

<p>IMPLEMENTED BY</p> <p>Act, Change, Transform! (Act!)</p> <p>Sub-grantees: CEED, CICC, FDD, HURIA, KYBI, Midrift Hurinet, P4T, SND, SOWED-ACES, TRPRD, VOPA, WOKIKE, Worthy Vision, YADEN and YOWPSUD.</p>	<p>PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen the capacity of County Engagement Forums and increase the leadership and coordination capabilities of lead civil society organisations. 2. Enable economic opportunities for women and youth. 3. Improve relationships between community members and security actors. 4. Supporting efforts to mainstream PVE within wider developmental and security structures. 	
<p>AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION</p> <p>15 Counties: Garissa, Isiolo, Kiambu, Kilifi, Kwale, Lamu, Mandera, Marsabit, Meru, Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru, Nyeri, Tana River and Wajir.</p>	<p>GRANT AMOUNT</p> <p>USD 3,950,000</p>	<p>PERIOD OF THE GRANT</p> <p>October 2021 – March 2025</p>

Key Results

- The programme supported the consultation process to inform the review of the National Strategy, resulting in the **National Strategy to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism (NSPCVE) 2025 – 2030**.
- Over **9,000 individuals** were directly reached through sub-grants, and **1,455 youths** were connected to vocational and economic opportunities, enabling their economic integration
- Nearly **380 members of County Engagement Forums (CEFs)** were trained in project management, M&E, advocacy, and PVE. All 16 lead CSOs improved their organisational capacity and successfully integrated PCVE into their programming, including humanitarian responses in climate-affected countries.
- **Over 240 people** were trained on do no harm principles and conflict sensitivity. This meant that CEF members in all 15 counties are able to integrate these approaches into their activities.
- As a result of security and community engagement activities, Meru and Lamu counties reported **improvements in trust**, with increases of 15% and 12%, respectively.
- 95% of **women engaged by the programme reported enhanced capacities in PCVE**. Trained women chiefs in Huria have been able to create awareness on the prevention of violence among more than 300 youths. The women chiefs' network has engaged young people youth on entrepreneurial opportunities and alternatives to involvement in criminal activities.
- In Nyeri, 15 psychosocial support providers and government officials, and 167 community members were **trained in psychosocial support**. A comprehensive referral guideline for violent extremism victims was also developed, and **27 ward-level networks of psychosocial service providers were created**. This has led to increased community-level capacity to provide immediate support to minor mental health issues and increased awareness in the community of trauma and its effects on mental health.



NSPCVE Review National Validation Conference in Nairobi.



Community engagements in Tana River County

- Four volleyball tournaments were held involving 10 security agencies. During the tournaments, **1,000 people were reached with PCVE messaging**, and mainstream media coverage increased this reach further. Subsequent efforts to increase information sharing between communities and security officers, helped improve coordination between security agencies as well as increased awareness of VE and reporting mechanisms.
- The programme succeeded in raising awareness about the threat of violent extremism, **with 65% of the surveyed population reporting being aware**. In many counties, there was a marked increase in the community's understanding of VE, its drivers, and its impacts. For instance, counties such as Lamu, Isiolo, and Meru saw notable improvements in awareness levels, with increases of up to 20%

Lessons Learnt

- Fostering social cohesion requires more than just isolated dialogue forums or awareness campaigns; it needs to be embedded within sustained, trust-building efforts.
- While increased awareness of violent extremism was a positive outcome, it did not always translate into higher levels of engagement with security actors or a willingness to report violent extremist activities. This gap indicates that awareness alone is insufficient to drive behaviour change. Fear of retaliation, mistrust in law enforcement, and concerns about confidentiality remain significant barriers that necessitate long-term and holistic interventions.
- Strengthening CEF governance, aligning operations with county planning and budgeting frameworks, and reducing dependency on external actors are essential to building resilient local responses to violent extremism.
- Tackling economic drivers of violent extremism requires more than one-off initiatives. It calls for integrated, inclusive economic empowerment strategies that are responsive to the diverse needs of marginalised groups and that build sustained connections between skills development, access to capital, and viable economic opportunities.
- While digital engagement was leveraged as a tool for countering extremist messaging, the potential for it to increase youth's exposure to harmful online content had to be carefully managed in the absence of adequate digital literacy training or safeguards.

Sustainability

The programme's sustainability approach focused on institutionalising capacity, fostering local ownership and securing multi-stakeholder buy-in.

- Institutional capacity building, through organisational capacity assessments and institutional improvement plans, strengthened the governance, leadership, and operational capabilities of CEF's lead CSOs, ensuring long-term effectiveness.
- By strengthening the CEFs abilities to design and implement County Action Plans (CAPs), the programme fostered local ownership and placed community-driven solutions at the core.
- Partnerships between lead CSOs, government agencies, the private sector and religious leaders ensured resource pooling and aligned efforts with national strategies like the NSPCVE. Advocacy for policy frameworks aimed to secure long-term legal basis and sustainable financial support for PCVE (e.g., the County PVE Model Bill and the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Management of CAPs).