



BACKGROUND

The National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism (NSCVE) identifies the main threat to Kenya as violent extremism “justified and perpetrated by the Salafi-Jihadi ideology that is embraced by Al - Shabaab (Harakat al-Shabaab al-Mujahidiin), al-Qaeda’s affiliate in the Horn of Africa, and other terrorist organisations such as Da’esh (ISIS) that seek ‘entry’ into the Horn of Africa”. The Strategy notes that these groups exploit grievances emanating from real or perceived local disaffection and alienation from the state and mainstream political life. In addition to these groups, there are also home-grown violent extremist (VE) groups such as the Mombasa Republican Council (MRC). The MRC have exploited frustrations and grievances over land issues and the perceived dominance of ‘outsiders’ over the local economy at the Coast.

COUNTRY SUPPORT MECHANISM (CSM)

In Kenya, CSM is chaired by the National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC) and includes representatives from the Ministry of Interior, county governments, donors, and independent think tanks. CSM provides strategic direction for the programmes, ensure results and progressively inherits ownership of funding community-level efforts to prevent violent extremism.

OUR INVESTMENT STRATEGY IN KENYA



Support the localisation and implementation of NSCVE and the county action plans to prevent violent extremism.



Support the rehabilitation and reintegration of disengaged former members of VE groups.



Enhancing engagement and trust between community members and authorities.

2018

Kenya became a GCERF partner country in 2018

USD 13 M

GCERF’s total investment in Kenya to date

USD 1.6 M

Active grants value

3

Current civil society partners

DRIVERS OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Youth unemployment

Perceived marginalisation

Lack of trust between community members and security actors

GCERF FOCUS AREAS AND POPULATION GROUPS IN KENYA



LOCATIONS

- 1 Mandera
- 2 Marsabit
- 3 Wajir
- 4 Tana River
- 5 Lamu

POPULATION GROUPS

Government entities (including security actors)

Women, boys and girls in vulnerable communities and at-risk of radicalisation

Individuals who have disengaged from VE groups and their support networks

Frontline workers (psychologists, counsellors, probation officers)

Influencers

KEY RESULTS*

13,500+

Community members, religious leaders, women and youth-at risk of radicalisation trained in conflict resolution to address grievances before VE groups can exploit them

8,500+

Security actors, government officials, religious leaders and community members engaged through dialogue forums to strengthen trust and essential for community safety and policing efforts

1600+

Young people at-risk of radicalisation equipped with vocational skills and entrepreneurship support to reduce their vulnerability to recruitment into violent extremism

1500+

Paraprofessionals, psychologists, counsellors and community leaders trained for reintegrating disengaged individuals

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For a long time, fear and rumours have created distance between the community and security officers. This dialogue allowed us to speak openly, and understand the planned security operations. Now, we patrol together and share timely intelligence. The gaps between youth and police are gone. Now, we work together to make Mandera safe.

-Community leader, Mandera

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Scan the QR code for additional information or visit our website: www.gcerf.org/kenya/



*Cumulative figures from 2018 until December 2025