DONEGAL PEACE III ACTION PLAN

Phase I

Post Project - Evaluation Report

Donegal County Development Board (CDB)
Peace & Reconciliation Partnership

June 2012

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background:

The Donegal PEACE III Action Plan was developed for the entire County of Donegal. Donegal occupies the extreme north western tip of the island of Ireland and is bounded to the North and West by over 1,100 km of Atlantic coast and to the East and South East by the Northern Ireland counties of Derry, Tyrone and Fermanagh. Only a short border of 20 km with County Leitrim joins the South of the county with the rest of Ireland.

Key aspects of the county include peripheral and rural location, weak urban infrastructure, an ageing population, a dependent population, diverse socio-economic base and an increasingly diverse society. Phase I of the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan provided a framework for the implementation of a range of activities that focused on reconciliation, cultural diversity and equality on a cross community and cross border basis for the period 2008 – 2010.

The Donegal PEACE III Action Plan fully aligns with the PEACE III Programme, Priority 1, Theme 1, as it aims to contribute to building positive relations at a local level in terms of challenging attitudes towards sectarianism and racism in County Donegal and supporting conflict resolution and mediation at a local level.

Methodology:

During the period 2008 – 2010 the Donegal County Development Board Peace & Reconciliation Partnership implemented Phase I of the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan. The Partnership did this by implementing 22 strategic actions, which resulted in achieving 51 targets.

The types of activities supported included:

- Racism, sectarianism, diversity, conflict resolution and mediation training and capacity building.
- Workshops, seminars, debates and conferences to deepen understanding of issues relating to sectarianism, racism, conflict resolution and mediation.
- Programmes of events and activities targeting various groups to build positive relations and raise awareness of the above issues.
- Cross community, cross border and intergenerational activities to build positive relations.
- Programmes targeting the Protestant community to build confidence and support greater understanding and appreciation.
- Remembering and commemorating shared histories e.g. Plantation of Ulster.
- Supporting integration of minority marginalized and excluded groups with the wider community.
- Supporting public services policy and practice provision so as to cater effectively for the needs of minority and marginalized groups.

These activities were delivered using the following three types of implementation methodologies:

- 56 no. grants to a range of organizations including the community and voluntary sector to a value of €1.6m
- 9 no. contracts for the delivery of specific actions following a public procurement process to a value of €.87m
- 4 no. partners delivering a range of strategic actions to a value of €1.7m.

Summary of Findings:

The purpose of this evaluation report is to determine if the structure and processes of the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan achieved positive change in the communities in County Donegal during the implementation of Phase I.

It was noted that proposals in the action plan were aimed at changing both individual attitudes, behaviours and skills, and also contributed to developing healthy relationships and connections between individuals, groups and communities. Table 2, on page 16 of this report clearly sets out, in summary, how each intervention supported under the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan corresponds with Woodrow's Theories of Change.

A number of peace building needs were identified during the consultation process for Phase I of the action plan and these included:

- Sectarianism and Racism: Two sides of the same coin in an increasingly diverse society.
- Denial and lack of acknowledgement of sectarianism and racism.
- Lack of awareness and understanding of sectarianism and racism.
- Lack of trust and cross community contact.
- Isolation, poverty and conflict.
- Ingrained mentality
- Acknowledging and dealing with the past.

The peace building relevance assessment was carried out on the actions supported during phase I of the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan, and table 3, on page 26 shows a summary of the actions delivered and the impact that each action had on the peace building need identified in the County during the consultation process.

Due to the large number of projects supported in Phase I and with a view to reporting on the quantitative indicators, table 4, on page 37 reports on the actual outputs against targeted outputs as set out in our baseline report.

A conflict risk assessment was carried out initially in the baseline report and a number of conflict related risks were identified, this report reflects on those conflict related risks and provides detail on the lessons learnt for the implementation of Phase II.

Finally, section 3 of this report refers to the five qualitative impact indicators that were set at the beginning of the process and reports on how a range of projects clearly demonstrate the impact that these projects have had on their target group and the wider community in County Donegal.

Conclusions & Recommendations:

In conclusion, and on reflection of the implementation of Phase I, it has become apparent that the Partnership achieved, and in some cases, exceeded the targets set out in Phase I of the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan.

Through the three-implementation methodologies, identified above, the grant scheme made the plan more accessible to the Community & Voluntary Sector; Partner delivery provided an opportunity to be more strategic in nature and tenders proved less of an administrative burden on those involved.

Good cross border linkages were put in place and the Partnership met the 30% cross border target set. The implementation of Phase I saw the engagement with a wide range of target groups and this has set the platform for progressing into Phase II of the Action Plan. Finally, the seminars, workshops and conferences were well attended and resulted in positive feedback.

However, during the consultation process for Phase II, it was widely recognized and communicated from those involved that, whilst the work of the Partnership was very important, the projects and programmes supported during Phase I were only scratching the surface in terms of impacting the target groups and on this basis, there was a strong recommendation that there was a need to continue to support similar work during the period 2011 – 2013.

The findings from this report supports the fact that Phase I of the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan has resulted in challenging attitudes towards racism and sectarianism and promoted mediation and conflict resolution at a local level in County Donegal.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction to the Evaluation Process

In order to comply with Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2066 Articles 47-49 and with the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, the Donegal County Development Board Peace & Reconciliation Partnership, has developed this Post Project Evaluation report following the successful implementation of Phase I of the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan 2008 – 2010.

The European Commission, 2006 defines evaluation as,

"Judgment on the value of a public intervention with reference to criteria and explicit standards (e.g. its relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, utility, sustainability, added value and synergy). The judgment usually concerns the needs, which have to be met by the intervention, and the effects produced by it. The evaluation is based on information which is specifically collected and interpreted to support the judgment".

This evaluation report addresses the following issues in order to assess the delivery of the programmes and projects supported by the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan, in this regard, the Partnership looked at the following key issues and determined that:

Relevance: The aims and objectives of all the projects/programmes supported by the Donegal CDB Peace & Reconciliation Partnership during Phase I of the Action Plan were very relevant and assisted the EU in addressing evolving and key issues around racism and sectarianism, promoting mediation and conflict resolution and the need to reconcile communities at a local level.

Efficiency: Each action supported under the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan demonstrated efficiencies as each element of expenditure was procured under procurement rules and subsequently the PEACE III Secretariat verified all expenditure incurred under the programme.

Effectiveness: The findings from the evaluations carried out by project promoters and as supported in this report clearly show that each of the actions supported during Phase I demonstrate the effectiveness of actions supported in the County.

Utility: All projects supported targeted one or more of the PEACE III target groups and/or areas. It is evident from the information gathered and submitted with this report that the project had an impact on the target groups in the county on both a cross community and cross border basis and addressed specific peace building needs in the county that became evident as part of the consultation process.

Sustainability: The feedback from the consultation process, following the implementation of Phase I and informing the development of the plan for Phase II, clearly showed that the peace building needs remained relevant and that there was a need to continue to support similar types of initiatives during Phase II. There was a general consensus that we were only just scratching the surface in terms of addressing the issues of sectarianism and racism. Therefore, in terms of sustainability, it was obvious that some projects will, in the absence of funding, reach a natural conclusion, however, other projects have embedded within their organizations new ways of doing things, new ways of thinking and embedded a change of culture that will be sustained post the funding period.

Added Value: The types of projects supported under priority 1.1. of the PEACE III Programme in Donegal would not have happened in the absence of Peace

funds as the aims and objectives are very specific and directly promote the reconciliation of communities on both a cross community and cross border basis.

Synergy: The programmes and projects supported under the PEACE III funds do not duplicate but rather complement a range of national policies in the area of social inclusion such as the National Development Plan (2007 – 2013), the National Spatial Strategy (2002 – 2020) and the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion (2007 – 2016).

The format of this report is based broadly on the four elements of the Aid for Peace Methodology, an evaluation tool recommended by PWC and endorsed by the SEUPB as an effective mechanism for capturing the impact of projects supported under the PEACE III Action Plans.

The Aid for Peace methodology includes the following four stages:

- Peace building needs analysis
- Peace building relevance assessment
- Conflict risk assessment
- Peace and conflict effects assessment

CHAPTER 2: INFORMATION ON THE PLAN

2.0 Information on the Plan

This section of the report presents information on the plan and refers specifically to the Peace Building Needs Analysis, the Peace Building Relevance Assessment and the Conflict Risks Assessment outlined in both the baseline and mid term Aid for Peace reports submitted to the SEUPB.

2.1 Peace Building Needs Analysis

The Aid for Peace Baseline Report submitted to the SEUPB in June 2009 set out a detailed Peace Building Needs Analysis for County Donegal. This section of the report presents a summary of this analysis highlighting the key peace building needs identified.

The peace building needs for Co. Donegal were identified in the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan 2008 –2010 following:

- A review the impact of the PEACE II Programme in the county,
- An analysis of the key socio-economic characteristics for the county and a review of the existing and emerging policy and legislative landscape,
- An extensive public consultation process including consultation with key target groups and communities in Donegal, the findings of which were cross-referenced with relevant literature and published research findings.

2.1.1 Peace Building Needs Identified

The Peace Building Needs Analysis identified the following needs:

Impact of PEACE II Programme in Donegal

- A total of 366 projects received funding in County Donegal under the PEACE II Programme over the period 2000-2006 with a total value of €41.8million.
- Donegal had a higher level of cross border activity than any other county involved in the PEACE II Programme.
- The types of projects funded included projects relating to Social, Economic and Cultural Dialogue, Education and Training, Community Infrastructure and Research activity relating to the impact of the conflict.
- The review concluded that a core expertise and experience in the delivery of peace building projects had been acquired in County Donegal by a range of organisations in the community and voluntary sector and in the public sector. This expertise included areas such as: the pooling of experience; cross fertilisation and learning between organisations; promoting and facilitating greater co-ordination; and allowing for strategic thinking and targeting of resources. In this context, the need to continue to build on this strong foundation was identified as central to the successful implementation of the Peace III programme in Donegal.

Key socio-economic characteristics for the county

- An analysis of the socio-economic characteristics of County Donegal showed that the county has severe structural weakness in the economy, a more diverse society in terms of ethnicity, culture and religion and a higher percentage of the population who are socially excluded, isolated or marginalised all of which are further driving poverty levels in the County.[1] The Combat Poverty Agency Report *"Mapping Poverty: National Regional and County Patterns"*[2], highlighted that Donegal is described as the

[1] Helen Johnston, Director of Combat Poverty Agency
[2] August, 2005

county where the risk of poverty is greatest in all of Ireland. Appendix 1 sets out a list of key socio economic 'indicators of need' for Co. Donegal.

Public consultation process and review of relevant literature

In developing the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan an extensive public consultation process was undertaken to allow communities, groups and individuals to identify issues relating to sectarianism, racism and conflict resolution in their area and to suggest ways in which these issues could be addressed. Over 100 people participated in two public consultation workshops and over 30 written submissions were received from a range of groups, organisations and individuals. The findings from this public consultation process were analysed and cross-referenced with existing literature relating to this subject matter. The following key themes emerged from this process:

2.1.2 Emerging Themes

1. Sectarianism and Racism: Two sides of the same coin
2. Denial and lack of acknowledgement of sectarianism and racism in Donegal
3. Lack of awareness and understanding of what constitutes sectarianism and racism
4. Lack of trust and cross-community contact
5. Isolation, poverty and conflict
6. Ingrained mentality
7. Acknowledging and dealing with the past

1. Sectarianism and Racism; Two sides of the same coin

The following issues were identified within the context of this theme:

- Society in the Border Region and in particular in Donegal is becoming more diverse with an increase in international migration especially from Eastern European countries and this has given rise to challenges relating to the need for greater community integration and an increase in levels of racism.

- Some forms of racism and sectarianism are almost tolerated as a norm in society today whilst other forms of discrimination are not socially acceptable.

- It is a challenge not to see racism simply as an add-on to anti-sectarianism work although research has found that both feed on common factors such as a sense of entitlement, insecurity, the media and a 'culture of violence'.

- Racism tends to replace sectarianism with the increase in ethnic minority communities in the county. Racism is not a new phenomenon in Irish society, it has always existed especially in relation to the Traveller community.

- The need to promote equality for all people living in Donegal in terms of opportunities, participation and outcomes and to meaningfully embrace diversity and commonalities within all sectors of the community was a key message emerging from this theme.

2. Denial and lack of acknowledgement of sectarianism and racism

The following issues were identified within the context of this theme:

- Sectarianism and racism are seen as problems of Northern Ireland and not relevant to Donegal.
- Reluctance by minority groups to highlight incidents, which they feel, are motivated by sectarianism or racism.
- Minority communities tend to keep their head down and not engage with the majority community.
- No specific category for recording sectarian motivated incidents by An Garda Siochana and this makes it difficult to monitor and measure the extent of sectarianism in Donegal.

- Number of well publicised incidents including attacks on Orange Halls in Donegal. Recent literature has drawn attention to ongoing problems of discrimination, attacks on Orange Halls, and their continued inability to hold parades, the sense that their communities' cultural traditions are not valued and failure to attract funding for community infrastructure[3].
- Lack of knowledge in relation to other impacts of the conflict in Donegal e.g. victims and survivors of the conflict, displaced persons and ex-prisoners.
- Sectarianism and racism 'not talked about much'. Majority community not directly affected therefore tend to ignore this form of discrimination in their own community.

The need to challenge attitudes towards sectarianism and racism by raising the level of consciousness that these issues do exist in Donegal, by facilitating and encouraging the participation of minority groups in civil life and ensuring that their voice is heard, emerged as a key message from this theme.

3. Lack of awareness and understanding of sectarianism and racism
The following issues were identified within the context of this theme:

- People don't realise that they are discriminating e.g. language used in social settings, telling stories etc.
- Sectarianism and racism and the failure to accommodate diversity is often unintentional and can come about through lack of thought, lack of understanding, lack of adequate planning or the persistence of 'one cap fits all approach'[4].
- *'Hidden discrimination'*, whereby the indigenous communities are not overt in their opinions but still hold a certain opinion of the other communities that they don't openly express. Therefore they don't have the opportunity to address their inherent prejudices or are never faced with their own discrimination.
- Perception of low number of minority communities, especially Protestants employed in the Garda and the local authority.
- Need to address issue of representation of minority groups on local government structures.

The need to raise the level of consciousness in relation to racism and sectarianism and to ensure that there is equality of opportunity and participation for all members of society emerged as a key message for this theme. This includes the need to ensure that policies and services are planned so that they are accessible to all members of the community.

4. Lack of trust and cross-community contact
The following issues were identified within the context of this theme:

- Mistrust, suspicion, fear, disharmony in the community were echoed among the participants as common characteristics of communities experiencing racism and sectarianism, with attitudes of 'them and us' remaining.
- The findings set out in *Border Protestant Perspectives,* which states that the conflict increased perceptions of the Border Protestant community as pro-British and this added to prejudice, suspicions, intimidation and misunderstandings[5].
- Tendency for the protestant community in Donegal to "*keep their heads down*" and not to engage with the majority community hence problems of lack of participation and integration for the minority Protestant population remain in Donegal and impact on community development in this area.
- Segregation in education contributes to sectarian attitudes and the segregation of communities. *"Children are developing attitudes and prejudices at a very young age. Biased history teaching in primary schools promotes sectarianism as does attitudes that are taught at home. Neighbouring children may not even know each other, despite being from the same locality".* This view is reinforced by NISRA, in the

[3] The Emerald Curtain – The Social Impact of the Border, Harvey, B. et al (2005)
[4] Planning for Diversity: The National Action Plan Against Racism 2005-2008
[5] Border Protestant Perspectives-A study of the attitudes and experiences of Protestants living in the Southern Border Counties-LOCUS Management and Kathy Walsh, 2005

Attitudinal Survey where they found that in the border region, 59% of those from a Protestant community background attended schools, which were completely, or mostly Protestant, and 80% of those from a Catholic community background attended schools, which were completely or mostly Catholic[6].

- Barriers to participation such as language, unknown culture and lack of opportunities for integration have contributed to the isolation of the ethnic minority community and that this can "*lead to the ghettoisation of communities whereby clusters of discriminated communities may live together for support*". This obviously becomes a vicious circle whereby social interaction with the indigenous community is devoid and therefore measures to tackle discrimination become harder to organise.

The need to facilitate, encourage and support greater community integration has been clearly articulated in the consultation process. This involves creating opportunities for social interaction amongst minority, marginalised and the majority community so as to achieve greater cohesion at community level. There is also a need to provide support to marginalised and minority communities in terms of confidence and capacity building so as to support greater participation in civil networks

5. Isolation, Poverty and Conflict

The following issues were identified within the context of this theme:

- Individuals and communities experiencing racism and sectarianism often feel segregated and isolated and the majority of those experiencing this form of discrimination are very often the socially and economically disadvantaged of our society.
- Donegal Travellers Project, in their written submission to this plan describe, from their own experience, the effects of racism and sectarianism on a number of levels i.e. the individual, the family, the wider community and society, stating that:

  > '*At the level of the community and the individual the effects include poverty, exclusion, lack of confidence, poor mental health and physical health, increased risk of alcohol and drug abuse, lack of educational attainment and internal community conflict. At the wider community and societal level this in turn leads to tension, instability, distrust, power inequalities, lower participation by minorities in democratic and decision making processes, increased community conflict and anti-social behaviour and lack of equality in a range of areas'*.
- County Donegal has amongst the highest levels of deprivation in the country. This coupled with the highly dispersed settlement pattern i.e. three quarters of the population (75%) reside in rural areas[7], provides a challenging backdrop to addressing issues relating to sectarianism and racism (i.e. lack of transport, lack of childcare, and lack of facilities or support networks) and highlights the increasing importance of supporting community development type activities.

6. Ingrained mentality

The following needs were identified within the context of this theme:

- Sectarianism as an ingrained mentality in people's mindset was identified as an issue in terms of developing this Plan. "P*rejudices are learned through generations, they are passed on from old to young, having a lasting effect on the younger generation"*. It was acknowledged that *"nobody is born sectarian and racist, and hence the question must be asked, where do these attitudes come from?"* It was mentioned that segregated education at primary level could also lead to sectarian attitudes.
- The need to address sectarianism and racism from early years through education and training at pre-school, primary and secondary school level emerged as a key issue under this theme.

7. Acknowledging and dealing with the past

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[6] Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (2004) Attitudinal Survey, Special EU Programmes Body

[7] The Socio-economic Profile of Donegal, Research & Policy Unit, Donegal County Council

The following needs were identified within the context of this theme:

- There is a silence in regard to the conflict that prevents open and honest discussion about issues, events, happenings and injustices that prevent full participation in community dialogue.

- The conflict has directly affected the victims and survivors, displaced persons and their families, ex-prisoners and their families and ex-servicemen. These target groups have experienced long term difficulties such as chronic pain and trauma and continue to face psychological problems.

- Many political ex-prisoners living in Donegal have felt isolated and have experienced problems readjusting on their release. The families of ex-prisoners also felt the impact of the conflict and experienced isolation during their partners' imprisonment and were often stigmatised for the husband's or father's politics.

- Ex-servicemen have also experienced traumatic incidents, with little or no support such as counselling to help the soldiers and former soldiers cope with their experiences, particularly in the Republic of Ireland.

- Ex-servicemen would often be "*objects of verbal abuse have a fear of opening up and admitting to belonging to that group for fear of being stigmatised".* It was felt that this group is "*always associated with the past*" and have feelings of "*exclusion from their homeland-this applies to people from Donegal who joined the R.U.C many years ago, to find that they could not return home for the funeral of their parents*". Research findings[9] note that harassment by local civilians was the most common type of stress related symptom for Irish ex-servicemen serving on the border.

- Some felt that some domestic violence incidents have risen with the end of the conflict and are a by-product of the conflict. However in research commissioned by Derry Well Women and carried out on its behalf by the Institute of Public Health in Ireland in association with the Institute for Conflict Research and Rethink[10], it found that it was not possible to verify that the number of reported domestic violence instances have risen with the end of the conflict.

Need to develop interventions targeting ex-servicemen and their families, and ex-prisoners and their families; including counselling and trauma services to support their active participation in civil life in Donegal has emerged as part of this theme.

2.1.3 Challenges in a Changing Economic Climate

The Aid for Peace Baseline report acknowledged that the impact of the current global and national economic crisis was being felt in the Donegal economy in the form of job losses and an increase in the level of unemployment. The Aid for Peace Mid-term Report (May 2010) also referred to the increasingly difficult economic situation and noted that the following issues relevant to the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan were emerging:

- The economic downturn is creating a situation where racism is becoming more apparent particularly with some accusing the immigrant community of taking jobs and social welfare payments.
- Concern has been expressed by groups working in the area of combating poverty and exclusion that the national response to addressing the current economic crisis will result in a reduced focus on minority and marginalized groups at greatest risk of poverty and exclusion.

[9] Action Research on the Forgotten Soldiers of Peace, On behalf of Óglaigh Naisiúnta na hÉireann Teoranta (ONET), Jim O'Neill, September 2007

[10] Women speaking across the border-the impact of the border and the conflict on women's health and roles, The Institute of Public Health in Ireland, 2008

2.1.4 Agreeing a Vision and Strategic Framework

In identifying the most appropriate mechanisms and interventions to address the issues identified, the Donegal CDB Peace and Reconciliation Partnership embarked upon a process to produce a detailed action plan. In developing this plan, the following guiding principles were agreed collectively at the outset:

- An **understanding of the needs** of the individuals and the constituent bodies represented on the Partnership. In particular effort is made to facilitate the involvement of marginalised and disadvantaged groups.

- Ensuring **participation and inclusion** of the maximum number of groups and individuals affected and that different methods are used to engage with different groups and individuals.

- An **effective, comprehensive and ongoing consultation**/ **review process** is developed and implemented

- Participants in planning process can **expect early and frequent opportunities to feedback.**

- **Mutual respect** by all the partners of each others validity and interests

- **Consensus** in decision-making

- **Shared responsibility and ownership** of the process.

- The Partnership working arrangements should be **team-based.**

- **Transparency and accountability** with regard to steps, decision and participants in the process.

Guided by the above principles, the Partnership agreed on a shared vision and a strategic framework to address the needs identified as follows:

Shared Vision
"*Donegal, a county where there is no racism and sectarianism and where all feel equally valued and confident that they belong".*

Aims

A. Challenge attitudes towards sectarianism and racism
B. Promote active participation in civil life in Donegal
C. Promote greater community integration within Donegal and on a cross border basis.
D. Promote equality and embrace diversity
E. Support conflict resolution and mediation

Objectives

In order to achieve the aims set out above, specific objectives were set as follows:

A. Challenge attitudes towards sectarianism and racism

I. Raising the level of consciousness that these issues do exist in Donegal.

II. Promoting a greater understanding of what constitutes sectarianism and racism so as to create a greater level of trust and tolerance within the county and on a cross border basis.

B. Promote active participation in civil life

I. Facilitating and encouraging the participation of minority groups in civil life in Donegal.

II. Working to ensure that the voice of the marginalised and minority communities in Donegal is heard in terms of both the democratic and decision making processes.

C. Promote greater community integration within Donegal and on a cross border basis

I. Facilitating, encouraging and supporting social interaction amongst the minority/marginalised and majority communities so as to achieve greater cohesion within communities by promoting cross community contact and relationship building.

II. Facilitating, encouraging and supporting cross border co-operation so as to achieve a greater level of trust and tolerance particularly with neighbouring counties and to promote reconciliation and develop good relations and understanding.

D. Promote equality and embrace diversity

I. Promoting equality for all people in Donegal in terms of opportunity, participation and outcome.

II. Embracing diversity and commonalities in a meaningful way within all sectors of the community.

III. Developing institutional capacity amongst key service providers in terms of policy making and the planning and design of services so as to ensure that they are accessible to all members of the community.

IV. Facilitating, encouraging and supporting interaction between schools and churches in local areas so as to facilitate cross community contact and relationship building.

E. Support conflict resolution and mediation

I. Supporting conflict resolution within communities that are affected by racism and sectarianism.

II. Addressing issues relating specifically to the legacy of the conflict.

The Peace Building Needs Analysis for Co. Donegal shows that a number of key needs were identified at the outset of the process. This needs analysis will be used to assess and evaluate the effectiveness of the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan (2008 –2010).

2.2 Peace Building Relevance Assessment

The Aid for Peace Baseline Report (June 2009) presented a Peace Building Relevance Assessment for the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan 2008 –2010. The Baseline report concluded that the interventions and actions set out in the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan 2008 –2010 were of relevance to the peace building needs identified for the county.

2.2.1 Theories of Change

This Baseline report also referred to Woodrow's Theories of Change and stated that the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan is based on applying these two approaches to the needs identified in the Peace Building Needs Analysis for Donegal.

It noted that the proposals in the Action Plan were aimed at changing both individual attitudes, behaviours and skills, and also at developing healthy relationships and connections between individuals, groups and communities.

The approach adopted was based primarily on two of the 'Woodrow's Theories of Change' namely the 'Individual Change Theory' and the 'Healthy Relationships and Connections Theory'.

Table 1:

Woodrow's Theories of Change

Theory	Basis of Theory	Methods/ intervention activities
The Individual Change Theory	Peace comes through transformative change of a critical mass of individuals, their consciousness, attitudes, behaviours and skills	Investment in individual change through training, personal transformation/ consciousness raising workshops or processes; dialogues and encounter groups; trauma healing
The Healthy Relationships and Connections Theory	Peace emerges out of a process of breaking down isolation, polarization, division, prejudice and stereotypes between/ among groups.	Processes of inter-group dialogue, networking, relationship building processes, joint efforts and practical programmes on substantive problems.

Table 2 below sets out in summary, how each intervention supported under the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan – Phase 1 corresponds with Woodrow's Theories of Change.

Table 2: Woodrow's Theories of Change, as it relates to the interventions delivered under the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan

Ref	Actions	Project reference number	Targeted outputs	The Individual Change Theory	The Healthy Relationships and Connections Theory
1) Workplace	To develop a range of interventions to promote anti-sectarianism and anti-racism in the workplace	005521- Co-operation Ireland	Training programme developed and delivered to 40 organisations in Donegal	x	x
2) Young People	To work with young people (12-18) and establish links with counterparts in Northern Ireland	005714 – Donegal Community Based Youth Work Consortium	i. 4 Youth clubs / groups in Donegal with meaningful linkages with local groups across the border	x	x
	Provision of accredited training programmes to young people and activities to be delivered as part of a Summer Camp	005714 – Donegal Community Based Youth Work Consortium	ii. 2 accredited training programmes delivered as part of a cross community and cross border summer camp programme	x	
	Adults and young people to participate in 4 workshops/seminars exploring Peace related issues	005773 – Vocational Educational Committee	iv. 4. workshops/ seminars and 1 no. conference.	x	
3) Older People	To support older people in innovative ways to challenge preconceived ideas and address issues of poverty and isolation, including a programme of events part of the Older People's festival in Donegal	007326 – Donegal County Council	i. 1 Programme of events delivered as part of Bealtaine Festival	x	

Ref	Actions	Project reference number	Targeted outputs	The Individual Change Theory	The Healthy Relationships and Connections Theory
	To develop a range of intergenerational projects.	003668 – Health Service Executive Gardens. 1110 – Glenfin. Castlefin Partnership Initiative – 1080. Newtown Interchurch – 2739. Association for the Development of Pettigo & Tullyhommon - 1125	ii. 4 Intergenerational projects delivered in 8 areas of the county.	**x**	**x**
	To develop activities for older people in order to encourage participation in civil life in Donegal	002398 – Inishowen Development Partnership. 002719 – Convoy & District Development Association. 2378 – Newtowncunningham Community Development Initiative. 1046 – Voice of Older People. Crossroads & Killygordon Enterprises – 2734. Clonmany Family Resource Centre - 1109	iii. 6 cross community activities focusing on older people delivered in 6 areas of the county including crossborder activities	**x**	
	To review models of best practice in order to build the capacity of older people in the community	007036 – Health Service Executive	iv. Model of capacity building for older people identified and tested in Donegal	**x**	
4) Single Identity Groups including the Minority Protestant Community	To build the capacity and confidence of single identity groups (including a needs analysis)	002401 – Tyrone, Derry & Donegal Action 002378 – Newtowncunningham Community Development Initiative	i. 1 Programme of exchange activity developed and delivered in consultation with target group.	**x**	**x**

Ref	Actions	Project reference number	Targeted outputs	The Individual Change Theory	The Healthy Relationships and Connections Theory
	A programme of outreach to the Protestant communities to get engagement on community issues	005714 – Donegal Community Based Youth Work Consortium	ii. 1 Outreach programme delivered in collaboration with existing local Community Development Projects and Family Resource Centres and other community facilities		**x**
	Cross community and cross border exchange visits of good practice aimed at reducing sectarianism.	002402 – Tyrone, Derry & Donegal Action	iii. 4 cross community events to exchange experiences and shared learning around the issues surrounding sectarianism delivered.	**x**	
	Support the Orange Order to refurbish community infrastructure	2393, 2318, 2434, 2379, 2387	iv. Refurbishment of 5 Orange Halls in Donegal supported		**x**
	To support activities to commemorate the Plantation of Ulster	2401 – Tyrone, Derry & Donegal Action. 2406 - Ulster Scots Community Network, 2314 - East Donegal Ulster Scots. BASICC - 82B. Donegal County Museum - 1036	v. 4 activities commemorating the Plantation of Ulster	**x**	**x**
	To support activities and events promoting the cultural identity of the Ulster Scots	2406 – Ulster Scots Community Network and 2314 – East Donegal Ulster Scots	vi. Delivery of 4 of cross community activities to promote Ulster Scots identity	**x**	
5) Ethnic Minority Communities including Travellers	Provision of Practical supports and establishment of a multi-cultural resource centre.	007324 – Donegal County Council	Establishment of a multi-cultural resource centre. Provision of English Languages classes. Hosting of information sessions	**x**	**x**

Ref	Actions	Project reference number	Targeted outputs	The Individual Change Theory	The Healthy Relationships and Connections Theory
	To develop a range of interventions to support ethnic minority communities to participate in civil life	007324 – Donegal County Council	i. 1 Intercultural forum/platform established and meeting on a regular basis.	x	x
	To create a range of opportunities for social interaction for the ethnic minority communities and the wider community	7324 – Donegal County Council	ii. 1 programme of activities to facilitate social interaction delivered with involvement of minority communities	x	x
	To establish a network of trained support persons available on a sessional basis.	7324 – Donegal County Council	iii. 1 network of trained peer support/link persons available.	x	
	To work with ethnic minority women on a cross border basis to explore issues affecting their lives.	7324 – Donegal County Council	iv. 1 support network for Ethnic Minority women who are experiencing exclusion and isolation and strategy to address these issues	x	
	To review international best practice and develop a model of intervention for Donegal to support integration of ethnic minority communities	007693 – Irish Immigration Centre	v. Model of Intervention based on International best practice identified and experienced.	x	x
6. Build better relationships between Traveller and settled community	Developing better relations between Travellers and the settled community, to include the development of a strategy	007320 – Donegal County Council	i. 1 strategic approach to developing relations between Traveller community and settled people developed.		x

Ref	Actions	Project reference number	Targeted outputs	The Individual Change Theory	The Healthy Relationships and Connections Theory
	To enhance recognition of the Travellers culture	7320 – Donegal County Council	ii. 1 awareness raising campaign delivered on Traveller culture and cultural diversity through media, arts, sport and tourism.	x	x
	To enhance the focus on and understanding of racism through seminars, conferences and public debate	7320 – Donegal County Council	iii. 4 seminars, conferences and public debates focusing on racism and other associated issues in Donegal hosted.	x	
	Project to support Employment Initiatives relating to the low numbers of Travellers employed in Donegal.	001122 – Donegal Travellers Project (SGS) 007320 – Donegal County Council	iv. 1 Employment initiative delivered and 3 Travellers to avail of work placement opportunity.	x	
7. Collaboration between Churches	Shared Programme of Exchange	002401 – Tyrone, Derry & Donegal Action	i. 1 Shared programme of exchange to facilitate social interaction and co-operation in areas of local interest in 6 areas in the county.		x
	A programme to build the understanding of religious and cultural diversity	002409 – Health Service Executive West	ii. 1 Programme to explore structures and to challenge sectarian and racist attitudes and to explore possibilities for co-operation developed		x

Ref	Actions	Project reference number	Targeted outputs	The Individual Change Theory	The Healthy Relationships and Connections Theory
8. Greater interaction between schools	Greater interaction between Schools	005773 –Vocational Educational Committee	i. 1 Shared programme of events and activities to facilitate social interaction in 6 local areas in the county between children, teachers and parents from different schools.	**x**	**x**
	Music workshop programme for schools	5773 – Vocational Educational Committee	ii. 1 Music Workshops Programme for schools to bring together the two specific musical traditions on the island ie. Irish traditional music and pipe bands, delivered in 4 areas.	**x**	**x**
	Family reading schemes and storytelling training	1086 – Taobh Tíre	iii. 8 Family learning workshops to develop Family Reading Schemes.		**x**
	Intergenerational Project to share memories of the troubles	005773 – Vocational Educational Committee	v. Intergenerational project in 3 locations in the county.		**x**
	Exploration of cultural identities though music	5773 – Vocational Educational Committee	vi. 1 Crossborder "Songs in Schools' initiative to explore cultural identities within folk songs including ethnic minority groups in 4 locations.	**x**	**x**

Ref	Actions	Project reference number	Targeted outputs	The Individual Change Theory	The Healthy Relationships and Connections Theory
	Cross border conflict resolution programme	5773 – Vocational Educational Committee	vii. 10 no. crossborder and cross community events to bring students, teachers, parents and business volunteers to learn problem solving and conflict resolution techniques.	**x**	**x**
9. Ex-servicemen and their families, addressing issues relating to the legacy of the conflict	Ex-servicemen and their families, addressing issues relating to the legacy of the conflict	006871- QE5	i. 10 people participating and completing training around peace building issues	**x**	
	Recognising the role of Ex-service personnel	033560 – Donegal County Council	ii. Programme of events exploring the role of, and acknowledging ex-servicemen (including Public Art commission, 3 no exhibitions, schools programme and 'How we remember' debate	**x**	**x**
10. Small Grant Scheme	To develop a Small Grants Scheme enabling local communities to develop innovative programmes of activities on a cross border/cross community basis.	1026,1027,1033, 1034, 1036, 1037, 1046, 1047, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1080, 1085, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1096, 1099, 1101, 1102, 1104, 1107, 1109, 1110, 1115, 1119, 1121, 1122, 1125, 1127, 1130, 1135, 2738, 2735, 2734, 2739, 1124, 1061, 1076, 1086, 1098, 1111, 2326	i. 30 single location projects supported through small grants scheme.	**x**	**x**

Ref	Actions	Project reference number	Targeted outputs	The Individual Change Theory	The Healthy Relationships and Connections Theory
11. Shared Public Space	To promote greater community integration within Donegal and on a cross border basis	5611, 7327	ii. 2 Shared Public Spaces initiatives in Pettigo/Tullyhommon and Lifford/Strabane supported	**x**	**x**
12. Independent Reporting Scheme	To develop an independent reporting scheme	007325 – Donegal County Council	i. Development of 1 Independent Reporting Scheme for Sectarian and Racist incidents	**x**	**x**
13. Local Media & racism & sectarianism	To develop a scheme that would encourage local communities to report any form of racism or sectarianism incidents	007320 – Donegal County Council		**x**	**x**
14. Using volunteerism to promote active participation of marginalised and minority groups	Explore models of best practice in relation to volunteerism with a view to building social capital.	007322 – Donegal County Council	ii. Development of 1 model of best practice for the inclusion of Marginalized and minority groups in volunteerism	**x**	**x**
15. Diversity Plan for Donegal	Develop a Diversity Plan for Donegal	7325 – Donegal County Council	iii. 1 Anti-Sectarianism/ Racism Diversity Plan at county level	**x**	**x**
16. Training & support for service providers in delivering culturally appropriate services	Provision of service supports to ease access for ethnic minorities to public service.	007325 – Donegal County Council 19466 – Inishowen Development Partnership	Interagency Interpretation Services Signage Translation Cultural Competency Training	**x**	**x**

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17. Capacity Building for Partnership	To develop institutional capacity in terms of policy making and design of policies	007328 – Donegal County Council	1 Training Programme delivered to all members of CDB Peace III Partnership to develop their individual and collective capacity for Peace and Reconciliation work.	**x**	**x**
18. Supporting Conflict Resolution & Mediation	Support the development of conflict resolution and mediation skills in Donegal	005733 – Vocational Education Committee	Deliver 1 accredited (MII) course in Conflict Resolution and Mediation to train mediators who will be available to work in the county to support the delivery of this conflict resolution and mediation service. (15 participants). Deliver Conflict Coaching course. Research into mediation needs of organisations in the county. Mediation briefing sessions with organisations. Mediation conference (80 people). Terms of reference developed for the delivery of this service	**x**	**x**

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19. Sharing the Learning	Events held for delivery agents to share the learning and network Programme of sharing the learning for delivery agents	7329 – Donegal County Council	4 networks established to facilitate the sharing of learning acquired in the implementation of these actions with a view to mainstreaming Peace building and anti racism work post 2013.	**x**	**x**
20. Awareness Raising Initiative	To develop an awareness raising campaign and information campaign promoting equality and embracing diversity	7322 – Donegal County Council	1 Awareness Raising campaign developed and implemented promoting equality and embracing diversity		**x**
21. Additional Tenders	An innovative Sports and Recreation programme of activity	007542 – GAA 19345 – Donegal Sports Partnership	An innovative Sports and Recreation programme of activity	**x**	**x**
	An innovative Arts and Drama Theatre based programme of activity	007283 - An Grianan Theatre 007546 – Smashing Times 19213 – Donegal County Childcare Committee	An innovative programme of Activity around Arts and Drama	**x**	**x**