

# Support to the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Kenya



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

**“ ...our peaceful co-existence as communities is forever and paramount to our development.”**

Mr. Maulid Hassan,  
*Isiolo County Executive  
Committee for Education,  
Youth and Sports.*



**KENYA HAS BEEN** a frequent target of terrorist and extremist attacks since the Al-Qaeda 1998 bombing of the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, which killed more than 220 people. Between 2011 and 2015 there have been over 200 violent incidents involving explosives or automatic weapons linked to Al Shabaab. Many more have been thwarted by the security and intelligence agencies. According to the recent Kenyan Government’s “National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism”, there have been 900 fatalities and 6000 seriously injured Kenyans by terrorist related attacks since the 1998 U.S. Embassy bombing. The last deadly attack was that of 2 April 2015, where gunmen linked to the Al Shabaab stormed the Garissa University College in Garissa town, killing 148 students and teachers and over 80 injured.

The impact and cost of insecurity resulting from violent extremism is enormous and is a risk to Kenya’s development agenda. The radicalisation and violent extremist phenomena are disproportionately impacting youth and women from marginalised areas. Al Shabaab and other organised radicalised groups in the region have successfully capitalised on the perceived or real economic deprivation, marginalisation, poor governance, land issues, and poverty to radicalise and recruit the bulging youth population into violent extremist and terrorist acts.

## KEY ISSUES

- Over 70% of Kenya’s population is less than 30 years of age. There is high sense of disenfranchisement for the bulging youth demographic resulting from unemployment and limited livelihood choices and social and political marginalisation.

- Historical sub-national economic and social development disparities which existed before the institutionalisation of the devolved system of governance.
- Kenya’s porous borders with unstable states such as Somalia and South Sudan.

Following the launch of the Kenya National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism, launched by H.E. the President in September 2016; the Government of Kenya has demonstrated leadership and political will through the formation of a national taskforce, in March 2017, aimed at ensuring that all relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) acting within their mandates, will undertake coordinated efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism.

The UN Country Team, in line with the Delivering as One United Nations Development Assistance Framework seeks to work jointly, through our respective mandates, to achieve the overarching goal to strengthen the development pathways to livelihoods, strengthen community resilience; and disrupt opportunities for radicalisation and violent extremism.

## OUR FOCUS

UNDP interventions targets epicenter, spillover and at-risk communities where youth and women are at risk of both radicalisation and are victims of violent extremist acts. These communities include those that reside in: The Northern Kenya border regions (Garissa, Mandera, and Wajir); the Coastline border region of Kenya (Kilifi, Kwale, Tana River, Lamu, Mombasa) and parts of Nairobi County.

# Prevention of Violent Extremism in Kenya

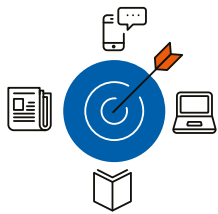
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF KENYA AND OTHER ACTORS, UNDP FOCUSES ON:

- Addressing the immediate and underlying causes of radicalisation and violent extremism, by supporting and complementing UNDP's 'core' programming in affected areas to address capacity challenges, challenges of public service delivery and endemic marginalisation and poverty.

- Enhanced coordination and capacity development of national and subnational institutions to understand and address the root causes of extremism.
- Building community resilience and rehabilitating affected communities through development approaches that seek to provide sustainable livelihood pathways and provide a counter-narrative to radicalisation and violent extremism.

DEVELOPMENT RESULTS ACHIEVED TOGETHER WITH GOK AND OTHER ACTORS, SUPPORTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

## Community level preventive Awareness creation and capacity building for the target hot bed counties



Assorted IEC materials with PVE Messaging produced and disseminated to target audience

**60**

Community mobilisers from Coastal Counties, Nairobi and Northern counties were trained as ToTs on countering violent Extremism

In collaboration with NCIC and BRAVE **3095** persons (1369 women and 1726 youth)

were reached through 30 community awareness meetings conducted in Nairobi, Wajir, Mandera, Garissa, Tana River, Lamu, Kilifi, Mombasa and Kwale. The cascading effect of community awareness on PVE is estimated as reaching

**1,934,375** indirect beneficiaries



**60**

Counsellors and Psychologists mobilised to enrich the rehabilitation and reintegration interventions Nationally

**270**

community members affected by violent extremism, 100 women capacity built on business skills and skills on alternative livelihood systems. 9 women groups (each with 30 members direct beneficiaries and 2,160 indirect beneficiaries) from Kwale county targeted with a pilot initiative through provision of startup capital for income generation as part of building resilience

## Media engagement for awareness creation among targeted communities



**13**

Senior Media Directors from 9 Media Houses (TV & Radio) mobilised and engaged for stronger collaboration in PVE and enhanced sensitivity in reporting on terrorism and violent extremism

**38** Editors trained on PVE and conflict sensitive communication and public messaging

**200,000**

community members reached through Interactive Community level PVE Radio campaign undertaken in 2 Coastal Counties of Mombasa and Kilifi



The capacity of 43 Journalist on sensitive and constructive reporting on terrorism and Violent Extremism enhanced, intending to create a critical mass of media community engaging the public on messaging

**62** 45 men and 17 women

persons engaged in local community media outreach interventions to prevent violent extremism in Mombasa and Kilifi counties.



**21**

infomercials produced and broadcasted by 8 community radio station with approximately 2.1 million reach with messaging on community level messaging



Support for development of guidelines and curriculum for counselling and psychosocial support for rehabilitation of reformed returnees

A set of Standard guidelines and curriculum for engagement with returnees in safe houses have been developed

Support for PVE Capacity Building for local Religious Leaders in Targeted Counties

**8** consultative meetings with 320 religious leaders from 8 counties (Lamu, Kwale, Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Mombasa, Tana River and Kilifi) completed, improving religious leaders' understanding on narratives and counter narratives and how to engage the community and work together with stakeholders on the PVE

**Learning and corrective institutions engagement for awareness creation and capacity building targeting high risk youth**

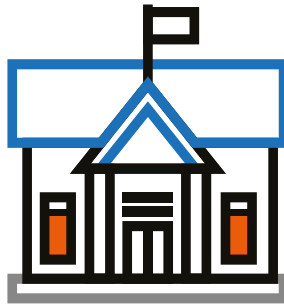


**75**

Deans of Students from all Kenyan universities sensitised on PVE and how to detect radicalisation in the institutions of learning



**Support PVE focused Collaborative dialogue forums for national universities.**



**2,300**

University and College Students from 27 universities and Colleges sensitised on PVE and their skills developed in line with resisting narratives and ideologies of violent extremism, as at risk youth

**129** (48 female and 81 male) university students from 23 universities engaged in university debate on the Role of university students in countering Violent Extremism



Capacity of **1,304** prison officers from 117 correctional institutions built towards improved handling violent extremist's convicts and remandees

**Support for reach out interventions targeting returnees, returnee families through capacity building for counselors and psychologists**

**42**

Counselors and psychologists (26 men and 9 women) and 7 religious leaders trained in countering violent extremism and rehabilitation of returnees and youth at risk



**33**



Security officials (26 men and 7 women) from inter-governmental security agencies capacity built towards development of Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) on PVE

**Engagement with Religious Organisations for Capacity Building and Awareness Creation**

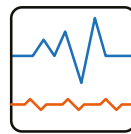
**60**

religious leaders from 8 counties (coastal and north eastern region) engaged in bolstering inter-faith collaboration on PVE and reduce inter-religious tensions

Grassroots symposiums for 60 madrassa teachers from Coastal and Northern Kenya Counties facilitated improving their understanding of narratives and counter-narratives on PVE



**Enhance Connection and linkages between local Researchers and Practitioners on PVE**



Commissioned a Baseline Assessment of Violent Extremism and Radicalisation trends in the Coastal and Northern Areas of Kenya targeting Wajir, Mandera, Garissa, Kwale, Mombasa, Kilifi and Lamu counties

Commissioned a research on understanding radicalisation and recruitment methods in Kenya



**40** (17 women and 23 men) secondary school drama teachers trained on PVE to enhance their understanding of PVE and develop products of awareness

Supported a study on assessing the extent of radicalisation in Kenya's institutions of higher learning and their capacities to identify violent extremist networks and prevent recruitment of students. 4 universities (University of Nairobi, Maseno University, Moi University and Pwani University) participated in the study



Commissioned a rapid assessment study of the prospects and challenges of democracy and social liberties facing the Mosques in the Coastal Counties in Kenya - A total of 123 mosques were visited (Mombasa 60, Kwale, 74, Kilifi 94 and Lamu 54)

**Support Creation of National Resource on Terrorism and PVE**



Commissioned a study on an Assessment economic impact of terror activities in specific locales



Facilitated development of a National Index on Terrorism, radicalisation and VE



Supported undertaking of Comparative Assessment of Disengagement and rehabilitation programs for returnees



In Kenya, under Delivering as One United Nations Development Assistance Framework seeks to work jointly, to achieve the overarching goal to strengthen the development pathways to livelihoods, strengthen community resilience; and disrupt opportunities for radicalisation and violent extremism.

CURRENT INTERVENTION

**The Preventing Violent Extremism Networks Together (PREVENT) project**

The project aims at enhancing lessons on building resilience of at risk communities against extremist narratives that can lead to violent extremism. The project aims to facilitate disengagement and reintegration through psycho-social support and rehabilitation of returnees, leverage conversations based on emerging research to promote social cohesion; and facilitate development- led pathways at national and county levels to promote alternative livelihoods. The PREVENT Project will apply community systems, inter-religious approaches and opinion leaders as agents of change; and facilitate effective collaboration with law enforcement agencies in both preventative and restorative interventions. It builds on the gains made under the Strengthening Community’s Resilience

Against Radicalisation and Violent Extremism Integrated Project whose results are outlined above.

**Project outputs:**

- National and County level institutions and communities are able to prevent and address violent extremism;
- Faith-based organisations and religious leadership advance a value-based system for community cohesion and preventions of radicalisation;
- Disengagement of At-Risk and radicalised youth and reintegration into communities;
- Community resilience against violent extremism entrenched; and
- Research and knowledge on PVE disseminated and applied to development.

OUR PARTNERS

Government of Kenya, SUPKEM, CSR BRAVE, NCIC, University of Nairobi.

UNDP PVE PORTFOLIO

