



FIRST EDITION

# MANDERA

*From terrorism vulnerability to resilience* **PCVE** Magazine

Ministry of Public Service Management, Conflict  
Management, Cohesion, Integration and Devolved Units

**Department of De-radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism**



**Escaping the Terrorist Trap:  
Developing collective resilience**





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# Abbreviations and acronyms

AP	Administration Police
AS	Al Shabaab
BOM	Board Of Management
CAP	County Action Plan
CAS	Chief Administrative Secretary
CBO	Community Based Organization
CCIO	County Criminal Investigation Officer
CCO	County Chief Officer
CECM	County Executive Committee Member
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CVE	Countering Violent Extremism
DCC	Deputy County Commissioner
ECD	Early Childhood Development
FADC	Focused Approach Development Concern
GCCS	Global Center on Cooperative Security
GLAD	Green Land Aid and Development
HDI	Human Development Index
HE	His Excellency
HQ	Headquarter
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
KAA	Kenya Airport Authority
KDF	Kenya Defense Force
KES	Kenya Shillings
KIPPRA	Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis
KMTC	Kenya Medical Training Center
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
MCA	Member of County Assembly
MCAP	Mandera County Action Plan
MCG	Mandera County Government
MYWO	Maendeleo Ya Wanawake Organization
NCIC	National Cohesion and Integration Commission
NCTC	National Counter Terrorism Center
NGCDF	National Government Constituency Development Fund
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPR	National Police Reservist
OC	Officer Commanding
OC	Organized Crime
OCS	Officer Commanding Station
PCVE	Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism
PVE	Preventing Violent Extremism
RPBU	Rapid Patrol Border Unit
RPG	Rocket Propelled Grenade
RUSI	Royal United Services Institute
TV	Television
TVET	Technical Vocational Educational Training
UNDP	United Nation Development Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USAID/AFR	United States Agency for International Development's Africa Bureau
USIP	United States Institute of Peace
VE	Violent Extremism



# Governor's Message

I would like to thank the Ministry of Public Service and Devolved Units for raising awareness and launch of Mandera County Counter-Radicalization and Rehabilitation programme.

Mandera has experienced firsthand challenges posed by extremists groups and we have also been their targets.

We shall proudly implement this endeavor as a county government that is committed for its security and development.

I have restructured the County Government and established a Directorate of De-radicalization and Youth Empowerment Programs whose role is to develop CVE strategy jointly with all stakeholders.

We aim at operationalizing counter-narrative in all media on the true position of Islam to counter the falsified campaign by terrorists about Islam. It is my hope that this will be the beginning of a locally-driven process that involves a range of county stakeholders going forward and that leads to a series of more focused follow-on initiatives that build on some of the general conclusion based on our local situations.

Mandera can start to confront terrorist's violent ideology and its resonance by identifying and responding to specific, localized conditions and factors that extremists exploit as drivers to recruitments, radicalization and mobilization of youth to violence.

The fight against terrorism should never be used as an excuse for security forces to deprive citizens of their basic freedoms as was witnessed in Mandera and other parts of Kenya on several occasions where some members of the public have disappeared without trace. It is important that in our zeal to protect our citizens that we do not weaken their legal rights and protections.

I challenge all stakeholders especially people of Mandera and her Leadership to stand and be counted in order to achieve a secure County where all people can go about their business without any threat to their lives and property.

I have to appreciate all the local, national and international stakeholders who stood up when it mattered.

The dark moment when our economy was under constant attacks, threats, our education system and economy was at a standstill and our friends were few. We made history by coming out of it strong and determined with our heads high.

Mandera County suffered attacks several times that brought about setbacks in implementing our devolution agenda. Major attacks included, in late 2014 two attacks believed to have been carried out by Alshabaab killed 64 people within 20 days.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2014, gunmen ambushed a bus headed to Nairobi at Arabia area killing 28 on board mostly teachers and government workers. On 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014, 36 quarry miners at a quarry in Mandera.

Amid all those painful incidents, Mandera County people wrote their history and story by standing against the divisive tactics of terrorists. In December, 2015, locals protected non-Muslims in a bus attack along Elwak-Kotulo road and this proved our commitment in the fight against Violent Extremism.

I pledge to continue and to fully collaborate with all stakeholders and commit myself to support counter-radicalization initiatives to make Mandera County to a terror free zone that will provide safe environment for all.



**H.E. Capt. Ali Ibrahim Roba**  
Governor, Mandera County

# Foreward

I wish to take this earliest opportunity to thank our incredible partners engaged in some of the most important work in Mandera County regarding prevention, countering violent extremism and de-radicalization initiatives.

I appreciate our community based Counter Violence Extremism (CVE) champions who in many instances have risked their lives by volunteering to carry out this critical role in such circumstances that at worst endangers their work around our county and beyond.

Collectively, we have managed to accomplish within a very short time extraordinary results through sacrifice and commitment that drastically reduced the risks of Alshabab terror attacks in many parts of the county. Unfortunately, Alshabab and its affiliates seem to be changing their terror tactics by recruiting, radicalizing local youth and redeploying them back to their respective localities so as to undertake terror activities. For this reason, we have seen it imperative to engage local leaders from Mandera county to find a local solution. It's through this local initiative that the fight against the Alshabab terror activities were up-scaled.

I wish to proudly say that it is through our collective efforts that we are able to reduce Ashabab activities. I believe we have strengthened and enhanced our country's collective defenses against radicalization and terrorism. I believe with conviction that, Mandera County Action Plan (MCAP) is the engine that drives our CVE efforts at the local level. The MCAP offers the best means for devolving National and County CVE Strategy to the lowest level of our social segments that work for our communities.

Furthermore, community volunteerism, ownership and participation is key in promoting government (Security Agencies) and community partnership. Additionally, the MCAP has also been critical in bringing government, civil society, and private sector players together. The fact of the matter is that no one sector has the monopoly of all answers or all the resources. However, it is important for me to recognize the essential part our Governor, H.E Capt Ali Ibrahim Roba and our civil society partners play in driving progress towards combating radicalization and standing firm in CVE.

The conviction with which HE the Governor has put in place county resources and his own life in fighting Alshabaab terrorist elements is a clear testimony that indeed our commitment will NEVER fade away.

As the department of De-radicalization and countering violent extremism, our vision is to see a county that is free of evils of radicalization where our youths play a critical path in achieving our collective vision.

I am therefore more convinced than ever before that through our collective resolve and determination, terrorism and its drivers will be decimated.

Thank you.



**Ahmed Sheikh Mohamed**  
CECM, Public Service Management, Conflict  
Management, Cohesion, Integration and Devolved Units.

# Acknowledgement

Great deals of effort, commitment and dedication have gone into the development of this publication. I wish to express my gratitude to all persons who made valuable input in the preparation of this magazine. The Department is incredibly indebted to the Acting Director, Abdirizak Sheikh Muktar and the Assistant Director, Albashir Adan for lending their expertise in reviewing and contributing to the publication throughout the process of its development.

This publication would not have been possible without the guidance and leadership of the County Executive Committee Member for Public Service, Conflict Management and Devolved Units, Mr. Ahmed Sheikh. Additionally, it is imperative to mention the staff of the Ministry of Public Service who took part in this process in one way or another.

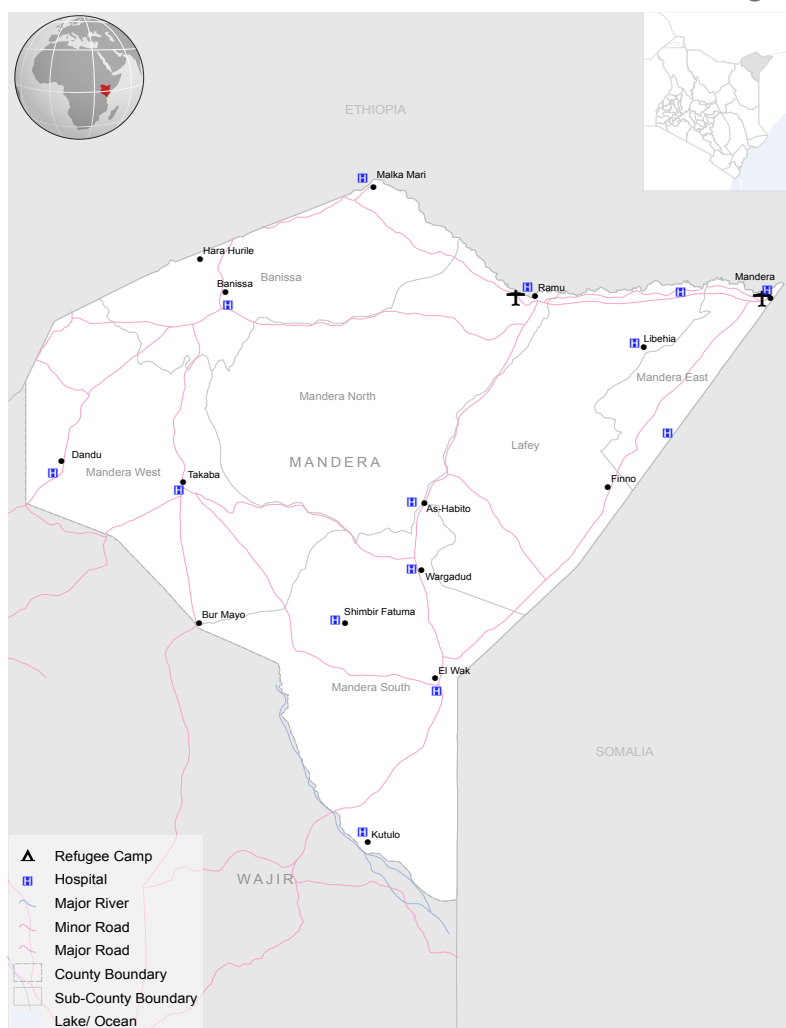
We greatly and unequivocally appreciate all these invaluable contributions that has in one way or the other led to the realization of this publication. We would like to express our sincere thanks to them for sharing their time and energy through coordination and consultations.

We also applaud the efforts and contributions made by national government and Non-State Actors for their incredible contributions to this magazine and their efforts in prevention and countering violent extremism.



**Mr. Mohamed Adan Osman**  
County Chief Officer, De-radicalization and Countering  
Violent Extremism.

# Mandera County at a glance



**M**andera County is located in the North-Eastern part of Kenya. It is bordered by Wajir County to the south and east, Ethiopia to the North and Somalia to the East. The county covers an area of 25,991.5 Km<sup>2</sup>, 95% of which is arid.

According to the Kenya Population and Housing Census (GoK, 2009), the population of Mandera County was 1,025,756 persons (559,943 male and 465,813 female, representing 54.6% and 45.4% respectively) and was projected to grow at 3.96% per annum to stand at 1,399,503 by 2017. Around 87.5% of the county's population live in rural areas.

Mandera County is predominantly semi-arid, with most of the county receiving average annual rainfall of below 250mm.

The topography is generally flat and low-lying, except for a few rocky hills that rise to between 400 and 700 meters above sea level.

Despite the unfavourable climatic conditions, agriculture is the major source of livelihood, employing over 90% of the population. Livestock production is the predominant sub-sector, employing over 84% of the population, and contributing approximately 72% to household incomes.

The absolute poverty level is 89.1% compared to the national average of 46%, making the county's residents among the poorest in the country. Poverty is highest in rural areas, where close to 100% of the population live below the poverty line (KIPPR, 2013).

Mandera County also has a significantly low Human Development Index (HDI) of about 0.42 relative to the national HDI of 0.52 (GoK; UNDP, 2013). The literacy level is not only very low, at 25% compared to the national rate of 71.4%, but is also characterized by a large disparity between males and females. Only 5% and 25% of Mandera County residents have secondary and primary school level of education respectively, while 70% have no formal education (KNBS, 2013).

In Mandera County, 38% of residents use improved sources of water, with the rest relying on unimproved sources. Access to clean modern energy sources is low, with less than 1% of residents in Mandera County using liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), while 93% and 6% use firewood and charcoal respectively.

## Department of De-radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism

**M**andera County Government's Department of De-radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism was started as a fully-fledged Department in 2018.

After the advent of devolution until 2018, prevention and countering of violent extremism was domiciled at the office of the deputy Governor and at one point under the department of Conflict Management, Cohesion and Integration.

The Department was created to step up community led counter terrorism and de-radicalization efforts to combat violent extremism in Mandera County. The expanding reach and destructive consequences of violent extremism are among the major challenges to peace faced in the County. Mandera has faced the brunt of violent extremism.

The Department is uniquely placed within the overall response architecture for tackling violent extremism, and has an integral role to play in averting the threats posed by preventing and transforming it.

Development expertise and resourcing can be leveraged to address structural drivers; to support communities in implementing de-radicalization initiatives; and to help ensure that former members of violent extremist organizations are socioeconomically reintegrated, among many other critical areas that the Department needs to explore. The County Government with the help of Non-State Actors developed Mandera County Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism: A plan, which works with national governments and stakeholders, regional institutions, faith-based institutions,

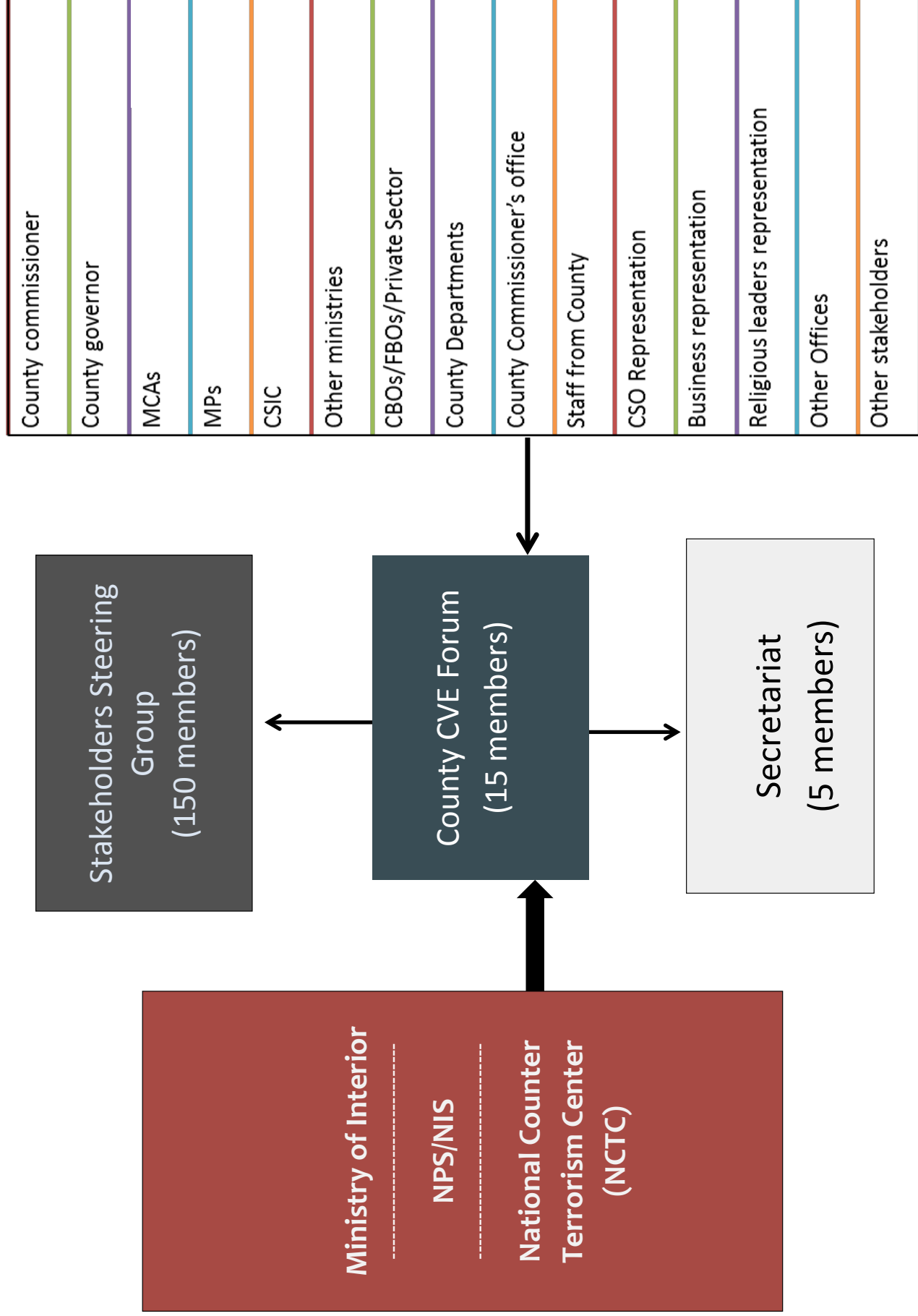
civil society and many others to augment P/ CVE interventions while also striving to contribute new understanding and knowledge.

The department in conjunction with other partners is working on realizing empowered and self-reliant youth, improved coordination and promote stable accountable security in Mandera, improved sensitization and public awareness on CVE and radicalization, increased awareness on Violent Extremism and Radicalization, robust early warning system established, enhanced skills and knowledge on Countering Violent Extremism, improved coordination, increased patrol and quick response to terror related incidents.

It is the hope of Mandera County Government that all actors will play their role in the implementation of the MCAP.



# MCAP Engagement Organogram



# Launch of Mandera Action Plan



Counties should channel their Countering Violent Extremism efforts by integrating the following steps in their action plans while expanding their focus from violent to non-violent extremism

-Mr Jack Ombaka, HSC,

Head of Disengagement and Rehabilitation at the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC)

Between October 22 and 23, 2018, a two day conference on Counter Violent Extremism (CVE) was organized in Mandera by the Department of De-radicalization and Counter Violent Extremism. Leadership in the entire North Eastern Region converged in Mandera to discuss possible solution of ending violent extremism.

Mandera County Government pledged to support Community led Counter Terrorism and De-radicalization efforts to fight Violent Extremism. The workshop sought to bring to light efforts, systems and structures put in place and the measures developed by government and international organizations to combat violent extremism from a youth perspective. While violent extremism requires government interventions to protect the security of people and assets, its prevention needs to look beyond strict security concerns to development-related causes of and solutions to the phenomenon. Additionally, push for deliberate efforts by the members of the community in identifying and reporting suspects.

It concluded with action points geared towards all rounded involvement of the government,

security forces, religious leaders, women and the youth in emphatic efforts to kick out Al-Shabaab from Mandera County, provide a holistic framework to reintegrate and rehabilitate returnees and to continually sensitize the community on the adverse impact of violent extremism in the region.

Objectives of the conference included:

- To strengthen capacity of County Governments to prevent and counter violent extremism with involvement of the community
- To prevent violent extremism through education
- To empower women to play critical role P/ CVE
- To promote the rule of Law and Human Rights based approach to PVE
- To understand the changing dynamics of terrorism and violent extremism in Kenya
- To prevent violent extremism through promoting inclusive development.

Mr Jack Ombaka, HSC, Head of Disengagement and Rehabilitation at the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) equipped, "Counties should channel their Countering Violent

Extremism efforts by integrating the following steps in their action plans while expanding their focus from violent to non-violent extremism".

He advised counties to focus on empowering mainstream Muslim voices, addressing local grievances, rejuvenating efforts to promote prosperity, reform and democracy, portraying Al-Shabaab threats realistically and emphasizing the groups' bankrupt ideology, employ nuanced non-combative rhetoric, challenging extremists in cyberspace and broadening Muslim outreach programs.

NCTC commended Mandera County for tackling CVE based on the 9 Work Pillars: Faith Based and Ideological, Psycho-social, Education, Political, Training and Capacity Building, Arts and Culture, Legal and Policy, Media and Online, and Security.

"Research has shown that a third of those radicalized and pulled into ranks of violent extremism are neophytes – new converts. The profiles of the radicalized are diverse and ever shifting. For many, however, it is preceded by cycles of social, psychological and economic crises that produce "no-hope" mentality. They there-



fore, look for usual “negative solutions”. This is when the appeal of the terrorists’ ideology – as a single, over- reaching explanation of their troubles and as a solution is more appealing for these “life problems”. There is need for a “reconstruction” of their identities and mental states so that they are able to return to their lawful and HOPEFUL life.”

The Centre denounced violent extremism as one of the barriers to our collective efforts towards maintaining peace and security, fostering sustainable development, protecting human rights, promoting the rule of law and taking humanitarian action.

The role of National Criminal Justice System in Countering Violent Extremism- Assistant Director Counter Violent Extremism and Organized Crime (National Police Service HQ)  
- Dennis Okadapau

The National Strategy on Counter Violent Extremism was developed to provide the overall strategic framework and to ensure coordination among the stakeholders. As a measure to ensure implementation of the National Strategy, the National Police Service established the Directorate of Counter Violent Extremism and Organized Crime to provide link- ages and to work with stakeholders on various fronts towards the realization of the overall objective. National Police Service combats VE by;

- Investigation of actions by violent extremists,
- Operational disruption of VE Mobility (transnational, intra-national, technological, strategic, communication and financial mobility),
- Engaging Local communities in dealing with matters relating to VE (community policing, nyumba kumi etc.)
- Training and Capacity Building-Curriculum re- view for police officers undertaking courses in any of our campuses and the sensitization of community members on CVE.
- Strengthening partnerships with stakeholders, both local and international.
- Develop Counter narratives that challenge the false terrorist doctrine.



### **The role of National Criminal Justice System in Countering Violent Extremism- Assistant Director Counter Violent Extremism and Organised Crime (National Police Service HQ)**

- Dennis Okadapau

- Building trust and legitimacy in the communities.
- Promote proactive public communication on CVE
- Mainstream CVE and OC in the curriculum for schools, colleges and tertiary institutions.
- Enhance CVE data collection and analysis to identify vulnerabilities.
- Collaborate with other CVE stakeholders in

implementation of National CVE strategies and programs.

- Coordinate implementation of CVE and OC programs in the Service.

He concluded that the National Police Service will continually keep unearthing the various threats (active cells of VE) and mitigating vulnerabilities i.e. porous borders so as to reduce the risk of VE cases in the region.



# Mandera County's action plan against extremism bearing fruit

Mandera County has, for the past several years, been known for terror incidents that have led to many deaths and injuries.

The attacks by suspected Al-Shabaab terrorists started in 2011 with 2014 marking the climax when, within ten days, 64 people were killed by the terror outfit. The non-Somali population has been mostly the target of the extremists who for long have crossed into Mandera at will, caused mayhem and returned to the war-torn Somalia unhindered.

The local community has also suffered the consequences of the presence of terror cells by being killed in suspicious and unexplained circumstances and also due to economic sanctions that have left them helpless.

## Attacks

Security agencies in Mandera have also suffered from the attacks with scores being killed in their security camps or by roadside explosives planted by suspected the militants. To address the increase in terror incidents in the area, the county government came up with several intervention measures including organising several forums to discuss possible local solutions to the problem.

A fully-fledged department of counter-radicalisation and violence extremism is in charge of the programmes. A four-day forum to engage locals drawn from the perceived terror hotspots in the county dubbed "Building Local Capacities for Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism" has been underway.

## Right Trajectory

Mr. Issa Mohamed, an expert in countering violent extremism and peace building reported that Mandera is on the right trajectory. "Currently, the situation across the county has improved compared to a few years back but the county government and other stakeholders still need to hold a continuous conversion of counter-violent extremism (CVE)," he said. Religious leaders, elders, youth and women from the terror hotspots were involved in the training.

"We are working towards enhancing capacity against radicalisation that is an enemy within by engaging this selected group," said Mr Mohamed.

## Twisted Teachings

According to the expert, locals need to understand the twisted Islamic teachings used by extremists in radicalisation.

"We want the local population to understand and be able to identify early signs of radicalisation in society," he said.

A radicalised individual can be identified from his or her behaviour including avoiding others. They also feel ostracised by their peers, he



added.

"A radicalised person is simply looking for a new thrill or source of excitement and always wants to go out and correct a perceived injustice," said Mr Mohamed.

## Proper Communication

To prevent radicalisation in Mandera, Mr Mohamed proposed a proper communication strategy to explain government policies and also development of inter-cultural dialogue within.

"Lack of job opportunities and harassment from government security agencies forced the youth into radicalisation but the narrative has changed," he said.

In 2015, the national government declared amnesty for Al-Shabaab returnees but no success has been recorded to date.

## Shabaab Returnees

Mandera Governor Ali Roba vowed to support programmes aimed at countering violent extremism besides the rehabilitation of returnees. At least 350 locals from 30 wards in Mandera East, Lafey, Mandera South and Kotulo sub-counties were engaged in the training to fight terrorism.

"We have so far engaged 210 religious leaders across the county and our aim is to have them champion the prevention and countering of violent extremism," said Mr Mohamed Adan Osman, the head of de-radicalisation and counter-violent extremism department. Mr Adan Ali

Hassan, a resident of Arabia, said the training of locals on the effects of radicalisation is what was lacking. This led to a detachment between the locals and the government.

## Fight Menace

"Being trained on the whole issue of extremist violence is a score in the fight because we are able to know and differentiate between right and wrong," he said.

Leaders from the vast north eastern counties met in Mandera last November and agreed to fight Al-Shabaab menace in the region.

## Action Plan

Mandera County has since drafted an action plan to prevent and counter violent extremism that will be launched soon.

A baseline survey conducted under the county action plan by Malaika Foundation suggests that the incidents of radicalisation, violent extremism and terrorism in Mandera are mainly linked to Al-Shabaab militant group based in Somalia.

The survey found out that the biggest challenge in Mandera is not just the attacks that continue to take place in the county, but more importantly, the ideology which enabled locals to support the attacks, tolerate or keep quiet about them, and which have subdued citizens into fear when the attacks happen.

"We are very keen on changing all these vices in our society and have it stand against any form of terror cells," said Mr Osman

# MCAP implementation milestone

Mandera County is one of the 47 counties in Kenya that has withstood the worst of radicalization, violent extremism and terror activities. The aim of this Mandera County Action Plan is to Prevent Counter Violent Extremism. The process of developing it has been participatory and entailed, among other actions, revisiting the ongoing monopoly of security-based counter-terrorism measures. The MCAP is therefore the voice of many stakeholders, and particularly those of ordinary community members.

## 1. Faith-based factors and ideologies

- Successfully conducted sensitization of religious leaders, imams and masjid management committee.
- Conducted County religious leaders' forums on countering violent extremism in six sub counties in Mandera County.
- Conducted CVE sensitization in masjids during the Friday Prayer/Khutbah.
- Recruited 6 religious leaders for 6 sub counties to advise and counter extremism ideologies in mosques and learning institutions.
- Procured Motor bike for the religious leaders to disseminate Islamic counter narratives in remote areas.
- Organized CVE religious sub county co-ordinators to regularly visit both primary and secondary school to sensitize on P/CVE

## 2. Security pillar

- Stipends for 334 NPR Officers.
- Hired over 10 motor vehicles for NPR.
- Provided Motor Vehicle and motor Bikes to Anti-Narcotic team.
- Conducted numerous community and security meetings.
- Regular dialogue meeting with Somalia and Ethiopia leaders/Administrators.
- Strengthening trust and relations between Community and security agencies in 6 sub counties through working with implementing partners.
- Undertook trainings for security agencies and public on professionalism, patriotism and national policies.

## 3. Education pillar

- Construction and refurbishment TVETS, ECD teaching and KMTC college.
- Engagement and support for youth from TVETS with income generating activities.
- MCG & NGCDF Provided Bursaries for vulnerable youths in secondary and university Education.
- Bright performing students were given full scholarship to pursue medicine and Engineering courses in Turkey.
- Building CVE capabilities of teachers, parents, BOM and pupils/students through local partners.

## 4. Training and Capacity Building pillar

- Trained and sensitized 310 champions for.
- Training of religious leaders on P/CVE.
- Conducted training for a number of Community champions for CVE.
- Conducted training for women leaders, youth in Arabia Lafey and Mandera East Sub County on P/CVE.

## 5. Women Pillar

- Trained women C4Cs to implement Action plans in hot spot areas.
- Conducted training for women on building relation with security partners and also parents and BOM members on P/CVE through partners.
- Trained/Sensitized a number of women from each wards In four(4) sub counties along the border with Somalia
- Supported various women groups with soft loans to start up business through NG-Funds
- Support women leaders for training, in Arabia, Lafey and Mandera East Sub County through partner.

## 6. Media and Online Pillar

- Conducted regular Sensitization through the local FM radio in Somali and Gurreh languages.
- Trained a number of key stakeholders in Elwak to be resilient to radical views through partner.

## 7. Legal and Policy Framework

- Conducted regular Sensitization through the local FM radio in Somali and Gurreh languages.
- Trained a number of key stakeholders in Elwak to be resilient to radical views through partner.

## 8. Art and Culture Pillar

- MCG conducted Mandera annual cultural event in support of local culture and support P/CVE work.
- Enhance the ongoing process of Ta-azyia: condolences for victims of VE through visiting their families to condole with them and give them some support.



Ahmed Sheikh, CECM Public Service Management, Conflict Management, Cohesion, Integration and Devolved Units

## 9. Political Pillar

- All politicians in Mandera, under the auspices of the Mandera elected leaders caucus have undertaken to work jointly to mobilize the residents of Mandera against VE.
- Regional PCVE conference was held in Mandera in 2018, spearheaded by H.E Governor Ali Ibrahim Roba.
- Mandera Leadership Symposium to fight radicalization and countering violent extremism was also undertaken in Mandera in January 2020.

## 10. Economic Pillar

- A substantial number of county employees are youth who were unemployed and were vulnerable to radicalization. By creating employment for these youth, the county has averted crises. However, a lot need to be done.
- Many people in Mandera have benefited from contracts and projects awarded by the county government to better their living conditions.
- The county Government's Ministry of Trade and Cooperative has empowered women, youth and business people by giving them trade fund as shariah compliant loans to expand their businesses.

## 11. Women Pillar

- The Department of De-radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism convened a two-day conference for the women (separately) to offer them a platform to also come up with concrete action plans on how they can contribute towards countering VE.



# The role of defence forces in PCVE

**There is a need for the community to understand the interaction between agencies and the role each plays. Criminal Justice system plays an average of 10% and KDF an average of 5% in ridding the community of Al-Shabaab, the rest is up to religious leaders, political leaders and members of the community.**

Brigadier B.K Ruto

**T**he role of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) is to defend and protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Kenya, assist and cooperate with other civil authorities, in situations of emergencies or disaster and restore peace in part of Kenya affected by unrest or instability as assigned.

Brigadier B.K Ruto stated that the existing framework in the fight against violent extremism in the security arm is a multi agency corporation- where KDF and Police Service Unit work together and share information and conduct joint operations. This notwithstanding, the solution lies with the community. It must be home-grown, community support for the security forces to succeed.

"It is unfortunate that in every fight/ war, sometimes there are cases where innocent lives are caught in the crossfire. Terrorist groups like Al-Shabaab try to use this gap to alienate the security forces from the community."

KDF urged for more engagement with community leaders in order to identify perpetrators as they are part of the community.

He outlined the need for cooperation and gave the example of Elwak and Kutolo where KDF was able to safely detonate an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) based on timely information received from the community.

Prevention & Countering Violent Extremism- the issues, the incidents, the trends, challenges and mitigation - The Case of Mandera County- From the lens of the County: Security Mandera County Commissioner Olaka Kutswa

We need to sustain this conversation to find a



**Governor Roba with Kenya Defence Forces border securitization team when they paid him a courtesy call at the county headquarters office in Mandera**

lasting solution on fighting terrorism, previous challenges were land politics, clan conflicts and natural calamities, but we now face a new challenge- violent extremism in the form of Al-Shabaab.

There is a need for the community to understand the interaction between agencies and the role each plays.

Criminal Justice system plays an average of 10% and KDF an average of 5% in ridding the community of Al-Shabaab, the rest is up to religious leaders, political leaders and members of the community.

Radicalisation is not a one-day process - it starts from our homes, we underestimate the role mothers' play.

It also happens at our work places and places

of worship, we need to be vigilant enough on this matter.

We are lacking of professional services in Mandera County, such as specialised doctors or engineers due to the complacency in the community when it comes to security matters.

We need to create a long-lasting partnership where religious leaders i.e. Imams are protected so that they can sensitise the community on effects of violent extremism without fear. All involved parties need to talk with one voice.

Promoting the rule of Law and Human Rights-based approach to PCVE



Hon. Abdikadir Mohammed, Advocate

The biggest challenge with terrorism is that it has no laws yet there is need to fight violent





extremism within the confines of the law. All Kenyans are protected by the law and are subjected to the law (the new constitution).

Mandera County had over 96% of its members voting for the new constitution and they deserve respect.

Operating within laid down laws will reduce cases of extra-judicial killings and forced disappearances in our society.

As locals of Mandera County we have to work together so as to implement socioeconomic strategies that will elevate the poverty levels in the county which currently stand at 70%.



Welcome Speech and Remarks

**H.E. Mohamed Arai,**

**Deputy Governor, Mandera County**

The essence of this conference is to come up with home grown solutions. WE have had several attacks across targeting the quarry workers, teachers, several attempts on the life of the governor and other institutions.

All these attacks are affecting our local economy for example quarrying has stopped just because of terrorism.

We need to come up with solutions; the situation is no longer bearable.

Keynote Speaker & Chief Guest



**H.E. Governor Ali Korane**

**Garissa County**

**Korane Garissa County**

Al-Shabaab is a local problem, not a national, police problem or an intelligence problem. We

need to remain united, have a strong region and better coexistence among the people.

As a region, we to first work towards bringing back the Kenyan youth out of Al-Shabaab and reintegrating them into the community so that the fight is solely against Al-Shabaab.

The truth is as much as Al-Shabaab recruits only 10% Kenya Somalis, they ensure 100% retention of the same population.

Fighting an insurgency is more difficult than terrorism and this is because it is random and unpredictable. The most effective way to quell an insurgency is through deliberate community support.

We need our community to make a commitment to pull out of Al-Shabaab, fight them and drive them out of our borders.

The Changing Dynamics of Terrorism and Violent extremism in Kenya: Transforming the core through Ideological Push back. Conflict Resolution Practitioner, Dr. Mustafa Yussuf Ali focuses on Religious and Political Extremism issues surrounding radicalization, violent extremism and terrorism.

We need to quash violent extremism since there is need to change the ideology. The solution is 90 per-cent in the mind and 1per-cent use of force. The resolution lies in ideology- change in thought.

An ideological reinterpretation/ restructuring of the community and security forces are the first step in the fight against violent extremism.

Political will and moral support will help in solving the problem. This would include a national framework enshrined in the law that offer amnesty to the returnees and in depth practical training of religious leaders.



**H.E. Governor Mohammed Kuti**

**Isiolo County**

Violent extremism cannot be solved by the security forces alone since the perpetrators are within the community; they eat and sleep amongst the people.

Al-Shabaab is like colonial rule, a form of slavery but as a community we need to rise up and fight.

## Takeaway Notes

- In as much as the political leaders had promised to protect members of the society who reported suspicious individuals, the reporting process at the police is tedious and may at times get you incriminated
- Members of the public should undergo in depth civil education on the impact of violent extremism in the county
- Elected leaders' participation in engaging the community in the fight against violent extremism
- Elders expressed that Al-Shabaab had claimed many of their family members and that they will stand united to fight violent extremists
- Members of the community requested KDF to desist from beating the citizens whether they report or not report
- Information shared with the authorities should be acted upon immediately
- There was great emphasis for the message against violent extremism and its impact to be spread into the community
- Emphasis on authorities especially security forces taking immediate action
- The 3 counties agreed to pay for each civilian body killed by Al-Shabaab- elders to sit and agree on an amount that will be paid off on 12th Dec 2018.
- Every civilian death by security forces, should be immediately reported and apologies sent to the relatives
- KDF were urged to own up to collateral damages and to not be quick to kill
- Willingness to work to fight the problem without expecting compensation.



**Hon. Eng. Mahamud Mohammed**  
**Senator Mandera County**

We have taken steps to involve all sectors in the discussion about violent extremism. I hope to build confidence between all sectors.

The conversation between all concerned parties has to keep flowing as we build trust between security forces and the community – stop stigmatising people- let us work together.



**Mohamed A. Khalif**

### Mandera County Assembly Speaker

Leaders, elders and women should all start the conversation at the community level and an improved working relationship between the security forces and the community with regular P/ CVE forums and meetings conducted.

### Proposed Resolutions:

- Disseminating information on countering violent extremism to the grassroots.
- Strengthen inter community and inter county collaboration (simultaneous terror related engagements).
- Come up with affirmative legal framework to allow frontier counties to manage sector based security.
- Amnesty and psychosocial support for returnees and develop an acceptable framework to re-integrate them into the community (Psychosocial forums for those affected especially the women and the youth-to help build resilience).
- Two day conference for the youths and women (separately) to offer them a platform to also come up with a concrete action plan on how they will contribute to countering VE.
- Enhance and strengthen civil and military collaboration – Security forces to engage with the community. For example KDF to initiate CSR programmes even when there are no



Mandera county leaders from left- right Hon. Ali Adan Haji (MP Mandera South), Hon Ibrahim Abdi Mude (MP Lafey) and Hon. Maj Rtd Bashir Abdullahi (MP Mandera North) taking notes during a leaders symposium on countering radicalization and violent extremism in Mandera

incidents.

- Strengthening community policing
- Strengthening National Police Reservists as a first line of defense and response.
- Security forces to provide a time frame for response – after an incident has been reported.
- Mandera County government to play a pivotal role in mobilizing resources' and political goodwill so as to strengthen effective and efficient networking among all the actors.
- The government to put in place deliberate strategies for northern Kenya to return recruits from AS
- Inviting chiefs and county administrators to such forums and conferences for information to cascade.
- Incentives by county and national government to the youth and elders led initiatives to counter VE.
- Localized incident reporting to the Assistant chief (village level), with proper records.
- The need for Buffer zone along our border.
- Every community to go back to their villages and sub counties to plan how to counter violent extremism.
- A working and harmonious relationship

between the security agents and the community.

- Training of youths/women at risk and engage them in gainful employment.
- Strengthen and establish rehabilitation centers targeting returnees.
- Spreading the risk by ensuring that all sectors are talking about violent extremism- from political leaders, to religious leaders, to elders, women and youth.
- Non state actors undertaking CVE to coordinate their activities to avoid duplication and get down to business.
- Sensitization and support of the Muslim Ulama who will replicate the same during dawa'a in mosques and Friday sermons.
- We must engage through the media, social media and local FM stations to undertake counter propaganda strategies.

### The community's commitment

The community resolved that they will fight Al-Shabaab whether the government will support them or not. The realisation that violent extremism has slowed development in the region was a great motivator for the community to want to kick Al-Shabaab out of Mandera County.

## National Assembly members of Administration and Security committee visit Mandera County



The National Assembly Members of the Administration and Security committee led by chairman Paul Koinange and MPs Abdi Omar Shurie, Opondo Kaluma visited Mandera County where they discussed various matters on improving security in the County.

Governor Ali Roba reiterated that President Uhuru Kenyatta has supported all security requests to the County strategically leading to lesser attacks by terror group Al Shabaab.

Roba thanked the security committee for visiting the county arguing it was a key factor in getting National Assembly

to get a grasp of the challenges confronting the counties particularly border ones that often suffer attacks from cross border militia and terror outfits.

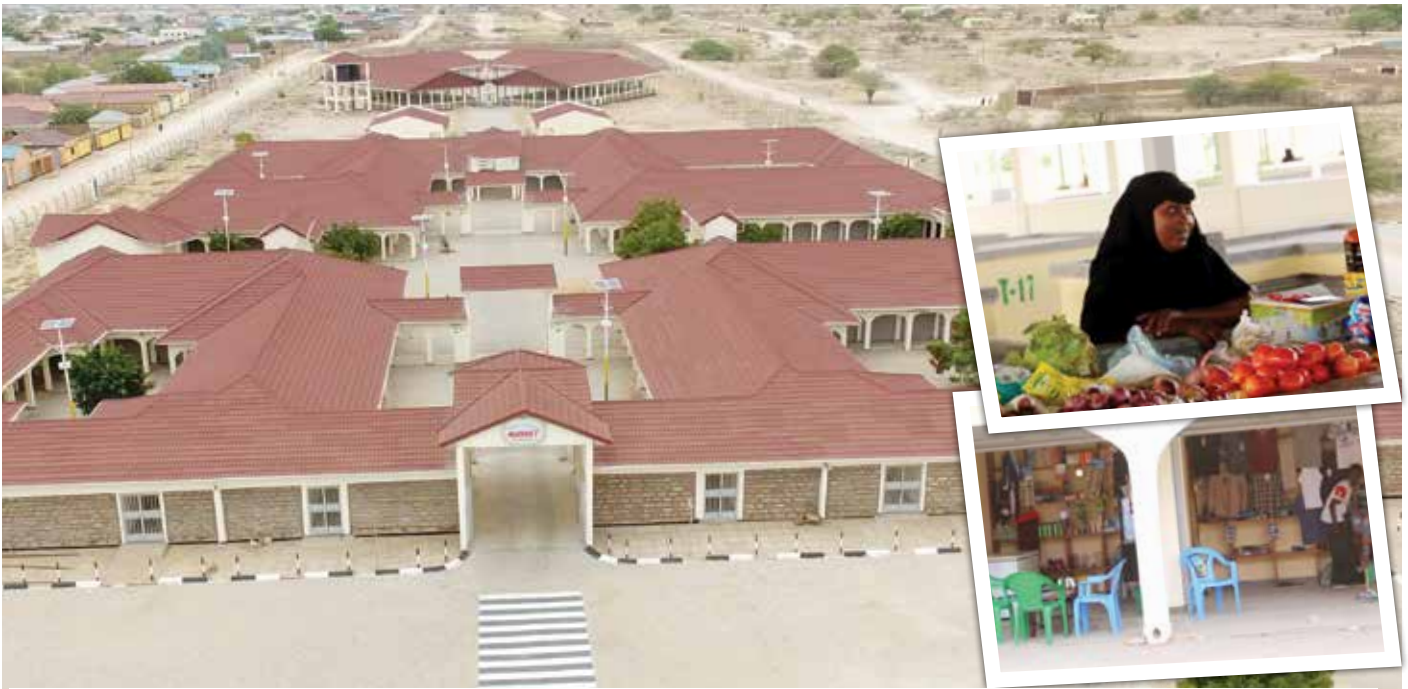
Roba lauded the good working relationship between security arms of the government in taming the radical militants.

He said security agencies should build trust and act on intelligence shared by public and leaders fast always.

Roba noted that Mandera County has the lowest crime rates in the country and only terror threats remained a challenge.



# Mandera turning a new leaf after years of terror attacks



Elwak regional market constructed by Mandera county government to boost economic income for youth, women and PWDs.

Mandera has been known for terror incidents that have bedeviled the county since 2012 with 2014 marking the climax when within ten days, 64 people were killed by suspected Alshabaab terrorists.

Both local and the non-Somali population has been targeted by the extremists, who for long have crossed into Mandera at will, caused mayhem and returned to the war-torn Somalia uninterrupted. The local community has suffered too the consequences of the terror cells either by being killed in suspicious and unexplained circumstances, or the economic sanctions have left them helpless.

To address the increase in terror incidents in the area, Mandera County Government introduced a De-radicalization, Counter-Violent Extremism Department in 2018. The department under the Ministry of Public Service is headed by Mr Mohamed Adan Osman, a County Chief Officer.

The unit according to H.E Governor Ali Ibrahim Roba is about supporting counter violent extremism and rehabilitation of returnees. Having been a victim of terrorism more than five times, Governor Roba hopes the program is the beginning of a locally driven process that involves a range of stakeholders that would find a solution locally. The program is about confronting terrorists' violent ideology and its resonance by identifying and responding to specific, localized conditions and factors that terrorists exploited as drivers to recruit, radicalize and mobi-

lize youths to violence in Mandera.

In October 2018, the department organized a very successful conference on counter violence extremism that brought together counties in the larger North Eastern Region.

The political class, religious leaders, youths and women anonymously pledged to unity and fight violent extremism in the region during the two day conference.

After the conference fruits of interaction are evident since the community has opened up and information sharing has become a daily cup of tea.

Local communities have developed a rapport with the security forces and terror hotspots like Fino are the most beneficiaries of the conference.

Military officers freely interact with locals at Fino in playfields, at homes and at any gatherings aiding information sharing in the area. In January 2019, another interactive conference for religious leaders was organized in Elwak bringing together sub counties of Mandera South and Kotulo.

Religious leaders in these Sub Counties agreed to join the counter violence bandwagon and pledged to fight the negative narrative used by the militants.

In Mandera East, religious leaders have since been engaged and positive results are forthcoming.

To make the fight understood at grassroots level, the Nyumba Kumi initiative is being used to reach the wider population in Mandera.

De-radicalization and prevention of violent Extremism has been remains a focal point

for consultation with the national Counter Terrorism Agency, regional and national offices.

Our role is to oversee implementation of the County Action Plan for dealing with violent extremism in collaboration with County Security agencies, partners and any other stakeholders.

"The process of radicalization entails the way by which individuals, or groups seek to reject the status quo and democratic principles and conform to their own extremists' ideals and principles to achieving own ideological goals."

Through other entities fighting violence extremism, we are supporting youths to start up business entity by providing the necessary equipment like sawing machines, plumbing equipment, masonry and welding machinery. The October stakeholders meeting held in Mandera to address community led approaches in addressing radicalization and countering violent extremism came against a backdrop of reports of increasing cases of youth joining militant terror cells.

The youth are getting pulled into radical and violent movements through well-considered manipulation processes that facilitate emotional and psychological factors besides widespread social media influence.

Mandera aims at increasing citizen awareness and the understanding of their role in addressing radicalization and violent extremism at the community level.



# Leaders symposium on Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism



H.E. Capt. Ali Roba reading out his speech during a leaders symposium on countering radicalization and violent extremism at Granada hotel in Mandera town

**M**andera County Leadership organized symposium aimed at countering radicalization and violent extremism on January 23, 2020.

The participants resolved to disrupt the agendas of violent extremist groups; how to reimagine interventions to undermine the attraction and messaging of extremist movements and ideologies; and how to redefine the future. The conference leverages the power relationships between security officers, religious leaders, elected leaders, political leaders, women leaders and the youth in order to find home grown solutions. Including openly discussing their perceptions experiences and propose solutions by breaking down the existing silos of approaches to violent extremism.

At the end of the conference the Governor led other leaders to give a joint communiqué. The press release entailed that the leaders and the people of Mandera County, realizing that their common aspirations and prosperity lies on the immediate, firm and resolute action against the threat of violent extremism, radicalization, inter-clan clashes and poverty. A 15 point resolutions were read.

## Resolutions

1. That the community should continue sharing actionable intelligence with security partners.
2. The security teams must respond swiftly to any actionable intelligence shared.
3. Reinforce the mind and heart campaigns to deter new recruits by Al Shabaab.
4. Deliberate efforts are required to build rapport between the security agencies and the public
5. Cascade this symposium to the sub counties and wards.
6. Resolved that we as Mandera County community must fight Al-Shabaab on all possible fronts and support strengthening community policing and Nyumba kumi.
7. Operationalize the County Action plan with

partners and stakeholders.

8. Support creation of a Special unit National Police Reserves tasked to deal with Al-Shabaab.
9. Entrench CVE at early stage in schools Curriculum to entrench patriotism and nationalism.
10. Increase plain clothes intelligence team embedded within the communities
11. We need more NPR in areas that understaffed or lack
12. Adequate equipping of NPR with weapons to match/counter Al-Shabaab.
13. Entrench CVE education, heart and mind campaigns to grass roots across the county
14. Provide solutions to alarming rate of youth unemployment which is a ticking time bomb.
15. Request that Kenya Defense Forces to be deployed to secure our own borders by creating a buffer zone

Incidents have shifted from border areas into the interior, especially Mandera North.

The government is keen on fighting contraband (prohibited) goods.

## Hon. Hassanoor Hassan, Chief

Administrative Secretary (CAS), Sports  
Insecurity in mandera is as a result of laxity of all the stakeholders. This not a religious war but organized crime. WE need to wake up and stand to be counted.

## Ms Ubah Gedi, Chairlady, Maendeleo ya Wanawake

Blame games will not help our county, we need to take the bull by the horns and deal with this situation for good.

## Hon. Hassan Osman (Cereal)

"We need to expose those radicalizing our children, killing teachers, killing our economy.

## Hon. Major Bashir Abdullahi, MP, Mandera North

"There is need to find a solution to this menace

"Terrorism is complex and we need to be united to win the war.

Security teams are doing their best in handling the situation but we need local support in all that.

-The County Commissioner, Mr. Onesmus Kyatha

and we cannot solve it through militarization. Violent Extremists are not only targeting Government but also the community

## Hon. Adan Haji Yussuf, MP, Mandera West

"Schools are being closed because of mass exodus of non-local teachers which is attributed to Al-Shabaab attacks, hospitals/health facilities are affected, infrastructural development interrupted and the economy on its death bed.

## Hon. Adan Ali Sheikh, MP, Mandera South

Development projects are hampered by insecurity as a result of terror attacks. Oil exploration cannot take off in Dabaciy area for months because of terror activities.

## Hon. Abdi Mude, MP, Lafey

Security personnel and community are working together in Lafey in the fight against Al-Shabaab although development of Lafey Airstrip can not kick off and that KES 60 Million is lying at Kenya Airports Authority (KAA) because of insecurity.

"This country needs holistic approach in fighting Al-shabaab."

## Hon. Kullow Maalim Hassan, MP, Banissa

Quoting Lithuanian Pastor Martin Niemöller quote;

"First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

## Hon. Omar Maalim, MP, Mandera East

Al-Shabaab have resorted to very sophisticated strategies. Our government should also equally strategize and withdraw from Somalia and instead man the border.

# Joint communiqué by Mandera County Leadership

We the leaders and the people of Mandera County, realizing that our common aspirations and prosperity lies on the immediate, firm and resolute action against the threat of violent extremism, radicalization, inter-clan clashes and poverty. We have met at the Granada Hotel, Mandera Town on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 to discuss Community led Counter terrorism and de-radicalization efforts to fight violent extremism.

We hereby resolve to:

- Adopt an inclusive approach that brings on board multi-agencies and non-state actors in preventing and addressing violent extremism.
- To aggressively sensitize the public on the effects of violent extremism and radicalization.
- Appreciate and promote the role of communities in providing human intelligence and on time action to deter and respond to incidents of violent extremism in Mandera.
- Work with the national government on an all-inclusive, structured amnesty, disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration programme in Mandera County.
- Promote the leadership of women and youth



H.E. Capt. Ali Roba Reading out a joint communiqué after PCVE meeting held in Mandera

in encouraging socialization and rehabilitation programmes for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism.

- Fast track the implementation of action points in MCG CIDP and Mandera County CVE Action plan that focuses on youth empowerment

and job creation.

- Work with Muslim Ullama's' in speaking out and promoting narratives that delegitimizes Al-Shabaab propaganda and supports the language of peace and inclusive development.

## PCVE knowledge and skills awareness sessions in schools



Pupils of Township primary school pose for a group photograph after undergoing a CVE knowledge and skills awareness session

The purpose of the event was to improve CVE Knowledge and Skills for the students and Pupils in the Selected Secondary and Primary Schools. The events were organized by Focused Approach Development Concern (FADC).

In total, about 320 learners (180 primary school pupils and 140 secondary school learners) participated in the Sensitization Sessions in five Schools in the three sub-counties mentioned.

Peace Clubs were formed in all the targeted schools to spearhead the conversation and dissemination of countering violent extremism,

peace and security messages.

The relations between the learners, parents and teachers were strengthened and better understanding of their roles and responsibility on P/CVE was enhanced.

### Recommendations for improvements

The Teachers Service Commission shall stop transfer of non-local teachers from Lafey Sub-County and the entire Mandera County.

- Follow up training for peace clubs' members on extensive CVE to ensure they better understand underlying root causes of violent extrem-

ism so that they can able to deter and detect early behaviors changes among the learners.

- Political leaders intervene immediately the crises in learning institutions come up with local solutions to address mass exodus of teachers' transfers so that students and pupils brought back to school.

- Exchange visit mentorship programs for guide and counselling teachers and learners to mentor other learners in their schools.

- Cascade the CVE sensitization to all the schools in Lafey Sub-County just to empower the brilliant pupils and students who are ready to champion this course.



# Snapshot of terror incidents since 2013



DATE	DETAILS OF INCIDENTS
<b>2013</b>	House of a local chief in Mandera Town was raided by alshabaab and the chief murdered.
<b>February 2014</b>	Office of the Town Administrator, Revenue and Lands office was attacked over night by alshabaab destroying all government records, asset and property.
<b>August 2014</b>	H.E the governor narrowly escapes an assassination attempt when eight armed men stormed into the county government premises and hurled grenades at his office targeting him. The attack left one side of the building damaged.
<b>15<sup>th</sup> October 2014</b>	While heading to his office, H.E the Governor escapes a narrow-death when an IED exploded damaging one of his vehicles in his convoy leaving his bodyguards injured.
<b>20, Novemeber 2014</b>	Makkah bus travelling from Mandera to Nairobi attacked by al-Shabaab terrorists. 28 non-locals killed most being teachers.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014</b>	Al-Shabaab militants attack and kill 36 quarry workers, many of whom were non-locals near Mandera town.
<b>13<sup>th</sup> March 2015</b>	Governor's convoy hit with an RPG (rocket propelled grenade) by al-shabab militia along Mandera-Arabia road. 3 people including bodyguard of the governor were killed, seven other people injured.
<b>24<sup>th</sup> May 2017</b>	Mandera Governor escapes death when a vehicle in his convoy hits a land mine killing five police on the spot.
<b>21<sup>st</sup> December 2015</b>	Two people killed in a bus attack at Wargadud
<b>7<sup>th</sup> November 2017</b>	5 security officers (3 Kenya Police reservists and 2 Administration police) killed in Dabacity in an attack carried out by al-shabab militia along Elwak-Kutulo road in mandera. The militia also burnt down a police lorry. The attack left several police officers injured.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018</b>	Five Administration Police officers killed after Alshabaab militia raided Lafey police camp, two officers were badly wounded and armories of both camps looted. Safaricom network mast was also burnt down.
<b>11<sup>th</sup> January 2020</b>	Alshabab militia attacked Olla AP Camp destroying tents and a private water bowser parked in the AP camp. Two police officers manning the station escaped unscathed. Safaricom network mast was partially damaged.

## Security and community members P/CVE knowledge and skill training

The department in partnership with GLAD (Greenland Aid and Development) conducted P/CVE Knowledge and Skills Training for Security Personnel and Community Members in the sub-counties of Mandera East, Mandera North, Banisa, Mandera West, Mandera South and Lafey.

This training targeted participants drawn from various security agencies as well as influential community representatives. Which comprised of National Police Service representatives, chiefs, assistant chiefs, sub-county adminis-

trators, representatives of community policing structures such as Nyumba Kumi committee members, sub-county peace committee members and key community leaders such as religious leaders, elders, civil society leaders, women and youth.

Participants had the opportunity to learn and build their skills and knowledge on how to address and counter violent extremism in their communities through collaboration and partnership. The training also provided an opportunity for the participants to network

and come up with ways of sharing information to deter VE. The precipitants covered the following thematic areas.

### Signs of Radicalization:

- Changes of dress or clothing style
- Isolation from the rest of the family
- Reduction in communication
- Engaging in unnecessary risk behavior
- Violent rhetoric
- Engaging in criminal activities
- Abusing substances





- Contact with violent groups
- Sudden change in religious practice
- Irritability as well as not accepting other people opinions

#### Roles of the security officers

- Protect lives and properties of the community
- Conduct investigations
- Maintaining law and order
- Swift response in the event of an attack
- Act on intelligence provided by the members of the public
- Treat information given with confidentiality
- Working closely with the community by establishing rapport with them
- Should not engage in extra-judicial killings
- Provide rehabilitation to those who surrender
- Shouldn't allow issuance of identification documents to non-Kenyans
- Should stop collective banishment when terror incidents happen
- Information gathering

#### Our Partners:

As a county government, we have been working with several partners in the fight against extremism and the process has been fruitful.

#### Action Points developed

Participants had the opportunity to easily interact, share experiences and knowledge and ultimately suggested various action points to counter VE. The following are the action points developed:

- To enhance community and security agencies relations by developing reliable networks and by sharing of relevant information with the security agencies.

- Chiefs to understand their role and responsibilities by keeping in touch with the community and thereby understanding what youth in their locality engage in, who they provide with identification documents and who is needy and cannot afford school fees.
- Developing counter narratives through awareness creation as well as raising awareness among parents to allow them notice early signs of radicalization and prepare appropriate interventions.
- Developing close working relations between the local leaders, religious leaders, youth, women and security agents through sharing of information and building of mutual trust and confidence.
- Establishment of committee to allow members to keep in touch and share information as quickly as possible
- Cascading down the knowledge and skills gained to the members of the community in the entire Lafey sub county
- Community members to share information areas chiefs and among themselves, to cooperate, network and work together as a team and to conduct public gatherings to sensitize the community.
- Developing counter narratives through awareness creation as well as raising awareness among parents to allow them notice early signs of radicalization and prepare appropriate interventions.
- Developing close working relations between the local leaders, religious leaders, youth, women and security agents through sharing of information and building of mutual trust and confidence.
- Establishment of committee to allow members to keep in touch and share information as quickly as possible

#### Recommendations for improvements by participants

- The security agencies and the community should come together and collaborate on matters of insecurity in an open discussion.
- The local community to take responsibility of their action and volunteer to join the fight against the terror group so that the community live with peace and stability.
- The government should stand against the bad cultures inculcated by al-Shabaab militia groups i.e. discrimination of people on bases of faith i.e. Islam and Christianity
- More youth to be involved for more training to capacity build on matters of CVE
- Consider more trainings on the field of CVE if possible
- Always do proper planning to avoid other events coinciding with the training
- The participants' also asked the organization to organize and facilitate for regular dialogues between the community members and the police going forward in order to improve trust and working relationship between the two parties.
- The police were also asked to keep at pace with changing dynamics and tactics of violent extremists and other criminal groups in the midst of society.

#### Understanding the meaning of the different terminologies in PCVE:

- Radicalization – Radicalization was defined as a term that describes the processes by which a person adopts extreme views or practices to the point of legitimizing the use of violence these could be: political, social and religious.
- Extremism – Extremism is the strict



Some of the damages caused by al Shabaab in recent attacks

adherence to a set of narratives or belief systems (whether political or religious) that constitute assaults on the mainstream values, orientations and principles of society. Extremist narratives exist on a continuum—at the extreme right and extreme left of ideological spectrums across political, racial, tribal and religious lines. When extremists resort to acts of coercion in the pursuit of their objectives, it degenerates to violent extremism. Violent extremism (or extremist violence) means violence justified or explained by an extreme or radical political, religious, or social belief system

- Violent extremism –Violent extremism refers to engaging in, preparing or otherwise supporting ideologically motivated or justified violence to further social, economic or political objectives.
- Terrorism –which is a manifestation of violent extremism refers to a particular strategy adopted to achieve a political goal, which is singularly the deliberate creation and exploitation of fear or terror as a means to an end.
- De-Radicalization: De-radicalization is the process of reversing indoctrination of individuals or groups from previously held extreme views defined as dangerous for stability and development in the society.
- Counter-Violent Extremism (CVE): Proactive actions to counter efforts by violent extremists to radicalize, recruit, and mobilize followers to violence and to address specific factors that facilitate violent extremist recruitment and radicalization to violence.
- Radicalism: should not be confused with extremism. Radicalism is used in this manual to refer to the standing at a distance from the mainstream political or religious thinking. It is seen as open-minded and open ended as opposed to extremism which is close-minded.

#### Early Warning Signs

##### 1. Physical Appearance

Physical Appearance-easiest aspects to observe but least useful e.g:

- Suddenly grow beard/shaving the moustache and obsessed with this.
- May suddenly obsessed with wearing pants that cover until just above the ankles.
- May vehemently refuse to wear shorts while playing or sporting.

##### 2. Individual Behaviors

- Sudden scrupulous and extreme attention to

that which is permitted (halal) and that which is prohibited (haram)

- Sudden and unusual tension or changes in family behaviors.
- Sudden strange withdrawal and social polarization.
- Selective exposure to media. The greatest part of their time is dedicated to informing themselves through means of communication in accordance with their radical vision.
- Suddenly develops interest for everything related historical events suddenly and for no apparent reason
- Aggressive and obsessed with being capable of defending oneself, interest in weapons and martial arts.

##### 3. Collective Behavior

- Suddenly practicing the prayer collectively among the members of group.
- Unprecedented group activities directed to augment the cohesion and awaken desires of adventure.
- May practice together in sports like martial arts, soccer etc.
- Common monitoring and exchanging of propaganda.
- Relation/admission in the group of common criminals.
- Measures of security are put into practice

The following traits are an indication that someone is becoming radicalized (These cannot be considered in isolation)

- In the increasingly rare occasions where they do see their family, they berate them for their supposedly impious behavior.
- May even accuse their parents of being infidels for consuming alcohol or calling their sister a slut for not wearing the proper clothing.
- They stop participating in activities that used to occupy a lot of their time such as sports or community associations.
- They believe to have found the true path to religious enlightenment and anyone else who doesn't follow it is of less worth.
- They often exhibit growing hatred and intolerance towards others who don't adhere to their beliefs.
- Rejecting fellow members of his religion but of different sects, as well as Imams/clergy who repudiate violence.
- They refuse to engage with or debate ideas that counter their own.

- Surfing of violent Extremists/anti-government websites
- They develop obsessive patterns of behavior and celebrate when an attack by VE occurred. They pine for martyrdom and the apocalypse.

#### Drivers of radicalization: the pull and push factors:

The facilitator started by stating the different drivers of radicalization into violent extremism. The facilitator stressed the importance of understanding the root causes of radicalization into violent extremism as P/CVE cannot be effective unless it addresses the causes just like treatment of a disease cannot be effective unless it addresses the causes thereof. He mentioned the reasons why the drivers need to be identified.

These were:

- Understand root causes of radicalization
- Understand nature & magnitude of VE
- Develop effective CVE strategies
- Identify relevant CVE partners

Drivers or root causes of radicalization are divided into pull and push factors. Push factors are those negative external conditions that push an individual/group into taking radical positions. These could be:

- Poverty
- Unemployment
- Discrimination (real or imagined)
- Marginalization (real or imagined)
- Harassment by security forces
- Decay of moral values
- Bad governance (Corruption, inequitable distribution of resources, etc.)
- Profiling of a particular community
- Unaddressed historical injustices
- Violation of human rights
- Insensitive response to terror incidences

On the other hand, pull factors are the positive characteristics or "benefits" of an extremist organization that "PULL" vulnerable individuals to join/support their radical views. In other words, factors that make violent extremism attractive.

- The group's ideology
- Prospect of changing one's condition through violence (materially or spiritually)
- Strong bonds of brotherhood and sense of belonging
- Reputation building
- Prospect of fame or glory



# Religious perspective on terrorism

## Brief history about terrorism, the religious perspective about terrorism & ve, peaceful coexistence among various people and religions counter narratives on countering violent extremism and radicalization

**R**adicalization and violent extremism is a big problem affecting the people of Lafey and by extension Mandera County.

This workshop helps the ulamma and the community in general in countering the religious doctrines and ideologies they are abusing (counter narrative). Terrorism has paralyzed education and health sectors. Lafey is one of the most hit sub-counties in Mandera County. It is against this backdrop that a sensitization workshop was held in Lafey.

### Sheikh Siyat, Lafey Sub-county Religious Coordinator

welcomed the participants and opined that religious leaders we need to come out clearly and dispel these un-Islamic ideologies the enemy is propagating.

"We have to counter the narrative and ideology they are employing to suit their selfish needs. Al- shabaab is in the same league with khawarij who the prophet Mohammed (S.A.W) denounced.

The prophet (SAW) has already talked about this fitna (khawarij). They we described in all Islamic Books, especially Al-bukhari among others. They kill people indiscriminately." He said.

### The prophet (SAW) mentioned their features or characteristics as;

- Young people – youth.
  - They are not intelligent /smart.
  - They read hadith and Quran (fake ulamma).
- They quote Quran and hadith to mislead their target.

### Chief Abdirashid – Lafey

WE need to have our religious leaders come out and talk against Violent Extremism. It is known that at least 75% of violent extremists and radicalizers are locals. WE must prove our patriotism and fight for the land desecrated by Al-Shabaab.

### Sheikh Dakane – Lafey

The Sheikh appreciated the county government and Jamii Thabiti for organizing such an initiative. He advised that we need to strengthen collaboration and coordination between the security agencies and the public. He also recommended that young people who are school dropouts should be given employment opportunities.

He further added that murrum roads should be tarmacked to avert Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

He also requested security personnel to Promptly/quickly respond to terror attacks to reduce or avert collateral damage. He also added that locals' security officers should be deployed to Mandera to fight the menace as they know and better suited to the terrain. He also pointed out that withdrawal of Kenya De-

fence Forces from Somalia and manning our borders is significant step in fighting the vice. He also requested the government to recognize the existence of ulamma (RL) and work with them closely.

### Sheikh Hussein Sheikh Noor (Ulamma)

He said that Violent Extremism and Radicalization can be averted through collaboration and coordination between security Agencies, government and the communities. He promised that they shall relentlessly and tirelessly talk about the menace in masjids and public place.

### Sheikh Omar Sheikh Hussein – Fino

The Sheikh thanked the County Government and Jamii Thabiti for organizing such a meet-

"We have to counter the narrative and ideology they are employing to suit their selfish needs. Al- shabaab is in the same league with khawarij who the prophet Mohammed (S.A.W) denounced. The prophet (SAW) has already talked about this fitna (khawarij). They we described in all Islamic Books, especially Al-bukhari among others. They kill people indiscriminately." He said.

-Sheikh Siyat, Lafey Sub-county Religious Coordinator

ing. He added that the effects of Violent Extremism have ramifications on the public. He also pointed out that destruction of communication masts paralysed communication. He also highlighted Kenya Defence Forces operations, extrajudicial killings and blanket persecution affects the community.

He also blamed mass exodus of teachers in the area to terror attacks which in the end affected learning in schools. He also pointed out the closure of quarries by the government due to terror attacks greatly affecting the construction industry. He also blamed negligence and laxity on the part of the security agencies for exacerbating the already bad situation.

### Way forward/action points

The following recommendations or action points were adopted in the meeting;

- The Partnership that exists between the Government and Religious Leaders should be strengthened.
- Coordination and collaboration between Ulammas and both national and county Governments should be done consistently.
- Religious Leaders Workshop should be cascaded to Ward or Village Level
- Create Employment opportunities for our idle youth.
- Ensure that counter and alternative messages are disseminated in local languages, including in local dialects.
- The office of the religious advisor should be strengthened.
- More Sensitization Workshops and Meetings be conducted, and the religious advisor's office should frequent Sub-Counties and talk to Ulamma.
- Drugs and Substance Abuse should be averted as it is recipe for Violent Extremism and Radicalization.
- The forthcoming Friday summon for all mosques in Lafey Sub-County should be about radicalization and violent extremism





# Leaders sensitization workshop on countering Violent Extremism



Elwak Subcounty administrator in her opening remarks during the religious leaders sensitization meeting in Elwak town

The symposium brought together hundred selected religious leaders, in a bid to combat violent extremism in Mandera

East Sub-County. Recent events in the four hotspot Sub-Counties including Mandera East underscore the devastating impact of violent extremism.

The objective of the training was to contribute to the fight against radicalization and countering terrorism in Mandera by providing knowledge, tools, and common understanding to religious leaders in guiding the community through counter radical narrative that familiarize the dangers of religious extremism messages of Al-Shabaab.

The following topics and areas of focus were discussed and debated;

- A brief history about terrorism, the religious perspective about terrorism & VE, Peaceful co-existence among various people and religions Counter Narratives on Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization
- The role of religious leaders in Countering Violent Extremism, Radicalization and how to break the silence among the Ulamaa
- How to enhance Coordination and collaboration between the religious leaders, the Administrators and Security agencies on matters of

Radicalization and VE

- Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism and Early warning and reporting mechanism
- Sensitization of the religious leaders on Man-

dera County Action Plan for CVE

- Public participation on the Selection of Religious leaders' representatives for the general Religious Leaders Conference in Mandera



Dr. Sheikh Abuyasser sharing his sentiments during a PCVE sensitization workshop

## Way forward – Action points.

Dr. Abu Yasser, Religious Advisor, Office of The Governor

"We have to come together and fight this common enemy called Alshabaab in Mandera, we need to understand that everyone dies his own death at the right time.

We need to counter the false religious narrative driven by the radicalizers".

### Sheikh Ibrahim Owes

"We need to put efforts in talking to our school going children and students. They are at risk of being radicalized. The Quran extensively talked about Peace. Prophet Ibrahim (AS) preached peace prayed to Allah for peace. The Quran preaches peace. Prophet Yussuf (AS) also talked about Peace in Egypt when his brothers were coming".

How to enhance coordination and collaboration between the religious leaders, the administrators and security agencies on matters of radicalization and violent extremism

The County Chief Officer for Deradicalization

“We need to put efforts in talking to our school going children and students. They are at risk of being radicalized. The Quran extensively talked about Peace. Prophet Ibrahim (AS) preached peace prayed to Allah for peace. The Quran preaches peace. Prophet Yussuf (AS) also talked about Peace in Egypt when his brothers were coming”.

-Sheikh Ibrahim Owes

and Countering Violent Extremism extensively explained the need for all stakeholders, including Religious Leaders to come together and discuss issues regarding Violent Extremism. He added that coordination meetings with timeline by stakeholders will help in addressing some these issues.

He urged the Religious Leaders to work closely with the Government and security agencies. He added that dialogue meetings need to be up-scaled between all stakeholders to work hand in hand in averting this scourge. He further beseeched religious leaders to share intelligence with the relevant authorities and come out clearly and counter the dangerous narratives spread by the extremists.

He also challenged the people that despite acknowledging the fact that Education, Health, Construction sectors being crippled by incidents of terror attacks, they have no plans in place to find solutions. He said that the community is waiting for solutions to come from the



Sheikh offering prayers during engagement with leaders in Elwak South

leaders and government officials, while in the real sense best solutions are usually community led and community driven.

Jamii Thabiti's Regional Technical Lead, Mr. Muktar Liban implored the Religious Leaders to be committed to this war against Violent Extremism. He further added that developing good working relationship between all stakeholders is key in averting the scourge. He also underscored the significance of unity amongst Ummas in Mandera East.

### Prevention and countering violent extremism and early warning and reporting mechanism.

CCO for De-radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism highlighted the significance of good parenting. He blamed some children who joined extremist groups to poor parenting. He added that one important but neglected structural cause for violent extremism is the legal framework around marriage, which has resulted in thousands of unrecognized children deprived of formal rights and legal status.

Growing up with bleak prospects for their lives, such youths may later be easy prey for extremist groups. He also pointed out good neighborliness as one of the most important prevention strategy. He encouraged everyone to interact with their neighbors. The idea of Nyumba Kumi initiative is one way of maintaining good neighborliness.

He further said that the days of only using hard approach; military (use of force) is no more. Soft approach is the way to go now and sometimes combined with the hard approach. He opined that we need to resort winning the hearts and minds of those who joined Violent Extremists and the community. This can be achieved by countering their misleading narratives and propaganda.

Public participation on the selection of religious leaders' representatives for the general religious leaders' conference in Mandera.

The County Chief Officer informed the religious leaders of the upcoming religious leaders' conference on Countering Violent Extremism. He then asked them to present a list of religious leaders' representatives who will represent Mandera East Sub-County. The Sub-County was accorded 40 slots. They promised to present the list the following day.

### Way Forward/Action Points

The following recommendation or action points were adopted in the meeting;

- Denounce incitement and develop a strategy to counter the narratives that underscore incitement. Monitor, compile and circulate periodically statements, including fatwas, by religious leaders that incite to discrimination, hostility and hatred for the purposes of making religious leaders aware of such statements, and prepare effective responses; Issue and circulate periodic reports of religious statements, including fatwas, by religious leaders attacking or denouncing incitement and/or offering alternative messages.
- The Partnership that exists between the Government and Religious Leaders should be strengthened.
- Disseminate religious messages, including from the Holy Scriptures, that are linked to and promote fundamental human rights
- Ensure that counter and alternative messages are disseminated in local languages, including in local dialects.
- Coordination and collaboration between Ummas and both national and county Governments should be done consistently.
- The office of the religious advisor should be Strengthened.
- More Sensitization Workshops and Meetings be conducted, and the religious advisor's office should frequent Sub-Counties and talk to Umma.
- Create Employment opportunities for our idle youth.
- Drugs and Substance Abuse should be



averted as it is recipe for Violent Extremism and Radicalization.

- Religious Leaders should be given Motor-bikes to do da'awa and spread narratives that counter misleading doctrines.

Religious leaders' sensitization workshop on countering Violent Extremism for Mandera South and Kotulo Sub-counties.

Mandera County Government organized a workshop for religious leaders in Mandera South and Kotulo to discuss emerging issues of terrorism.

Local community was urged to listen to the religious leaders.

Mandera South and Kotulo are the reported terror hotspots in Mandera county and gospel of ant—radicalization is a stitch on time. Religious leaders to report any suspicious charaters in the places of waorship in the area.

#### Sheikh Ahmed Mohamed Osman

The Quran extensively talked about Peace. Prophet Ibrahim (AS) preached peace prayed to Allah for peace. The Quran preaches peace. Prophet Yussuf (AS) also talked about Peace in Egypt when his brothers were coming. Ideological problem that is wreaking havoc in our community is a disaster. The victim kills other people and self. Our Ulammas need to come out and correct the misinterpretation of the Quran. The verses in the Quran that the extremists quote and their actions are not related in anyway.

We can use religious teachings in countering their misleading doctrines. Violent Extremists in all over the world magnify the negative/bad attributes and suppress the good virtues/deeds of the people they target.

Prophets Musa and Harun were instructed by Allah to talk to Pharaoh humbly and in good language and enhance a cooperation approach where everyone has a role to play. Ulammas need to consistently preach against the scourge that is eating into the fabric of our society. In a rejoinder, County Chief Officer for De-radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism requested the Umma to delve into this matter. He added that they need to conduct public gathering where they use the Public-Address System and strongly counter their narratives.

#### Sheikh Ali Ismail – Kutulo

He strongly refuted the perception that Al- Shabaab is a religious entity. He strongly condemned them and called them bandits and militias who use Islam to spread their selfish agenda.

These are the people who kill and maim indiscriminately. He added that they possess no qualities or features of a Muslim. Their fight in the name of Jihad is utterly misleading and immoral.

They rob people of their animals and properties in the name of paying zakat. These are ignorant and have little knowledge. He urged his colleagues to preach and give correct inter-

The days of only using hard approach; military (use of force) is no more. Soft approach is the way to go now and sometimes combined with the hard approach. He opined that we need to resort winning the hearts and minds of those who joined Violent Extremists and the community. This can be achieved by countering their misleading narratives and propaganda.

pretation of the verses they misquote, and that Islam does not condone killing.

#### Sheikh Mohamed Issack - Dabacity

He thanked the County Government and Danish Demining Group for organizing such a wonderful meeting where religious leaders' views and opinions are sought in a bid to thwart violent extremism and radicalization. He decried the lack of capacity and ability ion the part of Ulammas to contribute to this discourse and help in fighting the menace.

He also blamed the Security agencies for furthering the course of radicalization as the extremists' desire by blanket persecution and flogging of innocent people and destroying their properties whenever attacks are waged against security personnel by Al-Shabaab.

He also claimed that at risk people are teenagers in secondary schools and herders are easily lured into their dragnet with goodies such as money. For instance, herders are promised astronomical salary such as USD 700 when their masters only pay them a paltry USD 70 per month. He also strongly asserted the need to clear the air on Salafism and its teachings.

A Sheikh from Wargadud compared Extremist Organizations to Khawarij. He pointed out that their ideology cannot be eradicated instantly. He also added that people, including ulammas fear talking about Al-Shabaab.

#### • Sensitization of the religious leaders on mandera county action plan for countering violent extremism (CCO Mohamed Harun Musdaf)

Mr. Harun said that Violent Extremism greatly affected the people of Coast region before North Eastern region. He added that Research was conducted by Civil Society Organizations in Coast and came up with action plan for CVE. He singled out the current Mandera County Commissioner, Mr. Olaka Kutsua for midwifing the Kwale County Action Plan.

He explained the Mandera County Action Plan for Countering Violent Extremism that is in its final stage. He said that the plan will be subjected to final review on 21st January 2019 and then put before stakeholders in Mandera town for validation on 24th January 2019. Thereafter, it will be launched, and the document will be binding as it will be the framework that will be used in the fight against radicaliza-

tion and violent extremism.

- Public participation on the selection of religious leaders' representatives for the general religious leaders conference in mandera (CCO Mohamed Adan Osman)

The County Chief Officer informed the religious leaders of the upcoming religious leaders conference on Countering Violent Extremism. He then asked them to present a list of religious leaders' representatives who will represent the two Sub-Counties. Mandera South was accorded 25 slots while Kutulo was given 15 slots. The two groups sat and promised to send the list the following day.

#### Community sensitization on CVE in Mandera South and Kutulo

##### Workshop participants

A total of one hundred and fifty participants took part in the CVE training workshops for Mandera Central and Kutulo, selected from five wards. The trainees were drawn from stakeholders critical in the peacebuilding and security sectors. They comprised of elders, youth and women representatives, local authorities (chiefs, ward administrators, Sub-county administrators, Sub-county education officers, principals, head- teachers and Deputy County Commissioners), Civil Society Organizations and religious leaders. They were selected through an all- inclusive public participation forums which were held in all the locations of the targeted wards.

##### KEY POINTS:

A number of initiatives undertaken by Mandera County Government to prevent and manage insecurity in general and terrorism in particular were enumerated.

County Government of Mandera's role in supporting National Police Reservists and Capacity building of stakeholders remains a key milestones in containing the negative impacts of terrorist activities in Mandera county.

#### Deputy County Commissioner (DCC), Mandera Central

##### Mr Abdihakim Jubat

"Terrorism has negatively affected our community and we need and we need to come together as team to find a solution. A solution can only be found through joint efforts.

We need you to support government efforts to fight terror cells and restore calm in affected areas in Mandera county. You have to defend your territory against encroachment by terror cells since the former have nowhere else to relocate".

#### DCC Kutulo - Mr Ahmed Somo

"As national government we appreciate efforts by the local community in fighting terror in Kotulo Sub County. WE need more support from locals on how to deal with the menace.

It will be too bad for anybody to hire a stranger on his farm or business in Kutulo."



# Promoting stable and accountable human security in Mandera



Governor Ali Roba with County Commissioner Olaka Kutswa during Banisa peace caravan.

**T**he Department of De-radicalization and Countering Violence Extremism organized an Interfaith Forum on Friday, December 6, 2019.

The forum dubbed "Promoting Stable and Accountable Human Security in Mandera" was intended to sensitize interfaith groups on the implementation of the MCAP on CVE.

The forum, first of its kind to be held in Mandera brought together Muslims and Christian clerics who pledged to foster peaceful co-existence amongst locals of Mandera.

Present at the forum were the County Secretary, Mr. Abdinur Maalim Hussein, Mr. Ahmed Sheikh, the CECM for Public Service, Mr. Mohamed Adan Osman, County Chief Officer for De-radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism, Dr. Isaack Ibrahim, Governor's Religious Advisor and the Chairperson of Public service committee of the County Assembly who also doubles up as MCA Rhamu, Hon. Kulla Ali Guyo among others.

Mr. Ahmed Sheikh, the CECM for Public Service urged the group to conduct regular forums to cultivate mutual relations between Muslims and Christians as terror cells sought to create a rift.

He added that the issue of terrorism is from within, he then stressed the need for religious leaders to correct the wrong narratives and misinterpreted verses of the Holy Book.

Sheikh Abdikadir Ahmed, Chairman of the Interfaith Group said different religions found in Mandera were willing and ready to take head on the sickening issue of terrorism in the county. He retorted that terrorism has no religion, race or tribe and every individual has to stand up against what he termed a social vice.

It was resolved that the group meet regularly and continue preaching against the scourge that has bedeviled Northern Kenya.

## CVE sensitization for interfaith community members



Between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020, the department of De-radicalization and Countering Violent extremism in partnership with Focused Approach Development Concern (FADC) conducted CVE training for Teachers, Parents and Board of Management of selected schools in Mandera West, Banisa, Lafey, Mandera North, Mandera South and Mandera East Sub-Counties.

The aim of the event was to improve understanding of CVE knowledge and skills in learning institutions to enhance building relations between parents, teachers and BOM.

The participants were taken through the training by introducing the terminologies that are always used in radicalization and Violent Extremism context.

The session was geared towards giving the participants an in-depth understanding of the said terminologies and concepts. There is a lot of confusion on the different terminologies used in the area of radicalization into violent

extremism. This is because of several reasons, key among them are: lack of universally agreed definitions, different stakeholders use the terms differently and when translated some of terms take a different meaning.

While Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia share a common border with the same religious and cultural community Kenya has suffered the most from VE. The big question remains why this was the case.

The participants unanimously agreed that Kenya with all the laws and resources is failing in the war against terrorism and Violent Extremism because Kenyans are not patriotic; they don't love their country as much as Ethiopians do. Ethiopia may not have laws but the citizens are highly patriotic.

The facilitator shared with the participant's different drivers of radicalization into violent extremism as well as stressing on the importance of understanding the root causes of radicalization into violent extremism as P/CVE cannot be effective unless it addresses the causes just like treatment of a disease cannot be effective unless it addresses the causes thereof.

He mentioned the reasons why the drivers need to be identified. Participants emphasized how jobless youth are easily falling for the tricks of the extremists who promise them monetary gains as well as paradise if they die fighting in the course of God.

Participants suggested the aforementioned factors can be mitigated through awareness creation among the youth, providing job opportunities or income generating activities for the youth. Because youth are largely unemployed and idling around, extremists' groups are taking advantage of such situations by appealing to the idle youth who resort to drug abuse and eventually join the terrorist groups.

These factors can be reduced equally through preaching in mosques, coming up with both counter and alternative narratives to dismiss the carefully crafted false ideologies of the extremists, parental care and providing assistance to the affected people is equally important to overcome the monster.

## Mandera North Community Mobilization Meeting on Countering Violent Extremism in Rhamu

The meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at Mandera North D.C.C office Board. It was chaired by Mandera County Commissioner, Mr. Onesmus Kyatha. Other dignitaries who attended include: Hon. Mohamed Ibrahim Yusuf, Member of County Assembly for Guticha, Abdurahman K. Jiraw, Sub County Administrator for Mandera North, County CCIO, Mr. Kigen, County Police Commandant, The OC Military, RPBU Commandant, The Deputy County Commissioner for Mandera North, Mr. Kirui, Abdikani Osman, Town Administrator for Rhamu, Hassanur Y. Mohamed, Ward Admin R/Dimtu, Haji Barre Hassan, Peace Chairman Mandera North, Elders among other persons.

The commissioner after listening to the elders, thanked them for their honesty and sincerity and promised to undertake the following action points;

- That the DCC to convene a meeting the following day to agree on exactly what is required in the operation
- He ordered the chiefs to vet 20 people for proposal to recruit them as NPRs in Mandera North
- That he will provide small food rations for those NPRs families and for their domestic food
- He tasked the OCS, Rhamu to be the lead of the operation.
- That he will increase the police officers in every police post to increase their strength
- He ordered chiefs in every location to register all Boda Boda owners and submit the list to his office in 3 days.
- He instructed the police and the sub county security committee to work closely with the public and act on the intelligence they share without prejudice
- He instructed all the chiefs to be in their locations and that any chief who is an absentee shall be sacked.

#### Meeting Between Degodia Elders, Mandera North Security Heads, County Government and NCIC/Interpeace on Community Led P/CVE Approaches in Rhamu

The meeting took place on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at Rhamu. The meeting was graced by among others, the Deputy County Commissioner for Mandera North, the OCS, Rhamu Police Station, the Sub-County Criminal Investigation Officer for Mandera North, the County Chief Officer for De-radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism, County Chief Officer for Conflict Management, Cohesion and Integration, NCIC/Interpeace peacebuilding team, Chief Guticha, Chief Olla and Representatives of Degodia elders.

#### Lessons Learnt

- The terror outfit has established base camps across Mandera North.
- Some members of Degodia clan are sympathizers of the group
- The group uses trade as a means to win hearts and minds of members of the local community. It was noted that the group entices local members by paying exorbitant prices to the local communities for basic commodities such as milk and other food stuffs.

The meeting identified the following challenges:

- Absence of cross-clan synchronized campaign to flush out fighters from other affected sub-counties. Due to this, resurgence of al-Shabaab presence in Mandera North is inevitable,
- Lack of engagement and disengagement plan for the militarized youth in Mandera North, which could be problematic if the governments promise to enlist the community



The participants unanimously agreed that Kenya with all the laws and resources is failing in the war against terrorism and Violent Extremism because Kenyans are not patriotic; they don't love their country.

volunteers into the National Police Reservists is not met.,

- There is fear that those who led the campaign against the al-Shabaab might be victimized by the group

Delay in the absorption of community volunteers in to the NPRs. The elders fear that the community volunteers will be enticed by other criminals if they are not absorbed as promised.

#### Training of CVE champions

Countering Violent Extremism Champions Training was rolled out simultaneously in all the four hotspot Sub-counties between 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

The CVE champions were drawn from five key stakeholders; elders, religious leaders, women, youth and local authorities. These are key stakeholders in the community who are critical in the fight against terrorism in general and violent extremism in particular.

They are crucial in prevention, management and response to violent extremism. Consequently, if they are not guided and equipped with skills to combat violent extremism, they may fall prey to scavenging forces of terror cells who similarly use these key stakeholders to sell their wrong ideologies and recruit followers. In particular, a significant percentage of women and youth are vulnerable and have either been silenced or influenced to join terror cells.

The event targeted a total of three hundred and fifty (350) participants drawn from four sub-counties (100 per sub-county except Kotulo which got 50 participants). The participants were identified by ward administrators in collaboration with the Sub-County Administrators. Five champions/stakeholders were selected from each community group/sector namely; religious leaders, elders, women and youth, local authorities and CSOs, while making considerations for clan, disability, gender, participation in security matters at the sub-county level among other factors.

A planning committee was formed to guide the process and who was reporting to the County Chief Officer, De-radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism. In addition, key resource persons from the partners/actors in the peacebuilding and CVE sector were identified to train the identified CVE champions.

Training CVE champions is very critical as it equips them with knowledge and skills in preventing and countering violent extremism. The CVE champions will work at the grassroots level and work hand in hand with the government in eradicating terror activities in the county. The THEME for these champions' workshops was 'Building local capacities for prevention and Countering Violent Extremism'

Specific objectives of CVE Training Workshops included: -

- To disseminate the resolutions of Mandera

County Stakeholders' conference on De-radicalization, Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism held on October 22nd -23rd, 2018 at Grenada hotel, Mandera Town.

- To build the capacities of CVE champions to enable them plan and counter Al-Shabaab propaganda.
- To deepen processes for countering violent extremism by equipping CVE stakeholders with knowledge, skills and attitudes to fight terror.
- The following recommendations were generated from the trainings;
- More grassroots engagements and effective implementation of the MCAP is needed
- Contextual analysis of VE drivers for respective sub-counties should be done (with regards to the CVE survey undertaken prior to MCAP development) to prioritize the pillars for respective sub counties.
- There should be extensive engagements to build trust between the local communities and security agencies. This will forge working relation and build community confidence in information sharing and reporting crime.
- One to one dialogue and agreement with parents of radicalized/returnee youth can be a gateway towards a revamped CVE intervention. It is apparent that parents want the best for their kids but fear execution by the security agencies, thus returnee rehabilitation program should be undertaken only if there is active monitoring by the parent and local leaders.
- The department, through the office of the county commissioner should start ward based public-security dialogues to discuss security issues; this will build public confidence in the security agencies.
- The welfare of the NPR in respective locations should be improved to motivate them to be extra vigilant. Discourse should be made with the NPSC in collaboration with elected leaders, on how to engage more NPR personnel in the county even if it means reducing the number of security agencies present in the county. This will create employment for locational-based youth as well curb insecurity.
- Community volunteerism, ownership and participation will be key in promoting local government and community partnerships enhancing citizenships and patriotism among the community and security agencies to show sense of ownership and belongings
- There is need to streamline the CVE, peace and security structures to avoid overlapping of roles and duplication. It is recommended that members, who serve as CVE champions, should also be engaged in policing and peace issues.
- Facilitate involvement of women in CVE decision making and implementation
- Sensitization on patriotism and citizenship to counter VE should be undertaken



# Community role in combating Violent Extremism



Resident expressing his views during training on PCVE

## Mothers' Perspective

- Women asked nyumba kumi initiative to be revived.
- Women to unite regardless of clans and sub-clans because it affects them mostly because they lose their husbands and children.
- Women raised their voice that they should be patriotic and defend their country
- Women must be involved in any peace process
- Strengthen border control as the officers currently allow crimes to enter Kenya by paying KES 50 only – Corruption.
- Parental responsibilities to be adhered and young boys/girls be advised and guided.
- Create employment and income-generating activities for the youth. Corruption in the employment has grown roots in the County and should be addressed.
- Drugs and substance abuse amongst youth must be addressed.

- Empower school drop-outs by expanding opportunities at Youth Polytechnics and opening up business generating income for the youths.
- Create Resource Centers where women can meet and discuss issues of importance to them
- Empower Maendeleo Ya Wanawake Organization (MYWO) that can bring together all women.
- Create opportunities for single parents who do not have the support of the father of the children.
- Report any suspicious character to the security agents.
- Urged fathers to avoid neglecting their kids.
- Parents should be friends with their children as they are the first teacher too.
- Engage women in security issues and work with them on intelligence gathering. Law enforcement must protect the identity of women who offer intelligence information.
- Support civic education for mothers that can

be undertaken by MYWO.

- Urged the community leaders, council of elders to follow and know the root cause of these terror activities

## Elders' Viewpoint

- All parents must pray to Allah so that their children should be guided by Allah to do good things.
- Parental responsibility to be adhered so that parents are aware of their children's whereabouts.
- Parents should monitor movements of their children and friends of their children.
- Parents should guide their children when watching TV and ensure who they talk to and interact with.
- The County government should help create programs for school drop-outs and alternative trainings for those not able to go to secondary school and colleges. Technical training



and bursaries will help.

- Rehabilitation for drug and substance abuse victims and their parents made to take responsibilities.
- Community policing involving getting to know everyone in the neighborhood. Engage women, Youth and Sheikhs in patrolling the streets and borders.
- Create programs to engage youth. For example businesses for youth groups, etc.
- Government to support the Ulama in explaining the importance of good citizenry.
- The religion does not allow killing of innocent lives.
- The Community to cooperate with the security agents.
- Reduce gap between the government and the public so that the public can feel free to give intelligence information. There should be no victimization by the government.
- Create youth-friendly programs and engage them in useful activities because youth idling will increase the level of radicalization.
- Enhance security patrols 24/7
- Government to curb drug and substance abuse menace.

#### Youth Perspective

- Ensure full realization of youth protection in Mandera County
- Create opportunities for youth empowerment through employment and livelihood programs like small business start-up grants and loans.
- Introduction of counter-radicalization is learning institutions
- Open rehabilitation centers and Youth Resource Centers and programs
- Conduct frequent seminars to raise awareness and curb radicalization.
- Empowering of Community-Based Organization by national and international NGOs to curb radicalization.
- Create Youth Focal person in every sub-county for the purpose of sensitizing the youth.
- Youth representation in every sector of the government must be strengthened.
- Promotion of social justice.
- Establish and promote community policing.
- Strengthen sports and soccer teams as a way of engaging the youth.
- Issue Kenyan Identity cards throughout the year
- Community policing involving getting to know everyone in the neighborhood. Engage women, Youth and Sheikhs in patrolling the streets and borders.
- Start and strengthen poverty eradication programs.

#### Recommendation and Outcome from Elwak /Kotulo

While each group had many useful recommen-



Leaders following keenly to training during a past PCVE engagement

dations on how to combat violent extremism, below are the cross-cutting themes recommended for adoption;

- Establishment of secretariat at the County level comprising of National and County government to counter violent extremism.
- Create opportunities for youth empowerment through employment and livelihood programs like small business start-up grants and loans
- Community policing involving getting to know everyone in the neighborhood. Engage women, Youth and Sheikhs in patrolling the streets and borders.
- Engage women in security issues and work with them on intelligence gathering. Law enforcement must protect the identity of women who offer intelligence information.
- Reducing the gap between security agents and citizens by building trust. Citizens are afraid to share security information for fear of victimization.
- County government should help create programs for school drop-out and alternative trainings for those not able to go to secondary school and colleges. Technical training and bursaries will help.
- Government to support Ulamas (Religious Leaders) in preaching the teaching of Islam

and the forbiddance of killing a soul. Youth education on proper Islamic teaching is critical.

- Strengthening the work of the Directorate to fully engage with different stakeholders in creating innovative programmes for at-risk youth and the rehabilitation of returnees.

#### County CVE engagement forum monthly meetings

Monthly meeting to evaluate and plan on the strategies laid down in the action plan are key in the fight against terrorism in Mandera County. Mandera county Government in partnership with partners working on P/CVE have taken strategic role for the implementation of Mandera County Action Plan under the following strategic pillars (inter-faith, security, education, media and online, capacity building, women and legal and policy pillars ) that are under implementation.

The meeting opens up discussion by all the partners to deliberate on how to lobby and advocate for more funds in order for the successful implementation of all the strategic pillars, and synergize close working relations for all partners in CVE activities in order Promote accountable human security in Mandera County.

# Role of religious leaders and the community in de-radicalization and CVE



Participants during a training on impact of De-radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism.

**M**andera county government has strong working relation with the county Religious leaders.

These spiritual leaders have far reaching influence on the people of Mandera and can act as change agents where required. The religious Advisor of the county.

Dr. Yaseer who has vast experience and knowledge of the Islamic religion in partnership with the department of De-radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism, conducted various meetings and trainings for religious leaders in the hotspot Sub-counties of Mandera East, Mandera South, Lafey and Kotulo. The meetings and trainings were aimed at building the capacity of religious leaders on the new phenomenon:

Violent Extremism and Islamic perspective of the same.

Additionally, they were equipped with necessary knowledge on how to counter narratives that distort Islamic religion's perspective on

violent extremism and terrorism and also bring to the fore alternative narrative that will dissuade people from being indoctrinated by Al-shabaab and its ilk.

## Peace and Security

The participants were taken through major issues of De-radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism in the county and its impact on the development agenda. The views of the participants were:

- Violent Extremism was a creation of external people (foreigners-aliens).
- The religious leaders expressed fear and stressed clearly that they will not be able to discuss the issue openly in public but can contribute ideas and advise the government on how best to avert the menace.
- They correctly said that Islam does not condone killing and that the extremists misquote verses from the Holy Quran to suit their selfish needs and persuade gullible persons who have little Islamic Knowledge.

‘ The Quran extensively talked about Peace. Prophet Ibrahim (AS) preached peace prayed to Allah for peace. The Quran preaches peace. Prophet Yussuf (AS) also talked about Peace in Egypt when his brothers were coming.

- That it is a project aimed at creating disorder and confusion aimed at instigating violence between Muslims and Christians.
  - They strongly believe that the government is ill advised that some religious leaders are Al-Shabaab Sympathizers.
- They affirmed religious leaders' commitment in supporting the County Government in the fight against Violent Extremism.



# Mandera County CVE engagement forum meetings



The first Mandera County CVE Engagement Forum Meeting was held at Mandera County Secretary's Office on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 10:00hrs. The Members were welcomed and briefed that this was the second Mandera County CVE Engagement Forum (CCEF) meeting following the transitioning of Interim Steering Group into CCEF with the launch of Mandera County CVE Action Plan in April 2019.

It was agreed that in line with Mandera County P/CVE Action Plan 2019-2024; Mandera CVE Engagement Forum replaced Interim Steering Group (ISG) with the launch of Mandera County CVE CAP would comprise 15 members. Membership would constitute 15 former ISG members including 5 Secretariat members drawn from County, National government and CSOs.

It was noted that Mandera CVE CAP mandated the CCEF to implement the CVE CAP. It was reiterated that agreement reached in the first meeting was to hold the CCEF meeting every last Wednesday of every month. Due to the sensitive nature of subject matter P/CVE, it was discussed that membership to the CVE Engagement Forum be limited to the 15 individual members. Where a member is unable to attend meetings; the Secretariat was to be notified.

Members were also briefed that following the launch of CVE CAP, NIWETU had commenced post CVE CAP activities by funding 3 imple-

mentation partners. Focused Approach and Development Concern (FADC) implementing a program in Education pillar had already begun CVE knowledge skills in learning institutions targeting parents, students, teachers, BOM, and PTA

- i. Green Land Aid Development (GLAD) implementing a program in security pillar had also began training facilitators for the Community Security Relations on (P/CVE) project.
- ii. Women Care and Concern (WCC) implementing a project in women and gender pillar was in the process of beginning CVE knowledge and skills for women.

It was also reported that Racida was providing logistics support for the Champions for Change project in Elwak.

It was suggested that NIWETU and other stakeholders facilitate CCEF members training to make the forum more effective in implementing the CAP. Moreover, it was also suggested that a meeting between the CVE Engagement Forum and all P/CVE actors within Mandera be planned to enhance coordination.

It was also discussed that members' contribution to the CCEF went beyond participation in CCEF meetings to facilitating monthly meetings. It was thus agreed that members needed to contribute in facilitating meetings. Following the discussion, it was agreed National Cohe-

sion and Integration Commission would facilitate monthly meeting for the month of October, November and December.

The second County CVE Engagement Forum Meeting was held on 27th November 2019 at Granada Hotel. The meeting was attended by among others; Tom Otieno, the Ag. Chair representing the County Commissioner, Mohamed Adan Osman, the County Chief Officer for De-radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism, Deputy Chair, Bishar Dahir of NAPAD, Guyo Wako of NAPAD, Sabdow Dakane Osman of RACIDA, Ibrahim Awes Sheikh, Sub-county Religious Coordinator for Banisa, Ahmed M. Osman, Sub-county Religious Coordinator for Mandera East, Mohamed Abdinur Sheikh of MAMDEF, Shukri Diis Adan of NIWETU, Abdia Issack of C4CS SAMNET, Abass M Noor, Assistant Director for Conflict Management, Cohesion and Integration, Bashir Samow Maalim of Mandera Women for Peace and Development, Fatuma Ibrahim Hassan representing Women, Karuri Wahome from County Commissioner's office (Secretariat), Hassan Billow Zaytun Samow Ibrahim (Secretariat) Abdirizak S. Muktar, Assistant Director for De-radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism (Secretariat), Ahmed Mohamed Salat of NCIC, Hassan Billow, a community policing representative and Siyat Abdikadir, Sub-county Religious Coordinator for Lafey.

Members were briefed that there were ongoing efforts by NCTC to harmonize CAPs throughout



Kenya; currently; there were the first, second and third generation of CAPs with different number of pillars. Mandera County Action Plan will be harmonized and reduce the pillars into ten pillars.

Under the new harmonized CAPs; membership of CEF end CEF secretariat which is currently capped at 15 and 5 respectively would increase as needed to accommodate all partners in PCVE within Mandera. Similarly, it was suggested that the following partners be considered for addition to CCEF: Community policing chair, representative of inter-faith leaders, ATPU, MAMDEF, DDG, Depart of Cohesion and integration. The issue of rehabilitation, disengagement and fate of former Al-Shabaab returnees who had come back to Mandera arose with noticeable increase in number of apparent mad people in Mandera.

It was elucidated that the fate of returnees depended on the conduct of individual defectors, that returnees would first be investigated and vetted to identify who had committed crimes in Kenya or in other counties.

As such, the role of reintegration and rehabilitation would be spearheaded by NCTC and CSICI who would investigate and clear defectors from where CSO could take over rehabilitation and reintegration work. It was noted that several PCVE activities that took place during the month of November. It was reported that Department of De-radicalization members attended two workshops in Mombasa and Isiolo organized by Institute of Security Studies and Stronger Cities Network respectively.

It was reported that the department had begun efforts to have Mandera as part of Stronger Cities Network which currently it was not a member and therefore planning to register membership with strong cities network. Members were briefed that KECOSE- an organization based in Mombasa would run a P/CVE radio program in Mandera which would air on local Star FM with messages both in Somalia Gurreh Language. In addition, the organization would put up bill boards with P/CVE messages and department representative shared with them the messages that will be put into the billboard.

It was reported that Emerge CBO attended a Strategic Communication workshop by IGAD Centre of Excellence on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism ICEPCVE. It was reported that the workshop was aimed at empowering the ICEPCVE Network members from the 7 IGAD member states and Tanzania in developing and disseminating alternative and counter narratives videos. Participants produced a P/CVE video targeted at teenage students in secondary schools in North Eastern and upper Eastern Regions. It was reported that Emerge would share the video with member.

It was reported that the following partners were implementing respective activities:

NIWETU supporting GLAD for the implementation of MCAP and concluded CVE knowledge and skills for security and community in Takaba and Banisa Sub counties for subsequent CVE knowledge and skills in Lafey.



**SAMNET** –Running activities aimed at building trust between community and security agencies – Planning to organize CVE caravan to improve community and security in 2 sub counties and Mandera South is more of education supporting pupils and students for tournaments – these was affected by the closure of schools and postponed to next year.

**NAPAD**- Access to justice and legal aid – train TOTs- to train community alternative dispute resolutions – sensitizing the community

**Emerge** – running capacity building programs in Lafey and Mandera East Sub counties targeting women who play critical roles in detecting early warning and early signs of radicalization – The first activity was slated for December 2019.

County Government met with CVE coordination at Sub counties to register all Madrassa and Duksi so for records and planning.

The third County CVE Engagement Forum was held at Granada Hotel in Mandera on 29th May 2020. The meeting was funded by NCIC/ Interpeace and facilitated by Mandera County Department of De-radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism. Among the participants were the County Commissioner, Mandera County,

County Executive Committee Member for Public Service, Conflict Management and Devolved Units, County Head of Efficiency Monitoring Unit (EMU), County Head of Delivery Unit, Chief of Staff of the Governor, County Chief Officer for De-radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism, County Chief Officer for Conflict Management, Ag. Director and Assistant Director of De-radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism, County Police Commandant, County Criminal Intelligence Officer, Head of Border Police Unit and NCIC/ Interpeace staff among other participants.

The meeting deliberated on the following agenda:

- Welcoming Remarks by the County Chief Officer for De-radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism

- Opening Remarks by CECM, Public Service, Conflict Management and Devolved Units
- Opening Remarks by the County Commissioner
- Presentation of Achievements and Challenges in P/CVE in Mandera and Partners' Contribution by Assistant Director, De-radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism.
- Brief highlight of a meeting held in Mandera North by Sub-County security team, county government and NCIC/Interpeace
- Plenary Discussion and Way forward
- Closing Remarks by the County Commissioner.

#### Challenges Discussed

- Absence of cross-clan synchronized campaign to flush out fighters from others affected sub-counties. Due to this, resurgence of al-Shabaab presence in Mandera North is inevitable,
- Lack of engagement and disengagement plan for the militarized youth in Mandera North, which could be problematic if the governments promise to enlist the community volunteers into the National Police Reservists is not met.
- There is fear that those who led the campaign against the al-Shabaab might be victimized by the group.

#### Way Forward

- The need to enlist the NPR Plus into the National Police Reservists
- The volunteers to be provided with food and little stipends and provide for their families to motivate them to work tirelessly.
- The focus should be on hardware and all actors need to minimize the emphasis on software i.e trainings and meetings and invest in the volunteers who are in combat with Al-Shabaab.

The task that is carried out by volunteers in Mandera North should be replicated in all other hotspot Sub-Counties.

## SECURITY CHECK

# Golden Rules to help you stay away from wrong side of the Law

1. Never accept unknown person's request on facebook. You could be engaging a criminal without knowing.
2. Do not foolishly accept to be added in a WhatsApp group you have NO idea about. Whether it is for a wedding, funeral or any kind of contribution, if you were added by a friend of your friend's friend, exit without any apology. You could be contributing for a terrorist group. STOP being too generous.
3. Whenever you walk to any building, and you are asked by SECURITY personnel to leave your details behind, do so without argument. Observe and note in the visitor's book time in and time out. Sign in and sign out. Always check if you collected your ID. Never forget your ID or passport behind.
4. If you receive Mpesa money from a person you don't know, don't use the money. Report to safaricom and request for reversal instantly. It could be a trap from terrorists to divert investigations to wrong person.
5. Never give anybody your phone to call another person. I repeat NEVER. Even if they are your relatives.
6. Never allow anybody to use your phone to send someone else you don't know money. Please NEVER.
7. NEVER allow anybody to leave you any kind of luggage to hold for them even if it is for two minutes. Never, However genuine they could sound.
8. Don't reveal too much details about yourself, posting your photos on social media. Your details and photos could be used by criminals to commit crime and you will be in for a rude shock.
9. NEVER and I repeat NEVER buy phones from the streets. Only buy your phone from an authorized dealer, obtain a receipt and make sure they indicate on it date of purchase, imei and shop's details MUST be on the receipt. Keep that receipt safely.
10. If you will ever lose your phone, ID or passport, the first place to go to is the police station. Make sure you report loss of your phone or document. It is very important. If your phone or document will ever be used by criminals and you didn't report, you won't defend yourself in any way. Ignorance is No defense.
11. If anyone asks you for information and contacts of your friend or relatives and you don't know the person, don't be quick in sharing such information. Instead ask for his or her information first, then ask your friend or your relative if they know the person and ask them if you can share their information. Depending on their answer, Then share or don't.
12. Those in major towns like Nairobi, Mombasa etc. Don't allow yourself to be

stopped by anybody or suspicious looking people pretending to be asking for a given place or route. Instead directs them to police patrolling city streets and leave them immediately. You could be giving terrorists directions. Remember cameras are all over town and police will come for you in case they were terrorists. Cameras will show you talked with them.

13. Anytime you purchase a credit card to top up your credit, immediately you finish topping up, tear the credit card into pieces and dispose it. If terrorists get your used card, they will pick it and travel with it as far as they can. Commit terror and throw your used credit card there to confuse police. Remember, police will collect anything that can lead in investigation.

14. Never ever forward a message from WhatsApp group or Facebook without establishing and confirming the truth. You could be aiding terrorists to propagate terrorism. Remember, spreading false alarming information is terrorism in itself. Police will come for you.

## STAY SAFE

- I. Theory of Change
- II. Overarching Goal

The understanding of stakeholders in Mandera is that Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) requires a focus on the question of ideological influence from extremist

groups, the pre-dispositional factors of denial of human rights and basic services for the people of Mandera and the symbiotic relationship that Mandera and its residents have with Ethiopia and Somalia.

In terms of strategy, the CAP attempts to balance between the use of security-based counter-terrorism measures and community-led systematic preventive measures which directly address the drivers and dispositional factors of VE that have given rise to attacks, sympathy and/or silence to violent extremists' actions in Mandera County.

The findings from the baseline research and conversations with stakeholders indicates that the success of P/CVE in Mandera requires a common understanding that human security must take precedence over any state interventions and is at the heart of all P/CVE measures.

This calls for a government and legal order that puts people first, as well as for social cohesion and inclusive processes.

The stakeholders have adopted the following working definition for this Action Plan's overarching goal: "To promote 'accountable' stability in Mandera with a view to resolving and preventing armed conflict, protecting people from terror and laying the foundation for removing conditions for radicalization and violent extremism."





# Mandera in Dakar; Senegal



**C**ountering Violent Extremism in Africa: Good Practices & Innovations: State of the Art Conference. The conference was held from October 28 to 31, 2019 in Dakar, Senegal. Mandera County Government was represented by Assistant Director, De-radicalization and Countering Violent Extremism Mr. Albashir Adan (inset) who was a panelist in a discussion on their experiences in cooperating with the security sector on P/CVE efforts

The conference was facilitated by SSG Advisors (d/b/a Resonance, hereafter Resonance) and the United States Agency for International Development's Africa Bureau (USAID/AFR). Resonance and USAID/AFR organized this conference with input from the Global Center on Cooperative Security (GCCS) (<https://www.globalcenter.org/>); Hedayah (<http://www.hedayah.ae/>); the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) (<https://rusi.org/>); and the U.S Institute of Peace (USIP) (<https://www.usip.org/>).

The conference included a series of presentations, discussions, participatory exercises, and working groups, all structured around the theme of CVE in Africa: Good Practices & Innovations. Specifically, the conference goal was to share the experiences, lessons learned, and networks of researchers and practitioners from throughout East Africa and the Sahel regions. The purpose of the four-day conference was to engage on the topic of good practices and innovations related to Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) in African contexts.

The conference had an African-driven focus with the goal of sharing the experiences of researchers and practitioners from throughout East Africa and the Sahel regions. Participant selection was made with this African-driven focus in mind. A total of 65 participants from 20 countries attended the workshop. Of these participants, approximately 73% were African, coming from 18 countries across Africa. The Assistant Director was in three panels from Kenya who were asked to share their experiences in cooperating with the security sector on P/CVE efforts. Others were Luniya Msuku, Director, RUSI; Lucy Waitthaka, Programs Coordinator, Youth, Arts, Development & Entrepreneurship Network (YADEN). Mr. Albashir Adan led a discussion on county

government and its involvement in P/CVE efforts, presenting on how the Mandera County government has approached its work. Mr. Adan shared that Mandera is located at a triangular intersection with Somalia to the east and Ethiopia to the north.

This geopolitical context and its relevant sociopolitical conflicts are the primary lens through which Mandera County is often considered. For the CAP design, a baseline assessment was conducted in June 2018, which suggested that residents of Mandera blame radicalization and VE solely on outsiders, primarily Al-Shabaab.

The Kenyan National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism identified nine pillars as the core spheres where a counter-response to VE recruitment is required: 1) faith-based factors and ideologies; 2) arts and culture; 3) education; 4) psychosocial factors; 5) legal and policy framework; 6) media and online platforms; 7) training and capacity building; 8) political factors; and 9) security. The baseline survey then established the need for four additional pillars for Mandera County: 1) economic factors; 2) women and gender issues; 3) citizenship issues, and 4) the rule of law. Mr. Adan highlighted several examples of Mandera County's efforts under these pillars. Under Pillar 1, the county leadership coordinates with leading Muslim clerics to give concurrent teachings in mosques and Friday sermons and to assist them in speaking out against al-Shabaab and producing counter-narratives to the distortion of the Quran. For Pillar 9, the county is also working to promote dialogue between the public and the police forces through CEFs, training police reservists in community-oriented policing, and initiating other forms of civil-military coordination.

## Conference Takeaways

Throughout the conference, a series of trends and major takeaways emerged.

- It is necessary to thoughtfully consider the relationship between civil society organizations (CSOs) engaged in P/CVE programming and the security services that exist in a country. This interaction is both challenging and complex, but absolutely essential for the success of programs, especially in active-threat environments.
- P/CVE practitioners should map and

examine the social influences and social connections in the communities they are seeking to help. Understanding social influences and social connections helps

- 1) Deepen an understanding of the social context and 2) determine the tools needed to respond for P/CVE purposes.

- P/CVE programming should equally consider the role that women can play, both as victims and perpetrators of violent extremism (VE). Women can play a powerful role in preventing VE, but their voices must be empowered. However, P/CVE programs should not underestimate the possibility that women can equally be vulnerable to VE.

- In communities affected by much violence and upheaval, CVE programming should operate in a context that is 1) trauma-informed, 2) aimed at reconciliation, and 3) has a focus on restorative justice. CVE programs must speak to community healing and cannot solely address the rehabilitation and reintegration of perpetrators of violence.

- P/CVE programming will look different at the different levels of intervention: 1) individual, 2) community, or 3) national. While each program is unique and tailored to the local context, it is essential to reflect the principle of "Do No Harm" and to consider broader development goals.

- Multimedia tools are easily scalable and can be creatively employed for P/CVE purposes. Successful uses of multimedia require: 1) rigorous research and evaluation, 2) Deep knowledge of the target community, and 3) thoughtful dissemination strategies.

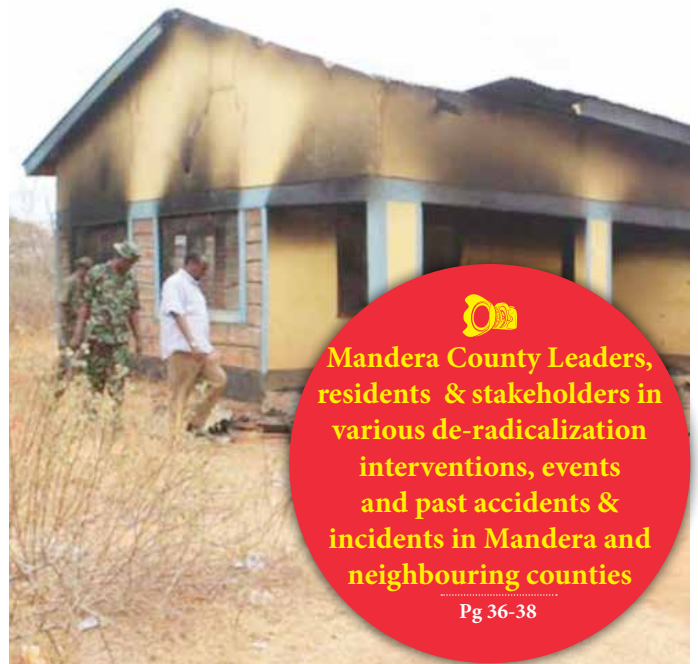
- Community knowledge transfer should ensure that the actions taken with groups of beneficiaries provide the information that was meant to be relayed.

It is equally critical to ground knowledge in the realities of the people who are being assisted and tailor activities to communities' input.

- It is vital to work with target communities on other issues beyond VE. Addressing the communities' other needs will increase the chances of success and can help to identify opportunities for cross over.







**Mandera County Leaders, residents & stakeholders in various de-radicalization interventions, events and past accidents & incidents in Mandera and neighbouring counties**

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**REINVENT**  
Ujuzi, Usalama, Uthabiti

