justification for a Rapid Response Mechanism**

The environment that Uraia implement its interventions is threatened by a number of governance and political related challenges some of which require to be addressed for Uraia to implement its programmes effectively as outlined below:

- For effective implementation of the Uraia's Key Focus Areas (KFAs): i.e KFA 2 on elections. Elections in Kenya have a history of triggering violent conflicts,

the last major one being 2007/2008. There is therefore need to have interventions that allow for early warning system to avert possible conflict, as well as mitigate conflict where it arises and promote national cohesion and integration.

- Protection and safeguarding implementation of the constitution. Uraia's work focuses largely on implementation of the constitution. However, there has been serious political threat calling for the review of the constitutional provisions which could reverse the gains already made. This requires the CSOs to continuously scan the environment, and position itself to respond to emerging issues around proposed constitutional amendments.

## 2.0 What qualifies for a Rapid response Initiative (RRI)?

**The following key criteria would be considered to determine if an issue qualifies for a rapid response:**

- a. Governance crisis issues of national or county importance; i.e non adherence to the national/county laws, unconstitutional laws, governance related conflict,
- b. Threat to constitutional implementation in line with Uraia's KFAs, such as those that affect gains already made in the constitution.

## 3.0 What RRI is not:

**The following would not be considered as interventions requiring rapid response:**

- a. Regular programmes – civic education forums, awareness forums, election observation, trainings;
- b. Sponsorships and travel to regional and international conference;
- c. Disaster response such as: reconstruction of shelter, health emergency, food aid.
- d. Organizational strengthening.
- e. Any other intervention that does not contribute to the defence /promotion of the Constitution of Kenya and constitutionalism.

## 4.0 Who qualifies to apply for a RRI?

**The following organizations can qualify to work with Uraia to respond to an emerging issue:**

- CSO's who are implementing partners of Uraia;
- CSOs hosted by Uraia partners;
- Non Uraia partners on condition that they are hosted by an Uraia partner.
- State Actors such as Constitutional Commissions on issues of national importance.

## 5.0 Ensuring the efficiency of the RRI framework

In order to ensure the efficiency of the RRI framework, Uraia will improve on the following:

- (a) Identification of emerging issues:** Uraia to hold regular bi monthly/special meetings with consortia and strategic partners to scan environment and identify RRI issues. This should include strategies for addressing the issues identified, and where possible, organizations that can effectively respond.
- (b) Orientation of partners:** Integrate information sharing on the RRI framework in the pre-award workshop for partners. This will include encouraging partners to scan the environment, as well as triggering/prompting them to act on issues of national/county importance.
- (c) Mapping the country and identifying partners who can undertake RRI.** This will include IPs that work with Uraia and strategic organizations that do not work with Uraia.
- (d) Application processing:**
  - i. Concept review:** RRI concepts will be segmented by counties and assigned to managers. The manager in charge will receive the concept, circulate to other managers and then incorporate comments from all the reviews before communicating to the Implementing partner to revise the concept.
  - ii. The Project Approval Summary (PAS):** A PAS summarizing the proposed RRI, the key activities and methodologies will be developed for clarity and ease of approval. The document will have a section on '*analysis by the reviewers*' which will document the assessment and recommendation by the

programme and finance teams, highlight organizational capacity and project implementation potential.

## 6.0 Strengthening the Capacity of implementing partners

The Rapid Response Framework (RRF) will include capacity development of partners to equip them with knowledge and skills to analyse and respond to emerging issues. This would include and involve the following:

- ▶ Developing a training kit on the RRF.
- ▶ Development of standardized guiding framework highlighting strategies and methodologies which can be altered with partners in line with the situation;
- ▶ Training IPs and Uraia staff on conflict management and rapid response mechanisms;
- ▶ Identifying change agents or key stakeholders within the community/county who can be approached to address conflict;
- ▶ Developing an RRI concept writing guideline with a clear checklist;

## 7.0 Creating linkages with other stakeholders:

In order to enhance rapid response initiatives, Uraia will create linkages such as:

- ▶ Developing linkages with humanitarian organizations to facilitate information sharing especially where an RRI is conflict related.
- ▶ Partnering with Government players at national and county level for effective implementation of an RRI.

## 8.0 Time frame for implementation of an RRI

- ▶ The proposed timeline is one month after receipt of funds.

## 9.0 What next after an RRI.

The nature of a RRI will determine whether there will be need for further interventions or not.

There are those that will come to an end as soon as the intervention is over. Those that touch on issues affecting implementation of the constitution may require a more medium term or long term intervention if they cannot be immediately concluded through a RRI. i.e some may require policy and legislative interventions. In such cases, Uraia will need to translate this into a more medium term or long term intervention and identify a strategic partner to take lead.

Below are the guidelines for the development of short concepts. Please note that each application will be assessed and determined on a case by case basis based on its ability to provide the desired results in line with the outcomes outlined above, and subject to availability of funds.

### **CONCEPT GUIDELINES.**

In order to enhance timely review and response, concepts to be submitted under RRI will not be more than 5 pages but must include the following (excluding workplan):

1. Statement of the Problem and justification. (Max 1 page)
2. Objectives of the rapid response initiative. (Max half page)
3. Description of key strategies and methodologies to be used. (max half page)
4. Detailed description of key activities. (Max 1 page)
5. Expected outputs and outcomes. (max half page)
6. Budget (max 1 pages)
7. Workplan