

Youth Inclusive Mechanisms for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in the IGAD Region Dissemination Workshop Report

**April 16, 2019
Nairobi, Kenya**

Organisation for Social Science Research
in Eastern and Southern Africa
OSSREA



Introduction

The Inclusive Mechanisms for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in the IGAD Region project is a three-year action research project which is being implemented in two countries of the IGAD region namely Kenya and Uganda. The general objective of the research is to inform policy debates and practices in P/CVE interventions within the IGAD region in order to engage and empower youth, both male and female. The project specifically tries to:

- Identify and analyze the factors that predispose youth, male and female, to engage in VE in Uganda and Kenya.
- Identify avenues and strategies for creating as well as deepening interventions to engage and empower youth in CVE interventions in Kenya and Uganda.
- Analyze existing/emerging policies and practices related to CVE in the direction of creating safe spaces and sustainable opportunities for youth participation in CVE. And finally
- Establish (with respect to all the above) what has worked, where; and what has not worked and why.

With this objective in mind the research project has conducted inception workshop in both countries, baseline studies in both countries, analysis of data and report writing for both countries. As stated in the research communication and uptake strategy of the project proposal, we have engaged with the various stakeholders in both countries from the start of the project.

With this in mind, OSSREA conducted a regional dissemination workshop on April 16, 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya. The objective of the workshop was to disseminate the research findings of the project entitled “Youth-Inclusive Mechanisms for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in the IGAD Region” to various stakeholders in the IGAD region. Fifty-four people participated in the workshop. The participants came from IGAD, IDRC, Mayuge district government of Uganda, Gulu district government of Uganda, LPI, Center for Parliamentary Studies and Training, Parliament of Kenya, National Steering Committee on Peace Building and Conflict Management, Ministry of Interior, Youth Associations and NGOs, Universities, FBOs, Media and Private companies. The list of participants is found as an annex to this report. The participants came from various countries such as Malawi, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Somalia. The research findings and evidence from the field both in Kenya and Uganda were presented. Panel discussions on violent extremism in the IGAD region and presentations on the research evidence from Kenya and Uganda were conducted. Participants raised a number of questions and the researchers responded accordingly. Representatives from IDRC, IGAD CEWARN, Gulu and Mayuge Local Government of Uganda, Parliament of Uganda appreciated the work that is being done by OSSREA and commended the achievements so far and pledged to continue their support in the future. The workshop was successful in attaining the outcomes stipulated in the project implementation plan, which is to influence policy and practice towards youth-inclusive mechanisms in preventing and countering violent extremism in the IGAD region.

Presentations

1) Kenya Research study Presentation:

Dr Truphena, presented the Kenyan Research study, findings and recommendations. In her presentation she raised the following points:

In the introduction she raised about the youth bulge in the continent, the role of the youth in situations of social and armed conflict and violence, the fact that very little is known about the youth. She raised about the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy of 2006 which emphasizes the need for preventive measures to terrorism with efforts to address both real and perceived grievances using a human security approach. Violent extremism has become an area of interest to government, policy makers, civil society organizations, communities, media, private practitioners and academic researchers due to the need for building resilience to VE. Coordinated and harmonized efforts to CT and VE are underway among and between states, together with regional, continental and international organizations. She said that the root causes of violent extremism are complex, multi-faceted and intertwined, and relate to the structural and developmental environment in which radicalization and possibly violent extremism starts to take hold.

In the statement of the problem she stated the following points: A general lack of awareness of UN Strategy of 2006 on counter-terrorism; Exclusion of longer-term efforts to address the underlying conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; Oversimplifying and overgeneralizing data on the drivers of violent extremism and radicalization in the IGAD region- without empirical data, with most studies focusing on the role of Islam in violent extremism and youth unemployment and poverty as the main drivers of radicalization and violent extremism; Non- documentation of the extent to which intervention programmes have succeeded in P/CVE; Micro-level studies to uncover the incentives and disincentives for violence at individual and household level for male and female youth are scarce in the IGAD region; Comparative studies on youth and violence in Africa are limited, particularly those examining similar types of violence (e.g. violent extremism or communal violence) in multiple contexts; There is currently little academic research on violent extremism from research institutes and think-tanks; Interventions by state and non-state actors to prevent or counter youth from violent extremism have been understudied and undocumented; There is also a scarcity of information - ideally gender-disaggregated - about the daily lives of young people, in relation to their decisions on involvement or non-involvement in violence and terrorism; Moreover, there is limited data on their experiences, including the positive contributions of victims of violence and terrorism, dealing with trauma and loss, or building resilience against violence and terrorism.

In pathways and impact section of her presentation she highlighted that 1) An all-government and all-community approach to preventing and countering violent extremism that is context-specific, gender-sensitive, multi-layered and multi-pronged is essential to prevent and counter violent extremism. She also stated the need to build individual, household, community/local, national resilience to violent extremism through youth-led P/CVE actions, such as youth-friendly national action plans and policies, human-rights approaches to conflict resolution, tolerance and recognition of the potential of youth as agents of change to give the youth a voice and space and reduce their vulnerability to multiple drivers of violent extremism. 2) Participatory soft approaches to preventing and countering violent extremism such as teaching young people peace through civic engagement, skills for inter-cultural dialogue, human rights, dignity, tolerance and solidarity, trust, confidence, leadership, critical thinking, problem-solving, partnership, inclusion and peacebuilding by engaging youth as beneficiaries, partners and leaders in P/CVE through formal and informal youth-led multi-stakeholder collaboration that adopt continual learning and adjustment, monitoring and evaluation and go beyond community-based projects. Overall, she stated that we would have reduced attraction of

youth to radicalization and violent extremism and strengthened community cohesion and trust by supporting peace, protecting vulnerable communities, encouraging constructive ways to redress grievances, discrimination, violations, exclusion or any other rights abuses by delivering a more holistic focus on the political, economic, social and cultural factors necessary for the development of CT-P/CVE plans, legislation, strategies and human rights obligations.

In the voices from the field section of her presentation she stated a number of responses by young people to some the research questions that basically shows the frustration of the youth on government policies regarding the youth, the level of youth neglect especially in slum areas, corruption and the role of ethnicity in some of the youth employment programmes ec...

In the VE drivers section of her presentation she stated Kenya's geographical proximity to Somalia, corruption, Historical injustices, marginalization and the land question, Bad relationship between the police, youth and their communities, social media etc... were found to be the main drivers of VE among many other that were stated in the presentation.

Finally, she stated some of the recommendations: Ensure the Use of a Multi-level Engagement: An All-Government and All-Community Approach to Give Youth a Voice and Space in P/CVE; View and Engage Youth and Youth-led Organizations as Critical Trustworthy Beneficiaries, Partners and Leaders in a more Systematic Way; Prioritize, Fund and Invest in Formal and Informal Youth-led Multi-stakeholder Partnerships; Recognize and Address the Implementation of the Human-Rights Approach to P/CVE; Drive Forward and Ensure the Use a multi-stakeholder, multi-pronged and multi-layered approach in P/CVE for Drivers of Radicalization and violent extremism; Adopt and Integrate a Soft-Power Approach to P/CVE; Gender equality and empowering women; Measuring the Youth-Inclusive Mechanisms in P/CVE; Evaluating Youth-Inclusive Mechanism; Building Community Resilience to Youth Radicalization and VE

2) Uganda Research Study Presentation

Dr. Sunday Okello, presented the Uganda research study and its findings. He started by stating the VE pushing and pulling factors in the three research areas and of Uganda as a whole. In Kampala he stated some of the pushing factors: Corruption and police harassment on idle youth, gangs, drug abuse; High youth unemployment due to economic distress, few jobs, corruption; Frustration, anger and aggression and insensitivities towards policies and taking religious teachings seriously/violently; Ethnicity and structural marginalization/exclusion from jobs; Marginalization leading to alienation towards strict rules of the games: closed, specialized and spiritual. He also stated some of the pulling factors: Wide areas of socialization and domestication of youth; Freedom of worship leading to multiple unchecked environment; Social Media, Videos and corner shops and internet café; Politicians struggling to recruit youth; Revenge. In Mayuge some of the pulling factors identified are: Socialization and domestic dysfunction; Religious indoctrination; Economic Distress; Economic Distress; Political indoctrination; Revenge and some of the pushing factors are: Socialization and domestic dysfunction; Economic Distress; Ineffective policy; Structural marginalization/exclusion; Revenge. In Kitgum/Gulu: some of the pulling factors are: Modernity is making youth socialize out of their domestic norms: Capitalism, individualism and materialism; Too many religious groups who promise wealth to youth; Gaps exist for youth to follow the elders, and cultural / ethnic profiling; Too much concentration and

variation of political ideologies in Post-War society; Land grabbing and disputes – Nwoya highest; War in South Sudan; and the Pushing factors are: Rampant unemployment and stringent but persistent poverty; Diminished NGO world to alleviate economic problems and poverty; Ineffective government policy, like NUSAF and PRDP of N. Uganda; Historically structured marginalization and exclusion of North; Revenge to regain glory, assets.

In the section on policies to PCVE in Uganda; on the challenges he stated that, Youth are not aware of youth policies; Polices are heavily topped down; Lack of policies on returnees and proper integration of returnees; The policies are there, but not populated (Government officials); Resources are lacking to implement policies; Gendered policies on P/CVE must move from norm setting to norm implementations; Girl-Child education must include male. He also said that UN policies are being domesticated; Uganda is working towards a national youth policy on P/CVE.

In the section where he talked about what works for Uganda, he stated that: Strong Intelligence to detect early warnings and quick response from government; Strengthening the ability of citizen to report suspicious cases; Strengthening the judiciary. He also talked about what does not and did not work for Uganda. He raised the following points: Excluding the Youth - Youth will always find their own ways of socialising to feel sense of purpose; Policy Orientations - Make inclusive policy that involves youth from design, implementation and evaluation; Inclusive socio-economic development - Make youth productive in their own ways as they define development.

Finally in the section emerging trends in Uganda, he talked about: The youth buldge and the increase in awareness and involvement in political affairs; Land issues - Land grabbing in Gulu Apaa, Kampala; Mayuge Sugar plantation; Claiming past glory in Kasese-Mumbere; Pastoralist community vulnerability to VE - Karamoja Youth are changing lifestyle and the dangers to recruit these youth are emerging; The increasing role of women in violence - Where are the men? Rise of Nudity in Uganda; Rise of free churches - Young and old believe more in Pastors cases like Blessed Rice, Rasta Fara; The decreasing role of elders - Elders are being challenged by youth. No strict traditional values and norms; Individualism (One for himself/herself); Passive radicalisation - Hard to know who is burning inwardly with radical ideas, before it turns into action; Neighboring instability - Refugees, IDPs etc...

3) Highlights from the discussion:

Quite engaging discussions took place. A number of questions, comments and feedbacks were raised and the researchers responded to them. Some of the comments and responses are outlined below:

- Regarding dissemination of the findings beyond workshops we have invited the local media which we hope will air it. We also have the opportunity to use the IDRC online presence which advocates for an open access platform where we share the findings of the research globally. We also have OSSREA's website, social media platform where we share what has been discussed here.
- Regarding the research area selection: We were guided on hotspots and also the need to take security of the researchers was also very critical. By the nature of the research, some of the information that we got are not for the public, those people from the hotspots also were part of the research whereby they come and give the interviews where we were.

- Why do you see attacks in Moqadishu and not in Hargessa? Why Nairobi but not Addis Ababa
- You only focus on religious attacks and not others like politically motivated ones: We have raised in the presentation that there is no single driver of VE. Political ideology is one of them.
- Youth out of school is not covered in the research: The research does not target only students but those who are out of school also.
- Who benefits the most from terrorism activities and what does this benefit look like: It was not part of the research question? It needs a whole research where by others can do and add to what we have done here guided by our research questions.
- The role of university students in radicalisation and VE: The commission of university education has promised us to supply us with the data and we are still waiting for that. Once we get the data we will incorporate it in our report.
- We need all government all community approach to find a common ground in harmonising interventions towards preventing and countering violent extremism through youth-inclusive mechanisms.
- What is the plan for implementing the recommendations? We are in the process of developing a training manual based on the research findings. Based on that we will have trainer of trainers and learning alliances to influence practice and policy in this regard. We are also working with both governments in providing them research evidence so that policies and practices align with the evidence.
- Counter narratives are not working so how can we use alternative narratives. Any evidence on that? One of the modules in our manual will be on counter narratives and alternative narratives.
- The issue of stereotyping especially the issue of the Muslim community
- Best practices exist and they have not been shared especially the once which are building community resilience
- The youth in Garissa feel that the government is not for them but against them. The interventions at the community level is bridging the gap between the government and the youth. How do you ensure that the opportunities created by the government are benefiting the youth directly.
- The youth programmes in the counties and the funds provided by the same are channelled through corruption and based on clans.
- Did you have the opportunity to interview returnees? What make them to come back?
- The role of parents in the lives of their children
- The role climate change plays in violent extremism is related to the challenge for resources
- Life skills or soft skills will really help in reducing the vulnerability of the youth to violent extremism.
- The preventing violent extremism should emphasis in schools and learning institutions because that is where prevention can be done and that where information takes place.

- The participants from government especially the county commissioner of Nairobi have said that our offices are open and we are willing to collaborate with anyone of you on issues of violent extremism
- So many prophets in Uganda make the youth to believe that they can make quick money, become rich, young people have flooded these churches
- Young people do not care about the future. They sold their land and when asked why? they said our future is in the coffin. The frustration level is this much.
- The governor of Gulu in Uganda said the approach we are following as Government is a fire brigade approach instead of a solutions-oriented approach.
- Some government programmes can turn into something that force the youth to turn to violent extremism. We need to design those programmes well, not to create such kind of issues.
- What in poverty or unemployment leads the youth to violent extremism? Since poverty was always with us. What changed now. Researchers said a lot has changed beginning with the awareness level of the youth among many others
- How are the youth involved in the design of policies that concerns them?
- A participant said In North Kenya in a pub owned by a woman, she was told that If a person comes for a drink and have nothing to pay, they exchange bullets instead showing the role women play in violent extremism.
- For those who say the youth does not listen to their elders she said are the elders ready to listen to the young people? Are we ready to listen to one another?
- Young people do not want to be consumers of youth programmes they also want to be producers of the same programmes.
- Young people want to have a standalone ministry not like the one in Kenya which is the Ministry of public service, youth and gender affairs

4) Media and communication

Various infographics on the research area, research process, drivers of VE, state and non-state interventions towards VE were displayed in the conference hall and were visited by participants. This helped in initiating discussions their by in the process helping the participants to understand the research and its findings. In addition to that a short video on the research journey, which narrates about the activities conducted by the research team to reach at this level, was also shown to participants. A short video of some of the youth who participated in the workshop and some highlights of the workshop are available at OSSREA's YouTube Channel. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to watch the videos. [CLICK HERE](#) to see the Twitter MEMENT for the event.

Programme Agenda

Time	Activity	Responsibility	Expected Outputs/Outcomes
8:30 – 9:00	Arrival and Registration	Mr. Alemu, Mrs. Mistre	Registration forms completed

Time	Activity	Responsibility	Expected Outputs/Outcomes
9:00 – 9:10	Welcome remarks	Dr. Truphena	Brief remark about OSSREA and the Research
9:10 – 9:20	Participant introduction	All participants	Introduction of participant
9:20 – 9:30	Brief Remarks - IDRC	Dr. Martha Mutusi	Brief Remark about the IDRC CVE Cohort
9:30 – 9:50	Brief Remarks by Partners (IGAD, PeaceNet, Youth Initiatives Kenya)	IGAD, PeaceNet, Youth Initiatives Kenya	Brief remarks by IGAD, PeaceNet and Youth Initiatives Kenya
9:50 – 10:00	Short video on Research Journey Highlights	Mr. Alemu	Participants will have a feel of the research journey in Kenya and Uganda
10:00 – 10:30	Health Break, Exhibition and Group Photo	All Participants	Learn more about the project and its findings and networking opportunities
10:45 – 11:30	Presentation of research findings from Kenya	Dr. Truphena	Participants will be informed about the current evidence on VE
11:30 – 13:00	Panel Discussion on the findings	Discussant – IGAD Panelist: Dr. Truphena, Prof. Sunday	Discussions and inputs from participants to inform the research evidence on VE in Kenya and Uganda
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	All Participants	
Time	Activity	Responsibility	Expected Outputs/Outcomes
14:00-14:45	Presentation on the research findings from Uganda	Prof. Sunday	Participants will be informed about the current evidence on VE
14:45 – 15:00	Health Brake	All	
15:00-16:30	Panel Discussion	Discussant – IGAD	Discussions and inputs from participants to

Time	Activity	Responsibility	Expected Outputs/Outcomes
		Panelist: Prof. Sunday Dr. Truphena	inform the research evidence on VE in Kenya and Uganda
16:30-16:45	Event evaluation form	Mr. Alemu	Event evaluation form will be completed
16:45-17:00	Wrap up	Dr. Truphena, Prof. Sunday	Participants will be informed about the way forward

Participant List

No.	Full Name	Organization	Email
1.	Salim M. Charo	CIPK Nairobi, Chairman`	SALIMCHARO@GMAIL.COM
2.	Aurela Adhiambo	Arigatov RPP Youth Leader	Adhlamboarelia049@gmail.com
3.	Zaina kombo	Youth alive! Kenya	Zaina.kombo@youthlivekenya.org
4.	Natasha Ruja	Youth alive! Kenya	Natasha@youthalivekenya.org
5.	Rejoice Eve Namale	Youth alive! Kenya	rejoice@youthalivekenya.com
6.	Umulger Adam	UMITA	umyadam@gmail.com
7.	Dr. Buchere Philip	CPST	ipssbuchere@gmail.com
8.	Henry Lessina	CPST	Lessihenry66@gmail.com
9.	PAUL K. NGETICH	PARLIAMENT OF KENYA	Palngetch@yahoo.com
10.	Mohamed Ismail	Twinstars. Consultancy Limited	mahamadhey@gmail.com
11.	Zahara Ramadhani	NSC.PBNCN	Zairana.nasib@nscpeace.go.ke

12.	Mercy Letting	Peacenet Kenya	Mercyletting8@gmail.com
13.	Mariam Mohamed	Interior	Mariam.ago@nscpeqch.go.ke
14.	Dr. Ruth Choga	BOMET Univesity Colleague	jepkemboichogo@gmail.com
15.	Dr. Sunday Okello	IGAD-CEWARN	Sokelloangoma@gmail.com
16.	Molly Raichench	PeaceNet Kenya	mkraichnah@gmail.com
17.	Wamjiru Ngumi	Nwafviva Mwer Zamgu	mmwemzamgu@gmail.com
18.	UMULKHER HARVN	KESHO ALUMANCE ORG	u.harun@keshoalliance.com
19.	HAJJI OMAR BONGO DUCTOOR	MAYUGE DISTRICT YOUTH GOV'T	bongokin@yahoo.com
20.	FARIDA ABDI	Youth in Governance	ablfarida@gmail.com
21.	SOLOMON ONYANGO OJALO	THE GLUNCODE GROUP	solomonojalo@gmail.com
22.	Hadye Abdllahi	Africa Youth Trust	hodye@africayouthtrust.org
23.	Carine Umutamiwace	FOOTPRINTS FOR CHAN GE	cu@footprint4change.org
24.	Hassan abdikadir	Youth Initiatives Kenya	Hassan.abdikadir@gmail.com
25.	Laura Keziah	Youth Alive Kenya	Laurakez.lk@gmail.com
26.	Edhar Ochienj	F.P.R.S.C. kibera	oeditar@gmail.com
27.	RAMATA THIOUNE	IDRC	RTHIOUNE@IDRC.CA
28.	ABDURAHIM HANO	Garissa University	hamorahman@gmail.com
29.	Adem Musa	Garissa University	Amusa064@gmail.com
30.	Tess Nchichu	Common Ground Centre	tessndrichu@gmail.com
32.	Edith Onyango	PeaceNet Kenya	edithonyango@gmail.com
33.	Dosoga Ericu	YADEY	evickeyacda@tafrica.org

34.	Albert Nashon	THE SLUMCODE GROUP Founder	albertnashon@gmail.com
35.	Abisage were ouma	Tropical Inst. Of Comm. Health Dev. (TICJH) Research	abiooma@gmail.com
36.	Peacs Were	FAIR TRADE SOFTWARE FOUNDATION	peros@ftsf.ev
37.	Euelyn Tiondi	Self	lyntiondi@gmail.com
38.	Mohamed Abdilahe	Agents of Peace	Moha.razle@gmail.com
39.	Tigist Hailu	IGAD-CEWARN	Tigist.hailu@cewarn.org
40.	Voda Wannu	Life & Peace Institute	Nada.wanni@gmail.com
41.	Lina Zedriga Waru	PeaceNet/RAEI/ Women Peace & Society	linazedriga@yahoo.com
42.	Prof. Peter Barasa	OSSREA-LIASION OFFICER- KENYA	barasap@gmail.com
43.	GRAYSON MARWA	SIASA PLACE-PROSPOR OFFICER	manwagryson@SRSpker.com
44.	Ojara Martin Mapenduzi	GULU DISTRICT LOCAL GOV'T	ojaramapendizi@gmail.com
45.	Dr. Truphena E. Mukuna	OSSREA	turumukuna@yahoo.com
46.	Henry stamley Ogola	The Youth Congress	henry@theyouthcongress.org
47.	Kepha Nyandeja	Life skills Promotors	kepha@nextenterprise.co.ke
48.	Abdulahe Sherif	THE NEXT BIG THINGS ENTRPRISE LTD.	abdulahe@nextenterprise.co.ke
49.	Hamud Osman	IGAD-CEWARN	Hamud.osman@cewarn.org
50.	Dr. Martin Mbewa	CPST-parliament of Kenya	Dr.mbewa@gmail.com
51.	DIANA KORIR	NERAN-YOUTH Research KAA	Dianakorir.dk@gmail.com
52.	Alemu Tesfaye	OSSREA	alemu@ossrea.net
53.	Belete Demissie	OSSREA	belete@ossrea.net
54.	Mistre Zergaw	OSSREA	mzergaw@ossrea.net