

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 violent 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. Attacks targeting government and security installations, shopping centres, public transport, universities and places of worship have left innocent people dead and hundreds of others injured instilling fear and a sense of insecurity and exacerbating inter-religious tensions. On 21 September 2013, an Al Shabaab attack on the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, followed by a four-day siege, left 67 people dead and hundreds of others injured. On 2 April 2015, gunmen, linked to the Al Shabaab, stormed the Garissa University College in Garissa town, killing 148 students and teachers and injured over 80.

The impact and cost of insecurity resulting from extremist violence and terrorism is enormous; and is a risk to Kenya's development agenda. The radicalization and violent extremist phenomena are disproportionately impacting youth and women from marginalized areas. Al Shabaab and other organized radicalized groups in the region have successfully capitalised on drivers of fragility to radicalise and recruit the bulging youth population into violent extremist and terrorist acts.

KEY ISSUES

- 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 Marginalization.

- Historical sub-national economic and social development disparities, which existed before the institutionalization of the devolved system of governance.
- Kenya's porous borders.

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 radicalization and violent extremism.

OUR FOCUS

The Project targets epicenter, spillover and at-risk communities where youth and women are at risk of both radicalization and are victims of violent extremist acts. These communities include: 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.

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

- Addressing the immediate and underlying causes of radicalization and violent extremism, by supporting and complementing UNDP’s ‘core’ programming in affected areas to address weak state capacity, poor service delivery and endemic marginalization and poverty.
- Enhanced coordination and capacity development of national and subnational institutions to understand and address the root causes of extremism.
- Building resilience and rehabilitating affected communities through development approaches that seek to provide sustainable livelihood pathways and provide a counter narrative to radicalization and violent extremism.

DEVELOPMENT RESULTS



Disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration of radicalised youth back into the society.

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law enforcement officers from correctional institutions sensitized and trained on CVE and to how to handle youth from violent extremist groups. This has improved law enforcers’ capacity to manage and undertake custodial rehabilitation of violent extremist prisoners contributing to improved success rate of rehabilitation

Review and development of appropriate policies and laws on PVE aligned to the country’s development strategic agenda at national and county levels focusing on alternative economic livelihoods.

Use of media platforms for messaging to counter negative narrative influenced by radical ideologies

Strengthening capacities of civil society and faith-based organizations to build community resilience to livelihood and other shocks that leave them at risk for radicalization and extremist narrative

OUR PARTNERS

Government institutions, Faith Based Organizations, and Institutions of Higher Learning



UNDP PVE PORTFOLIO

