



Midline Assessment Report for PROACT: Community-Based Interventions Program in Kenya

Acknowledgments

The Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) in partnership with Act Change Transform (Act!) is leading an innovative community-based intervention program in Kenya entitled PROACT.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Act! | Act Change Transform |
| CAPs | County Action Plans for Prevention of Violent Extremism |
| CBOs | Community-Based Organizations |
| CCs | County Commissioners |
| CEFs | County Engagement Forums |
| CHVs | Community Health Volunteers |
| CIDPs | County Integrated Development Plans |
| CSOs | Civil Society Organizations |
| CVE | Countering Violent Extremism |
| FBOs | Faith-Based Organizations |
| FGDs | Focus Group Discussions |
| HURIA | Human Rights Agenda |
| GBV | Gender-Based Violence |
| IPL | Isiolo Peace Link |
| JAC | Jamii Action Centre |
| IWOF | Isiolo Women of Faith |
| ISD | Institute for Strategic Dialogue |
| KIIs | Key Informant Interviews |
| M&E | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| MIDRIFT HURINET | Midrift Human Rights Network |
| NCTC | National Counter Terrorism Center |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| P/CVE | Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism |
| SCN | Strong Cities Network |
| TOT | Training of Trainers |
| VE | Violent Extremism |

Executive Summary

The US Department of State, through the Bureau of Counterterrorism, has funded the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) to implement a program that is addressing polarization, radicalization and extremism in Kenya (PROACT). The PROACT program focuses on three counties: Isiolo, Kwale, and Nakuru. PROACT's implementing partners include Isiolo Peace Link (IPL) in Isiolo County, Human Rights Agenda (HURIA) in Kwale county, and Midrift Human Rights Network (MIDRIFT HURINET) in Nakuru County.

PROACT is developing and implementing a sustainable, community-driven strategy to support local stakeholders in identifying early warning signs of terrorist radicalization within local contexts. The program is piloting a community team's model. This model was formed by multidisciplinary stakeholders and seeks to build trust between relevant community members and service providers in community intervention teams while responding to vulnerabilities that increase the risk of violence. Through tailored training and technical assistance, PROACT builds and strengthens community stakeholders' capacities and confidence in order to respond effectively to terrorist radicalization and recruitment.

PROACT builds upon ISD's expertise with the Strong Cities Network (SCN), developing multisectoral Local Prevention Networks (LPNs) in Jordan, Lebanon, and North Macedonia. Additionally, PROACT supports and strengthens existing structures and strategies such as County Action Plans (CAPs) for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) and its associated County Engagement Forums (CEFs) to build local capacities for community-designed and delivered P/CVE interventions.

During the first year and a half, the program has focused on creating and strengthening community teams to engender a community-led and sustainable model that can reduce polarization, radicalization, and extremism. The program has also successfully enhanced the capacities of community and county stakeholders to respond to polarization, radicalization, and extremism. As a result, the project has managed to improve the operational structures of CEFs and build their capacity. It has also strengthened the capacity of community teams in preparation for their engagement roles within the community.

Key Findings

Improved community and local actors' knowledge and understanding regarding polarization, radicalization, and extremism. **Community team members' knowledge and skills on P/CVE, psychosocial issues, and facilitation methods increased to 90.7%** after the training from a baseline of only 18.4%.

It is clear from the assessment that the PROACT program established or strengthened P/CVE governance structures with the formation of CAP pillars and their leadership¹. The membership of community teams and CEFs was rigorously selected and based on institutional representation, which is good practice for sustainability as it generates greater ownership. However, on the downside, it was observed that a lack of consistency in CEF membership affects institutional memory and business continuity. The development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the CEFs by the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) will mitigate this.

From interviews with various respondents, the study established that **local actors, including**

¹The CAPs are organized around key priority areas of interventions named pillars. Each county has its own set of pillars but the overarching ones are Psychosocial, Education, Political, Media and Internet, Ideology/Religion etc. Each pillar is headed by a pillar head to coordinate the pillars' interventions and report to the CEF that is more of a policy organ

community teams and the private sector, are aware of and have started supporting P/CVE activities, an indicator of the future sustainability of the program. Respondents also indicated that NCTC and county administration had recognized the community teams model as a viable, community-based, and sustainable initiative for dealing with Violent Extremism (VE) in counties. Through efforts by various pillars, CEFs have also started institutionalizing local partnerships and coordination efforts.

Interview respondents indicated that there is still little awareness of communities' role in P/CVE at the community level. Therefore, there is a need to build more security actor trust for community-led processes in P/CVE, which could be achieved by reducing risks to program beneficiaries and enhancing referral support. **PROACT sub-grants have started work with communities to strengthen community security relations, psychosocial care, and other soft interventions.**

Anecdotal data indicates a change in the recruitment strategies used by terror networks, and this calls for a review of approaches for some program interventions to ensure the goal of increased community resilience against radicalization and recruitment remains achievable. **Face-to-face recruitment by VE groups is becoming riskier due to enhanced security surveillance, leading to decreasing in-person recruitment.** Simultaneously, the use of technology or online recruitment is increasing as more youth access Android phones; this highlights the need for more technological/online approaches to curb radicalization.

While there is a sense from respondents that most of the funding for P/CVE activities comes from external donors, a deeper analysis as well as discussions with national and county leadership indicate that government contributes indirectly to P/CVE. Through investment in security interventions and awareness meetings, TVET, agriculture, and youth and women affirmative funds, government implements programs that address structural causes of P/CVE within the security, economic and education pillars. Nonetheless, although affirmative funds are allocated within national and county governments to address youth economic issues, further advocacy with these governments is required to ensure that some funds are tailored to address those youth most at risk of recruitment specifically. There is also a need for more financial support to coordinate P/CVE work by the national and county governments.

Recommendations

Recommendations for governments (national and county – including CEF)

- 1 The government (at national and county levels) needs to ensure optimal implementation of the CAP by meaningfully involving stakeholders and actively supporting or participating in P/CVE activities, meetings, and forums. These stakeholders include CEFs, community teams, education institutions, religious leaders, security officers, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), mainstream media, and social media platforms. This involvement will expand resource mobilization, both monetary and in-kind, to enable broader coverage in preventing radicalization and recruitment into violent extremist groups.
- 2 County governments need to embed more county funding for P/CVE initiatives in legislation. More funding should be allocated to the CAP through integration or mainstreaming CAP priorities in County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs).

Recommendations for ISD/SCN and partners

- 1 The community teams model needs to be better promoted at the national level to garner more support from security agencies and reduce risks to beneficiaries.

- 2 The program needs an extension; critical transformation requires adequate time, and partners and donors should ensure sustainable engagement. Additionally, more time will allow county partners to implement the community model and assess its effectiveness.
- 3 There is a need for continuous monitoring, mentorship, and support of community teams to ensure the quality of project delivery and measurement of results.
- 4 For better coherence and results at the county level, the county CSO leads need to offer more coordination and technical support to innovation grantees, as well as frequent visits by the ISD/SCN field team.
- 5 There is a need to create more awareness at the community level of community teams' activities. A grassroots focus ensures that communities are conscious of and utilize the interventions/services. Chiefs and assistant chiefs, religious leaders, and Nyumba Kumi² elders can be used to generate this awareness.
- 6 The program must create links and synergies with other P/CVE donor-supported programs, for example, CEF coordination meetings and community pillar activities supported by Resilience, Peace and Stability (RPS) that is funded by the Danish Embassy, the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) and Tony Blair Institute for global change (TBI).
- 7 There is a need to enhance cross-learning between these PROACT programs in the three counties and programs implemented by other partners in other counties in Kenya; this would allow for the replication of best practice in each county, especially concerning private sector engagement and mainstreaming P/CVE in county legislation.

Recommendations for P/CVE stakeholders in general

- 1 Stakeholders, including donors, CSOs, and government, could, if an opportunity arises, effectively involve community teams in supporting 2022 peaceful elections by:
 - a Creating awareness and engagement among youth on social responsibility and positive involvement during the electioneering period.
 - b Working with community and security agencies to address the gang violence issue.
 - c As a recommendation for further work, especially for the education pillar, there is a need to fast-track a curriculum on P/CVE for schools and tertiary institutions, including universities.

²Nyumba Kumi is Swahili for 'Ten homes'. It is a security arrangement where neighboring homes join to elect a leader and collectively manage security concerns in their neighborhood, working closely with government and local actors

Introduction

This midline assessment, the second stage of community-driven research activities conducted in the three counties, gauges progress PROACT has made on community teams and county P/CVE governance structures. It identifies lessons learnt and recommends improvements towards the realization of project objectives.

The study aimed to:

- 1 Establish a midline assessment of progress regarding community and local actors' knowledge and understanding of polarization, radicalization, and extremism.
- 2 Establish a midline assessment of community and local actors' knowledge of their roles in intervention and prevention activities.
- 3 Provide data and information on the current program approach, any interventions, and any adaptations required moving forward.
- 4 Establish progress of the overall program and individual sub-grant projects.
- 5 Establish additional baselines for concluding the program's effects at the mid-term evaluation stages.
- 6 Provide information, lessons, options, and recommendations to inform any revisions and implementations of P/CVE interventions conducted by sub-grantees and other actors.

The midline assessment focuses on the outcomes of:

- Training community teams in content, skills, effectiveness, and efficiency on P/CVE, psychosocial support skills, and M&E.
- Engagement with CEF members regarding training on M&E, private sector stakeholders engagement, and regular meetings.

This has been done by:

- Assessing community teams' current knowledge, skills, and practices on P/CVE, including psychosocial skills, as trained by ISD/SCN, against previous capacities. The study also considers the attitudes of trained community teams and CEFs regarding collaborations that address and prevent radicalization and recruitment of people into extremist groups and causes.
- Assessing the institutional structures or make-up of CEFs and community teams. The study also considers what support is available to enable them to address radicalization, extremism, polarization, crime, and violence.

Furthermore, the study investigated factors affecting the implementation of PROACT and CAPs in the program counties. It also explored the potential role of community teams in stopping gang violence. The midline also assessed the progress of results from the PROACT M&E log frame.

Data collection: This study uses a mixed-methods approach. Quantitative and qualitative methods

complement each other and have been adopted to collect data identified in the midline evaluation framework. The data collection methods used include:

- A review of PROACT program documents, reports, and training materials.
- Key informant interviews with CEFs and community team respondents.
- Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with CEFs and community team leaders.
- A mini-survey of respondents in Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and FGDs to produce some quantitative data.

Desk review: This included a review of reports and training manuals from ISD/SCN to inform the development of project tools and assess progress in project implementation. The research team reviewed sub-grantee reports and other documentation to determine progress, including the reach, quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of capacity-building activities. The research team also analyzed data from workshop pre-and-post surveys to assess observed changes in knowledge and skills.

Evidence and insights from the review refined the development of research tools and the research team's knowledge on critical issues relating to radicalization in the three counties.

Key Informant Interviews: 42 key informants were interviewed, including CEF pillar heads, leaders of community teams, partner staff, innovation grants partners, and ISD/SCN staff, in order to assess the progress of the project since inception and pinpoint areas for improvement. The following respondents were interviewed:

| Target for KII | Number |
|--------------------------------|---|
| ISD management | 2 (Manager and Program Assistant) |
| Partner CSOs | 4 (2 IPL, 1 HURIA, and 1 MIDRIFT HURINET) |
| CEFs | 18 (Isiolo 5, Kwale 4, and Nakuru 9) |
| Community team representatives | 17 (Isiolo 3, Kwale 5, and Nakuru 8) |

Focus Group Discussions: Four FGDs per county were held in two groups of six to eight CEF members and two groups of six to eight community team members.

Mini-survey: Each KII and FGD began with a short, structured, paper-based mini-survey that used closed-ended answer choices. Some 67 participants filled out mini-survey forms. The research team gave respondents 20 minutes to complete the mini-survey before their interview/FGD started. The mini-survey provided some quantitative data to complement the study's qualitative insights.

Data analysis: The research team collected qualitative data from interviews and FGDs in Google Forms to allow aggregation and quick analysis. The quantitative data from mini-surveys collected on paper was entered in Excel to allow for quantitative analysis. During analysis, triangulation of both quantitative and qualitative data was done to corroborate findings, check on inconsistencies or differing interpretations, and ensure that the results reported were valid, credible, and accurate.

Chapter 1: Overall Findings across the Three Counties

1.0 Assessment of PROACT project progress

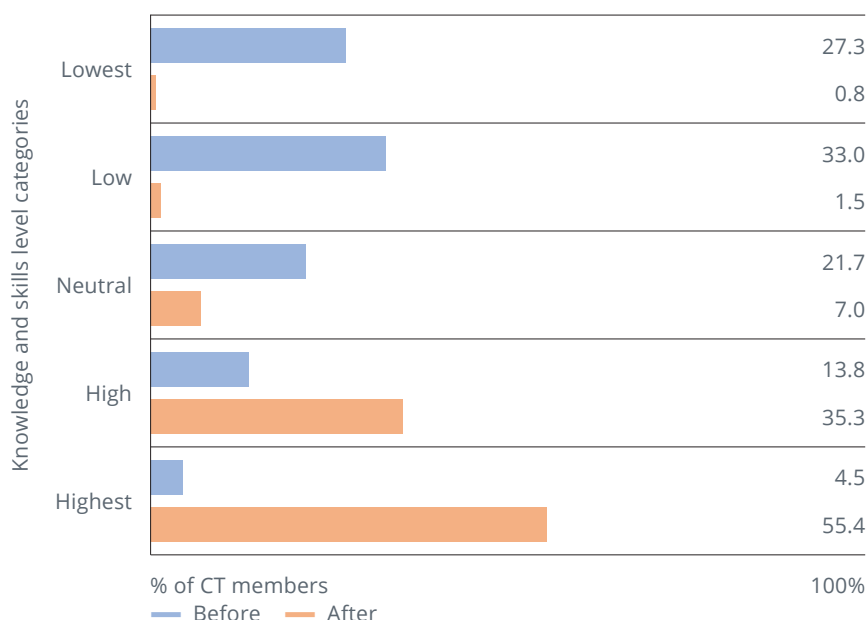
During the first year and a half of PROACT, good progress was made toward achieving its objectives. The program’s focus has been facilitating engagement and capacity building of crucial county and community stakeholders – CEFs and community teams. The community structures are expected to engage all stakeholders in reducing polarization, radicalization, and VE. Due to its initial engagements, the project has achieved good standing in the community and is starting to show results from activities. To assess changes following training, respondents completed both a self-appraisal form and a test to grade their knowledge. The findings of this data demonstrate that trained teams have enhanced knowledge and skills, improved confidence, and improved attitudes, enabling them to work on issues of P/CVE in the community.

1.1 Empowerment of community team members with P/CVE knowledge and skills

Two tools were used to assess the knowledge and skills on P/CVE, psychosocial and group dynamics of community team respondents before and after training. The tools included a self-rating scale and a written test with Yes/No items (see annex 3).

On the self-rating scale (lowest, low, fair/neutral, high and highest level), respondents were asked to rate their knowledge and skills, their confidence, and their attitude regarding P/CVE before and after training. The following charts (Figures 1–3) illustrate the results.

Figure 1: Change in community team members’ P/CVE knowledge and skills before and after training



P/CVE knowledge and skills increased tremendously among community team members following the training. Before, 60.3% of community team members rated their knowledge and skills in the lowest or low categories; this reduced to 2.3% after the training. **Before the training, only 18.3% of community team members felt they had knowledge and skills in the high or highest categories;**

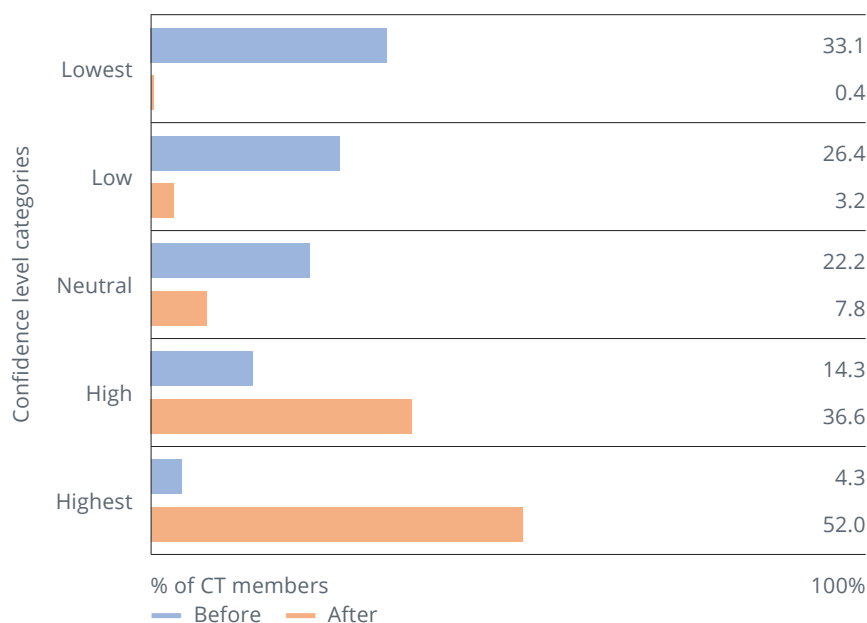
this increased to 90.7% after the training. The results indicate the training greatly influenced the knowledge and skills of community teams.

These results are corroborated by workshop evaluations of specific training sessions carried out by lead CSOs immediately after each training; for example, in a post-training workshop evaluation in Kwale County, understanding the module content was rated at 81.5%, the trainer’s effectiveness at 78.9%, usefulness at 94%, and ability to provide psychosocial support at 100%.

1.2 Empowerment of community team members with confidence in handling P/CVE content

The confidence of community teams in handling various topics on P/CVE was compared before and after the training.

Figure 2: Change in community team members’ confidence to handle P/CVE issues



The results indicate that before training, only 18.6% of community team members had expressed high or highest confidence in their ability to handle P/CVE-related topics; this rose to 88.6% after training. Furthermore, 59.5% of community team members indicated lowest or low confidence in handling P/CVE issues before the training; this fell to 3.6% after training.

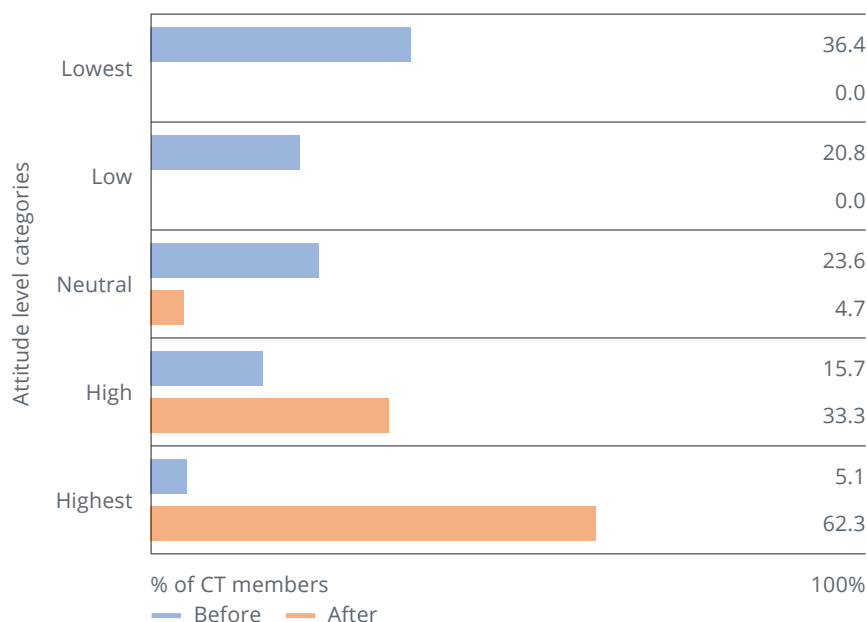
1.3 Change in attitude towards P/CVE among community team members

Community team members’ attitudes and feelings toward discussing and facilitating various topics related to P/CVE were compared before and after training.

From the chart overleaf, only 20.8% of community team members rated their attitude towards discussing P/CVE issues as high or highest before training; this **increased to 95.6% after training.** Moreover, 57.2% of the participants rated their attitude as low or lowest before training, which reduced to 0% after training. The change in mindset is probably a result of a better understanding of radicalization and VE, youth vulnerability, and the community’s roles. In addition, a greater understanding of common issues that affect individuals’ behavior (e.g., mental health, early childhood experiences, and stress) and ways of supporting them may also have played a significant role in changing community team members’ attitudes toward persons affected by radicalization and VE.

Thus, the training seems to have influenced positive feelings among community teams to handle P/CVE issues in the community.

Figure 3: Change in community team members' attitude towards handling P/CVE issues



1.4 Assessment of training content and delivery approaches

During KIIs, FGDs, and mini-surveys, respondents were asked to comment on the training, its effectiveness, and any potential gaps.

Content of training

Responses indicated that the training content was very informative. It provided good insights into P/CVE issues and facilitated effective engagement and delivery of these topical issues in the community. The respondents agreed that they gained factual knowledge on P/CVE. Respondents also said they valued the multidimensional view of concepts discussed, for example, the concept that VE can result from poor parenting and early childhood experiences. They viewed the content as good and mind-opening.

More widely, the respondents generally believed that the content was interesting and reflected relevant issues related to peace and conflict in their communities (e.g., substance abuse and stress management).

Delivery methods

Respondents were satisfied with the delivery methods used by the trainers, regarding them as good and diverse. They mentioned a mix of PowerPoint slides, use of a question-answer process, use of videos, discussion of case studies, and group work, as well as a combination of Swahili and English language during facilitation; these delivery methods were said to be very engaging and participatory. The respondents were particularly impressed by the opportunity to present plenary points from group discussions, which helped them to better understand concepts. Some respondents commented that “the facilitators knew what they were doing”, and “the delivery method of case study scenarios would catch our attention and help us feel free to share the information in our hands.” The training workshops were planned well in terms of logistics too, providing a conducive learning environment.

Trainers

Respondents considered trainers very good and professional. In one example, respondents were grateful that their trainer, a clinical officer in Kwale, would “bring the science behind it.” Trainers used simple language and made participants feel free to contribute. In addition, respondents said trainers were knowledgeable about the content, engaged trainees, and ensured learners internalized complex concepts by using illustrations, the local language, audiovisual materials, and group discussions.

Materials used

Diverse materials were used during the training, including videos, PowerPoint slides, and modules provided in soft copy. The sessions were also facilitated through group work using worksheets, flip charts, and sticky notes. The use of these materials and the provision of references for further reading enhanced the quality of the training.

Time allocation

From the responses, there were mixed feelings on time allocation. While most respondents thought the sessions were an adequate length, some felt they needed more time to unpack content and concepts, and engage participants in a deeper understanding. However, respondents were also happy with the flexible scheduling (e.g., having sessions twice a week allowed them to schedule other competing priorities as they went through the training).

1.5 Testing the knowledge and skills of respondents

To validate self-assessment results, researchers administered a test to those community team members who had undergone the training. The test questions were derived from the training modules’ curriculum, and the questions covered ten modules. The test was part of the mini-survey tool (see Annex 3) and used Yes/No questions with a score of 1 for correct answers and 0 for incorrect answers.

In Isiolo County, community team members’ average test score was 21.4 out of 30, which translates to 71%. In Kwale County, the average score was 22 out of 30, or 73%. In Nakuru County, the average score was 21 out of 30, or 70%. This indicates that all community team members scored at least 70%, and corroborates findings on knowledge and skills.

Despite the promising results, it is necessary to consider county-specific refresher training on the following topics where the question items had a score of less than 50%.

- In Isiolo and Nakuru, there is a need for some refresher on the concept of radicalization.
- In Kwale and Isiolo, there is a need for more focus on the stress response.
- In Kwale, more attention is needed on group facilitation and substance abuse.
- In all the three counties, there is a need to better understand domestic violence

A detailed analysis per county is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Test scores on P/CVE knowledge and skills

| P/CVE | Percentage getting answer right | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|
| | Kwale | Isiolo | Nakuru | Average |
| Radicalization does not oppose democratic principles to cause change | 80 | 26 | 46 | 50.7 |
| Violent extremism is not just terrorism but includes other violence | 100 | 93 | 90 | 94.3 |
| Poverty and economic hardship is a societal push factor in VE | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100.0 |
| Psychosocial Support (Psychological Trauma) | | | | |
| Domestic violence causes mainly societal trauma | 0 | 40 | 18 | 19.3 |
| The stress response refers to how our brains not bodies respond to stressful and traumatic events. | 40 | 40 | 90 | 56.7 |
| Unresolved adverse childhood experiences can cause young adults to join VE groups | 100 | 86 | 90 | 92.0 |
| Psychosocial Support (Mental Health Advocacy) | | | | |
| 75% of Kenyans cannot access mental health services | 80 | 93 | 90 | 87.7 |
| Stigma is not associated with mental health/mental illness in Kenya | 80 | 60 | 63 | 67.7 |
| Listening without judgment helps build trust and helps people open up more | 70 | 93 | 81 | 81.3 |
| Active Listening Skills | | | | |
| Need to be heard is not a basic psychological need | 70 | 93 | 72 | 78.3 |
| Maintaining steady eye contact in active listening is not advisable in some cultures | 70 | 66 | 81 | 72.3 |
| Reflective listening should start with an open question | 70 | 66 | 81 | 72.3 |
| Group Facilitation | | | | |
| Setting group norms is not necessary in group facilitation | 70 | 83 | 90 | 81.0 |
| It is important to use directives in a group setting | 20 | 73 | 90 | 61.0 |
| Sharing of feelings is not a good practice when closing a group meeting | 60 | 60 | 81 | 67.0 |
| Gender-Based Violence | | | | |
| GBV is the mainly the result of losing a temper | 80 | 53 | 81 | 71.3 |
| Men can be victims/survivors of GBV | 100 | 86 | 81 | 89.0 |
| Human trafficking is an example of GBV | 70 | 80 | 81 | 77.0 |
| Safe Communities | | | | |
| Historical events/eras are a key measure of cultural identity in Kenya | 50 | 73 | 73 | 65.3 |
| Lack of recognition is risky for social cohesion | 90 | 86 | 81 | 85.7 |
| Low educational attainment is not related to radicalization | 80 | 60 | 64 | 68.0 |

Stress Management

| | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|------|
| Stress is not necessarily negative | 40 | 73 | 81 | 64.7 |
| Deep breathing has no role in stress management | 80 | 86 | 90 | 85.3 |
| Stress can increase if we focus on only work | 90 | 60 | 81 | 77.0 |

Substance Abuse

| | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|------|
| Substance abuse is a choice | 20 | 46 | 72 | 46.0 |
| Addiction is an attempt to solve the problem of childhood trauma | 50 | 66 | 27 | 47.7 |
| Praise for accomplishments provides a buffer against addiction in children | 90 | 66 | 54 | 70.0 |

Parenting Education

| | | | | |
|--|-----|----|----|------|
| Parents can teach children to handle challenging situations | 100 | 86 | 90 | 92.0 |
| Discipline is about punishment | 90 | 80 | 90 | 86.7 |
| It is good to teach children to resist when boundaries are crossed | 100 | 53 | 81 | 78.0 |

Chapter 2: County Specific Findings

This chapter discusses the following findings per county: progress made in implementing the PROACT program, emerging results, factors affecting the success of the interventions, CAP progress, and the role of stakeholders. It also provides recommendations for PROACT implementation improvement.

2.1 Isiolo County

The Isiolo County PROACT program, under the leadership of Isiolo Peace Link (IPL), has made good progress in addressing the project's objectives. This progress is predominantly attributed to the good foundation laid by the assessment of the Isiolo CAP, which informed design of activities for the CEF and community teams.

Progress of PROACT project in Isiolo County

Key achievements in Isiolo because of the PROACT project include:

- Isiolo CAP has been remodeled. This included prioritization of the following pillars for implementation: psychosocial support, law and enforcement, economics, ideology, education, political and research and gender (both being crosscutting pillars). There were originally 11 CAP pillars. The prioritization of pillars was done with support from NCTC. By facilitating more links with NCTC, the project has enhanced collaboration between national and county efforts on P/CVE.
- Sub-county CEFs (in Merti and Garbatulla) have been strengthened. PROACT has supported sub-county CEFs to better acquaint themselves with the remodeled CAP, enhancing their understanding of roles and the responsibilities of various sectoral stakeholders in P/CVE.
- M&E skills have been enhanced. The M&E module was developed by ISD and administered to county and sub-county CEFs. Act! Also held a one-day training on M&E for the Isiolo CEF. As a result of this M&E training, the CEF has started documentation and is gathering reports on activities from the various pillars. This will enhance transparency and accountability in their work.
- ISD has trained Isiolo CEF on private sector engagement. As a result, the CEF has further developed their private sector engagement strategy (although the actual engagement has not yet happened).
- IPL has facilitated the formation of community teams, with individuals drawn from a range of specialties, including faith leaders, youth mentors, teachers, and social workers.
- Eleven training modules have been delivered to community teams. This was done by two facilitators who first went through a three-day Training of Trainers (TOT). IPL staff provided additional support, shared experiences, guided facilitators, and planned and undertook modules assessments per IPL log frames. IPL is now in the process of designing work plans for the teams.
- The community teams model has been anchored under the psychosocial support pillar for sustainability. It draws membership from and is active in Bulapesa, Wabera and Burat wards. These wards are of urban settings with higher risks and more vulnerabilities.

- Individuals within community teams have already started some activities; for example, one religious leader has engaged the Council of Islamic Preachers of Kenya on the psychosocial support modules, parenting, and issues of drugs and substance abuse. Another community team member has linked vulnerable groups with Women Enterprise Fund for economic support. A third member, the chair of Activists, an organization that brings together young people in Isiolo, administered talks to youth on drugs and substance abuse.
- The project instituted innovation grants. In Isiolo, the beneficiaries are the Isiolo Women of Faith (IWOF) and the Pastoralist Women for Livelihood and Social Support PWLS). The former's grant aims to address the psychological (internal thought processes, feelings, and reactions) and the social (relationships, family and community networks, social values, and cultural practices) dimensions of radicalization and VE in Isiolo county. It focuses on vulnerable families whose members have disappeared and are suspected of having joined Al-Shabaab, or were killed by the Kenya security agents. The latter grant to the PWLS seeks to implement, support, and strengthen the art and culture pillar under the Isiolo CAP. This will be done by building the capacity of artistic youths, elders, and community members on P/CVE, which will significantly increase the number of youth P/CVE champions in the county.

Emerging results of PROACT activities in Isiolo County

- The private sector has begun to engage with the CEF, and support has been promised from the contractors of the Kina–Garbatulla road and the Isiolo–Mandera road as part of their corporate social responsibility. Isiolo will be receiving Kes 1.2 billion (approximately US \$10m) for social support. IPL has also mapped private sector stakeholders through the local chapter of Chamber of Commerce and Industry to support P/CVE initiatives in the county.
- Community team members have presented some modules at the Isiolo Youth Innovation Centre. Recently, 23 youths finished hydroponic farming and making trinkets. The Isiolo Youth Innovation Centre is supported by the county government and other development partners, as well as the private sector. The center trains youth in IT skills, helps in finding gainful employment, and provides a safe space for youth to discuss issues affecting them.
- The CEF is working closely with the County Economic Planning and Budgeting department to support a memo to the County Assembly calling for support for the Isiolo CAP. This will also be presented at the Governor's Roundtable (to be hosted by the Isiolo governor and attended by Members of Parliament, Members of County Assembly, and county departments) to advocate for the memo. In addition, the CEF is engaging ward development planning committees to integrate the Isiolo CAP in planning and budgeting, provide economic support to at-risk youth, and enhance the management of maskanis³ so that they are not recruitment hotspots. Thus, the sources of funding to support the ICAP are expected to expand with the involvement of the county government.
- M&E has been a challenge as pillars have not been systematic in reporting. The development of M&E tools is a significant milestone to measure the progress of the Isiolo CAP's implementation and provide structured feedback during quarterly meetings. The Fusion System, an M&E digital tool that collates data on P/CVE into the NCTC results system, will enhance this.

³Local bases where youth meet to chat and pass time

- Through innovation grants, one community team member offers essential psychosocial support to beneficiaries through IWOFF. The community team member, utilizing her skills after being trained by ISD/SCN, has initiated counselling sessions for affected parents, mainly mothers, to later target at-risk youth. Another member in the education pillar has identified vulnerable students for counselling support.
- Takwa Youth Integrated uses sports and education to create awareness of radicalization and VE, with content heavily borrowed from the community teams training modules. The leader, a community team member, utilizes knowledge he gained from forming the online group Isiolo Unites, which uses social media to ask returnees to share their experiences with VE groups as a way of countering extremist narratives. He also used the Isiolo Youth Innovation Centre to raise awareness of radicalization. Recently, he held a session with a few substance abusers using the training module.

Factors affecting the success of the program in Isiolo County

Positive factors

- Over the years, IPL has built a rapport and trust with stakeholders, including the county security team.
- The enthusiasm of community teams after their capacity building has enabled them to build programs on their own in the communities where they work.
- The Isiolo CAP assessment on challenges, opportunities, and recommendations has informed implementation in the last two years. The baseline study also provided information on psychosocial issues, mental health opportunities, pull-and-push factors, and the shifting of VE discussions to online spaces.
- ISD research on the Al-Shabaab online ecosystem has elicited discussions about the need for establishing localized capacities for online engagements on hate, extremism, and polarization.
- The availability of ISD networks for collaboration has aided in establishing the community team in Isiolo; for example, IPL held discussions with ISD/SCN staff supporting community teams in other countries (e.g., Lebanon and Jordan), and they were able to provide lessons learnt.
- Pillar heads have proven good, with different capacities and relevant knowledge in various sectors.
- Throughout their various programs, IPL have been consistent in providing support to the CEF and facilitating quarterly meetings.
- The PROACT program's flexibility has been beneficial in formulating the community teams' engagement framework and risk assessment.
- M&E training and the formulation of log frame has enhanced design and understanding. The knowledge has also assisted IPL in designing and implementing other programs such as World Peace Service.
- A balance has been achieved between safety and security in social protection frameworks.

- The CEF and community team members have been selected from other structures, such as Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), meaning they have the legitimacy and influence in the community to reach other people.
- Linking with CSOs who are actively involved in sensitization and spreading awareness about VE in the region has offered opportunities for synergy in creating livelihood opportunities and exposing people to the work of community teams.
- The Isiolo CAP is organized into six pillars. Various stakeholders have niches to engage in during implementation: government, CSOs, and communities. For instance, the Nyumba Kumi has helped the communities become accountable for internal activities and identify any suspicious activity that may call for action.
- PROACT innovation grants to local organizations have helped address some drivers of radicalization at the grassroots level, contributing to CAP implementation.⁴
- Some private sector actors, such as companies constructing significant roads across the county, have promised to fund some CAP activities.

PROACT innovation grants to IWOFF have helped at-risk families get psychosocial support. According to a KII with the CSO leader, "we specifically target families whose children/siblings/friends/relatives have joined [violent extremist organizations]." One example is a prison officer whose son joined a violent extremist organization; this severely affected the officer's wife, and he opted to leave work to look for his son. He went to the Somali border for almost two weeks but was unsuccessful. IWOFF encouraged him to join the psychosocial platform to support him and his wife mentally. Takwa Youth Integrated uses sports and education to create awareness about radicalization and VE, with content heavily borrowed from the community teams training modules. The leader formed the group Isiolo Unites, which reaches out to returnees and uses their experiences to raise awareness about the vulnerabilities that VE groups exploit in recruitment. He also used the Isiolo Youth Innovation Centre to raise awareness on radicalization. Recently, he held a session with a few substance abusers, using the training module.

Negative factors

- A lack of financial support for sub-county CEFs has prevented them from holding regular coordination meetings; some can go for six months without meeting. The sub-county CEFs need to be facilitated with funds and other resources to do their work and feed into the county CEF on what they have implemented.
- Not all stakeholders are meaningfully involved in supporting CAP implementation.
- COVID-19 has limited the number of people attending sessions; for example, very few were physically invited for the Isiolo CAP validation. However, the facilitators used phones to link them up.
- Varied education levels among community team members have affected the delivery of training modules. Some topics were quite technical and were challenging to frame for

⁴There were two innovation grants per target county aimed at addressing radicalization and VE pull-and-push factors

community team members with low education. However, the facilitators used mixed English with Swahili and local languages, as well as supplying soft copies and a facilitator's guide. Discussions included defining terms in Swahili and local languages.

- The program anticipated high collaboration with the county government, but this has not happened. There is no P/CVE office within Isiolo County Government.
- Community teams' primary mandate is to make referrals, and IPL formulates risk assessments. However, balancing referrals of vulnerable or at-risk persons with the current laws proves challenging. This is because there are fears that those referred could be targeted by law enforcement agencies and prosecuted.

Assessment of training provided so far (P/CVE, Psychosocial Skills, and M&E)

Training provided to community teams in Isiolo included an introduction to P/CVE, psychosocial skills and M&E. The content provided was appropriate and adequate. Experienced trainers delivered it through PowerPoint presentations, which were shared via email and video. The training was experiential and participatory, making it relevant for adult learning. The instructors were highly competent and knowledgeable. However, the time allocated for training was inadequate for some topics, such as psychosocial support. In addition, some of the trainees highlighted that they were not trained in M&E, and those who received the training noted that the time allocated to this subject in particular was not adequate.

Challenges faced by the program in terms of implementation

The demand from communities for P/CVE interventions is beyond what the project had planned for, and inadequate support from other stakeholders like the county government makes it difficult for the program to reach people in remote parts of the county.

The training implementation was hindered by inadequate time allocation for activities, predominantly due to COVID-19 prevention measures, such as curfew hours. The ban on public gatherings affected the program's goal to disseminate information. In part, radio talk shows by imams and other interfaith leaders remedied this.

Potential role of community teams in supporting peaceful elections in 2022 and preventing gangs and gang violence

If an opportunity arises, community teams could be effectively involved in supporting peaceful 2022 elections by:

- Creating awareness and sensitization among youth, and highlighting violence's social and economic implications during the electioneering period.
- Liaising with local media outlets and regional online platforms to campaign for peace.
- Collaborating with those political parties seeking leadership in the county to further their message of peace as their leaders have more influence.
- In regard to gang-on-gang violence, working with community and security agencies to assist in identifying gang members.

Strategies for CAP stakeholders in resourcing Isiolo CAP

CAP stakeholders can lobby Members of County Assembly for more funding for the CAP through bills in the county assemblies. They can set up safeguards to ensure that the money allocated is not misappropriated. Although the private sector is relatively dormant in this region, stakeholders can try to engage it in preventing radicalization. The private sector may also be able to add to the CAP

funding and help prevent radicalization in other ways, for example, through awareness creation via the media.

Other suggested measures to address and prevent radicalization, crime, and violence in Isiolo County

Allocation of more resources to the program will help it reach more people in the county; currently, beneficiaries from interventions are few in number as the program is localized to only a few areas. The program should also extend its reach to schools to help sensitize children at a young age and mold them into the kind of productive members of society that violent extremists cannot sway. In addition, focusing on vulnerable groups targeted by violent extremists and proprietors of political violence can help P/CVE and peace more generally; groups such as Boda boda riders targeted by politicians during the election are an example. Others include violent gangs and idle youth.

Leaders in the community (e.g., religious leaders and chiefs) should also be mandated to educate their congregation about radicalization, crime, and violence.

Recommendations for Isiolo County

- Having more sub-county CEF activities would ensure that more grassroots issues are identified and acted upon (through sub-county security intelligence meetings and chiefs barazas). Implementing activities through the local systems down to village level, for instance, village barazas, would enhance the sustainability of CAP implementation.
- It is necessary to leverage Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and other funding sources for P/CVE.
- More advocacy for P/CVE resources would be valuable; for instance, the memo for P/CVE needs to be included in CIDPs.
- A considerable amount of hate speech and polarization takes place in online spaces. Therefore, interventions must be developed to avert election violence in 2022 by reducing polarization through online spaces.
- On M&E, there is a need to engage an easier and more straightforward tool/approach for monitoring and evaluating community teams' activities. There is also a need to document learning as the community teams model takes shape for eventual scale-up in other counties.
- There is a need for a framework to ensure the safety of community team members. They operate in sensitive spaces and may be seen as sympathizers by the government or targeted by terrorists for their work.
- There is a need for greater engagement with the private sector to harness more resources for CAP activity implementation.

2.2 Kwale County

The PROACT program in Kwale County, led by Human Rights Agenda (HURIA), has progressed well. Selected community team members represent CBOs, youth groups, and religious leaders. The model has been effectively anchored in the community. PROACT has held several reflection meetings with stakeholders and various pillar teams under the CEF to promote the community teams' model, which has also been officially presented to NCTC. Community teams have been trained and are well versed in what boundaries to maintain so that they do not engage with active terrorists or people who have embraced hostile ideologies.

Progress of PROACT project in Kwale County

Key achievements in Kwale because of the PROACT project include:

- CEF coordination meetings have been supported and CAP assessment recommendations have been actioned to address gaps. One key achievement has been revising the secretariat membership and introducing pillar teams for coordination, which are now aligned with national guidelines. Government and non-state agencies are now recommending to the pillar heads issues to address in the education, ideological, psychosocial, media, and law enforcement sectors.
- There is more government leadership in P/CVE efforts. Each pillar has its meetings, and subsequently, the CEF meets at the secretariat under the County Commissioner (CC). The CC or the governor gives the CEF a meeting venue, and the secretariat meets monthly. The main challenges have been the inconsistency of representation by organizations and getting dates when everyone is available. Despite these, the meetings have made work easier for the CC, who must report to NCTC on P/CVE activities. Before these arrangements, HURIA was seen as leading the P/CVE efforts.
- The CEF has introduced the Fusion System. The pillar heads have been taken through the system and how it works. HURIA has the login information and data.
- HURIA has delivered the private sector module, and pillars have started approaching the private sector for support. The law enforcement pillar targets private security agencies while the ideological pillar is reaching out to Muslim-led foundations. Private sector actors such as Base Titanium⁵ support peace clubs and teacher training.
- ISD/SCN has identified Jamii Action Centre (JAC) and Sponsored Arts for Education (SAFE) Pwani as innovation grantees. SAFE Pwani is using film to raise awareness on recruitment and radicalization, while JAC reaches out to youth for VE awareness and prevention activities.
- Members of community teams have been trained on 12 modules developed by ISD/SCN. The training provided flexibility, a crucial factor in adult learning; this included spacing out the sessions so that participants were able to juggle their other responsibilities.
- The program has developed a community engagement framework. The composition, roles, code of conduct, and confidentiality agreements were created and shared with community team members to sign and commit to. PROACT has funded community teams' activities for six months.

⁵An Australian company mining titanium in Kwale County

- The program has developed an action plan and identified at-risk groups, such as in Ramisi ward, where there are women who are victims of VE, and Ngombeni ward, where there are many previous gang offenders and juvenile criminals, as well as their families. Community teams will provide group and individual support to these at-risk persons.

Emerging results of PROACT activities in Kwale County

- Thus far, stakeholders in the psychosocial support arena have expressed interest in the referral concept of community teams. The CEF has identified some referral institutions relating to ideological issues (Kenya Muslim Youth Alliance - KMYA and Coast Interfaith Council of Clerics - CICC), mentorship (Samba Sports), and psychosocial issues (local counsellors from Kenya Red Cross – Kwale as well as department of probation and aftercare services for youth offenders and their families). Other institutions include Teens Watch and Kwale Rehabilitation. HURIA has also developed tools for use in the referral system, but there is a shortage of qualified people; some psychosocial providers are not certified and need an exam, which is expensive.
- Community teams have improved capacity, and they are actively engaging with and aware of social risk factors and mitigation measures. Nonetheless, more needs to be done to reduce the security risks in their work.
- Broadening membership of the CEF with structuring along pillars has enhanced ownership of the CAP among a wider range of stakeholders, with various actors taking up their roles and resourcing according to their sector.

Factors affecting the success of the program in Kwale County

Positive factors

- Stakeholders are willing to be members of CEF and to engage with CSOs and the national government, which has increased stakeholder engagement.
- The program has been seeking feedback from stakeholders and engaging them in its design; this has also increased various stakeholders' ownership.
- The program has aligned the CEF with the national P/CVE strategy and county action plans, which has made the P/CVE work gain some support from the national and county governments.
- The program has anchored its work within the Ministry of Interior, as the security committee takes the lead and CSOs give support. This has given the program more influence.
- Funding is available to support some P/CVE activities in Kwale; for example, CSOs like KMYA are supporting CEFs, and the Joint Initiative for Strategic Religious Action Program is supporting the ideological pillar. Samba Sports organizes sporting tournaments to unite youth in the region, engage with the community, and create awareness and sensitization about VE groups. Other groups have found a way to be self-reliant; for example, some young women groups, such as Sauti Ya Wanawake, have been able to form chamas (table-banking groups). They come together to discuss their current issues and make contributions that are used to help them grow financially, making them less vulnerable to recruitment.

- A good attempt had been made to involve the region's critical private sector players in radicalization prevention. Some initiatives by the private sector include funding Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)/CBOs and offering internships and employment opportunities that support youth. Base Titanium company is a good example, giving out scholarships and jobs, building schools, and facilitating paintings for awareness-raising. Bamburi Cement and South Coast Hoteliers have also played a part in radicalization prevention by providing internships and employment to youth.

Negative factors

- The CEF membership keeps changing because it is based on representation. Pillar leadership is based on institutions, and attendance is inconsistent, leading to a loss of continuity in discussions.
- Developing the tools, validation, and approvals for community teams has taken some time. Consequently, the time allotted for implementation may not be adequate.
- Upcoming elections may hinder implementation because the national government will be busy with security and election matters.
- There are inadequate funds to conduct CEF activities. The CAP is relying on donor funding, which is not sustainable.

Assessment of training provided so far (P/CVE, Psychosocial Skills, and M&E)

PROACT provided training on P/CVE, psychosocial support, and M&E. The training was well received by the trainees, and the content was appropriate. The trainers were very knowledgeable and effective, using PowerPoint presentations and video media to deliver the content. Furthermore, case studies and scenarios made it easier for the trainees to grasp the concepts. The training was conducted twice a week and was allocated sufficient time. The trainees have since put the skills they acquired into practice by mentoring their close friends and family while they await program implementation.

Challenges faced by the program in terms of implementation

Some at-risk youth receiving sensitization on radicalization did not take the sessions seriously. They were sometimes strongly opposed or brought counter-arguments, delaying the sessions completion.

CEF sustainability was affected by a lack of financial resources for meeting regularly. To mitigate this challenge, PROACT coordinated with other programs such as RPS and GCERF to continually support the CEF.

COVID-19 measures hindered more robust engagement during the delivery of the modules. The impact of COVID-19 was mitigated by staggering the training sessions in order to comply with health protocols on gatherings (i.e., fewer people in enclosed spaces).

Impact of COVID-19 on programming and delivery

The program delivery suffered due to the ongoing pandemic and the measures implemented to curb the rise in cases. Restrictions on public gatherings affected the number of youths receiving community awareness initiatives. In the past, the number of youths who attended the meetings in one of the locations was about 320, but this number has dropped to 40 since COVID-19 measures were put in place. As the cases continued to rise in the region, public meetings were banned entirely, and activities planned by CEFs stopped because some did not comply with COVID-19 guidelines. The pandemic's economic strain has had adverse effects on mental health and increased cases of GBV among members receiving training.

This economic decline has also affected the availability of resources crucial to the program's delivery and sustainability as the CEFs could not reach more areas.

Potential role of community teams in supporting peaceful elections in 2022 and preventing gangs and gang violence

Community teams and the CEF developed strategies to sensitize youth about elections. If an opportunity arises, community teams can create more forums to engage the public on the importance of peace and cohesion. HURIA has developed an electoral accountability program to talk to youth about peaceful living, cooperation, and cohesion. Beneficiaries of community teams/CEF training can then engage with non-members on a peer-to-peer level about issues relating to a peaceful election process. They can also offer alternative activities to keep youth busy instead of joining gangs or perpetrators of political violence.

Strategies for CAP stakeholders in resourcing Kwale CAP

CAP stakeholders should continue advocating the national and county governments to allocate more resources and funds. Both levels of government should set aside a CAP budget and engage players in the private sector who depend on the region's stability to thrive. They should also learn to utilize the available resources and minimize expenditure.

Other suggested measures to address and prevent radicalization, crime, and violence in Kwale County

Youth in the area turn to crime, violence, and VE groups primarily due to idleness and unemployment. This can be mitigated by training youth in entrepreneurship and business, which would make them marketable and allow for a transition into the labor force. Major stakeholders (i.e., the government, NGOs, and the private sector) can set up a fund that offers loans to youth to start businesses.

The training offered to community teams needs to be scaled up to have more influence and attract more youth to engage with the programs. The program should also extend its reach and engage with regional political and religious leaders, due to the potential for radicalization in mosques and by politicians who are instigators of political violence. Given the influence these leaders command, engaging and encouraging them to sensitize youth against violence and psychosocial issues will reap considerable benefit.

The government should also introduce education on radicalization and VE in the school curriculum.

Recommendations for Kwale County

- Individuals need to be identified within institutions to represent that institution for a long time or permanently in the CEF.
- There is a need for more precise guidelines with lead partners on their role in supporting innovation grantees so that the former can offer more support.
- A PROACT project extension needs to be considered earlier due to the loss of time and the political climate of 2022.
- Community teams need to be more involved in election violence prevention and mitigation in 2022. A mini training on mitigation before the elections would be significant.

2.3 Nakuru County

The PROACT program, led by Midrift Human Rights Network (MIDRIFT HURINET) in Nakuru, has closely engaged and contributed to strengthening the Nakuru CEF and community teams. As a result, CAP implementation structures have been set up to enhance the program's sustainability and community ownership. For instance, the stakeholders (institutions) for each pillar have nominated pillar heads. The community team members have been selected to represent local community structures and include village elders, local CBOs, Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs), Community Health Volunteers (CHVs), and psychosocial workers. There is a pathway where communities refer cases to community teams, who then refer the cases to the psychosocial pillar head. They, in turn, can also refer cases to higher-level mechanisms, such as the provincial hospital.

Progress of PROACT project in Nakuru County

Key achievements in Nakuru because of the PROACT program include:

- The lead CSO has brought together stakeholders from different pillars to nominate pillar heads and has set up a WhatsApp group for ease of communication and networking.
- All pillars have been made aware of their roles in the CEF.
- Sub-county engagement forums have been created in all 11 sub-counties using a multisectoral approach. MIDRIFT HURINET has also raised awareness among the sub-county forums of radicalization and P/CVE.
- All pillar heads have developed work plans for their sectors and implemented some planned activities.
- Muslim religious leaders are showing interest in being engaged in narratives and counter-narratives; for example, they are at the forefront of speaking about interpretations of the Koran in mosques.
- The media pillar has started creating awareness of P/CVE through radio stations in the county, thus supporting the county's religious/ideology pillar.
- Regarding community teams, PROACT has focused on Kivumbini and Kaptembwa wards. The program has successfully recruited community team members through a thorough vetting process, which was done via stakeholder meetings with members from different sectors to enhance inclusivity and find credible leaders. The targeted groups included paralegals, CHVs, religious leaders, youth, women leaders, Boda boda riders, Nyumba Kumi members, CBOs, and community policing committees.
- A training needs assessment and baseline study were conducted. This study informed the development of training modules which were validated locally to ensure they reflected the training needs assessment.
- Training modules for community teams were delivered as planned by two facilitators engaged by ISD/SCN and MIDRIFT HURINET. Community teams were taken through the modules as TOT.
- Innovation grants were provided to Youth Bila Noma (YBN) and Nakuru County Youth Bunge Forum (NCYBF). The former seeks to engage youth, vulnerable men and women, and the elderly in positive behavior change through sports, art, and activism in a project dubbed 'Spartivism'. In contrast, the latter organization seeks to empower, enable, and

equip youth with skills to counter hate, polarization, and VE in Nakuru communities. This is being done through music, arts, poetry, and peer-to-peer mentorship.

Emerging results of PROACT activities in Nakuru County

- PROACT has supported the implementation of certain CAP pillars; for example, the media pillar activity is engaging mainstream media on P/CVE, and they have so far conducted two meetings. The economic pillar has also completed one activity bringing together private sector actors. Engagement with stakeholders has borne some tangible results, for example, support from Absa Bank for the psychosocial pillar and commitment by psychiatrists from the Rift Valley General Hospital to support the mental health cases referred at only Kes 100 (approximately US \$1). The ideological pillar has proposed to bring religious leaders together and, so far, the inter-religious forums for Muslims and Christians have been held. The media pillar has developed its work plan and begun inviting trained religious leaders on the radio to discuss P/CVE issues.
- The awareness and training provided have borne fruit in reporting suspected VE cases.⁶ People are beginning to change their perception about Islam as a religion and terrorism. Imams have also requested that documented counter-narratives be validated and disseminated (via a booklet) for general use by the county and the country.
- The training has changed perspectives among participants. The respondents suggested that training was a personal experience, and there were individual stories of change; as personal transformation precedes community transformation, these individual transformations are a good starting point. In one example, a leader in the community teams training said he was perpetrating GBV against his wife but has now changed. In another, one CHV had lost a child and, under great stress, broke down, but started to recover during the trauma module training. Effects of the training were immediate, especially enhanced knowledge and awareness among stakeholders on P/CVE and the impact of radicalization and terrorism. An imam shared feedback from his own training participants, who were impressed by his mastery of the content. Progress has also been realized in the education pillar through engagement in education institutions. A KII with the education pillar head in Nakuru noted that “we recently engaged over 500 students in Egerton University on P/CVE and are planning to have more of such engagements cascaded to other institutions of learning.”
- Plans are in place to leverage the Nakuru County Peace Building and Conflict Management Act to fund activities within the CEF. The county has advocated Members of County Assembly to mainstream P/CVE within the act.

Factors affecting the success of the program in Nakuru County

Positive factors

- There has been steady leadership from the national government, and the CC has shown considerable interest; he has personally participated in almost all activities organized by the program.
- There has been regular participation and support for the program’s county security teams and the sub-county security team.

⁶In one of the interviews, a community team member had reported the case of a returnee asking what can be done

- Capacity building done by Act!, ISD/SCN, and NCTC has led to a good grasp of P/CVE, facilitating quality implementation.
- The training was participatory and experiential, elements which are vital for adult learning. Using audiovisual materials and providing soft copies of manuals has helped participants internalize the knowledge.
- Modules developed for the training of community teams have provided rich material for engagement with the communities.
- The lead CSO has had cordial engagements with Muslim leaders. A CSO respondent said that “they see we mean well and get open.” This has enabled some activities within the ideology pillar; for example, some imams have gone on radio to discuss radicalization.
- The lead CSO provided leadership without necessarily dominating others, thus creating teamwork and collaboration.
- All stakeholders (e.g., religious, political and educational leaders, and the media) have actively engaged, and they have used various forums to generate awareness of current, societal radicalization trends, as well as how to handle these issues. In addition, security intelligence committees have engaged communities in implementing the CAPs to address the security issues in their respective areas.
- Youth CSOs have been actively involved. Young people have been engaged in various art and talent platforms; for example, through multiple awards based on individual talent, Youth Bila Noma groups have created a culture of appreciating young people. These awards are commonly known as Omni Awards and have encouraged more youth to explore their talents. In addition, the CSOs have campaigned on human rights violations, and they call against police brutality through the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA). This helps to reduce anger within the country, which otherwise contributes to the formation of VE groups.
- Active involvement of the private sector is another enabling factor. As part of the economic pillar, private sector actors, such as the companies Menengai, Bidco, and Absa Bank Kenya, have contributed to awareness creation on radicalization and VE through community social responsibilities, psychosocial activities, employment, and providing loans for business. They have also sponsored sports tournaments.

Negative factors

- There has been inadequate commitment from stakeholders (e.g., political leaders, the business community, and other members of the CEF who are sometimes too busy to supply the adequate time). For that reason, two political meetings with Members of County Assembly, Members of Parliament, the senator and the governor had to be postponed.
- Inconsistent representation in CEF meetings affects institutional memory and continuity in planned activities.
- Community awareness regarding P/CVE issues remains low. As part of PROACT activities, MIDRIFT HURINET had planned to create sub-county engagement forums but conducted community awareness first.

- Despite their playing a crucial role in P/CVE, there has been little participation by women in community meetings.
- Current financial resources are inadequate to cover the vast county, especially as regards awareness creation. In addition, COVID-19 has made it challenging to hold physical meetings.

Assessment of training provided so far (P/CVE, Psychosocial Skills, and M&E)

Respondents said that training was provided on introduction to P/CVE, psychosocial support skills, and M&E and that the content was sufficient. Previously, the perception was that terror gangs belonged to specific religions or tribes, for example, that Al-Shabaab was associated with the Muslim faith. However, the community was sensitized to the idea that anyone could convert and join these groups.

The delivery methods used by the trainers were elaborate and directly engaged the respondents. The trainers were adequately equipped and took their time to explain radicalization trends without being biased regarding gender, religion, or tribe.

The time allocated for the training was sufficient for both trainers and community members; this helped ensure effective content communication.

Challenges faced by the program in terms of implementation

The main challenge that community teams and CEFs are currently facing is great demand for activities; this, in turn, creates financial pressure to implement activities over and above what is planned. There are fears regarding the sustainability of the program with the inadequate funds allocated and the limited participation of other organizations and the private sector in resource mobilization for the CAP.

The county government does not prioritize issues of radicalization and VE. Thus, counties are largely missing in implementing activities in the P/CVE arena.

There is inadequate digital knowledge to monitor social media groups and platforms, educate community members on cybercrimes and bullying, and use the internet to reduce radicalization and VE.

Impact of COVID-19 on programming and delivery

The primary impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the delivery of the program has been down to the government regulations that limit physical gatherings. COVID-19 also left many people jobless due to the closure of companies and organizations, with youth the most affected, increasing their vulnerability. In addition to loss of jobs, the pandemic has also contributed to financial instability and mental health problems; these broken family dynamics lead to increased GBV. These issues were unearthed during training discussions.

Potential role of community teams in supporting peaceful elections in 2022 and preventing gangs and gang violence

Community teams have tried to sensitize youth on the importance of peaceful elections and how to avoid being influenced into participating in election-related violence. Community teams are trying to achieve this by bringing in various election stakeholders to educate community members on how to vote peacefully, as well as what is expected of them during the election period.

Community teams have also undertaken several interventions like Bunge la Mwananchi (citizens assembly), where the community can raise current issues and talk about the benefits of peaceful elections and the impacts of election violence.

The focus on gang violence is quite challenging since some youth are already in different gangs. Nonetheless, community teams target the hotspot areas and sensitize youth on preventive measures.

Strategies for CAP stakeholders in resourcing Nakuru County

CAP stakeholders are working hand in hand with both the national and county governments to ensure a sufficient allocation of funds for the implementation of the programs. The stakeholders are also mobilizing resources from non-state actors, such as donors and NGOs, by writing a funding proposal.

Other suggested measures to address and prevent radicalization, crime, and violence in Nakuru County

Community teams are introducing exchange programs among youth to increase respect for their cultural diversity and help them acquire more knowledge. In addition, FBOs have introduced capacity building, which brings communities together and promotes peace and unity while addressing the emerging issues of radicalization and prevention of violence in their areas.

Recommendations for Nakuru County

- Regarding project delivery, there is a need to target chiefs, assistant chiefs, and Nyumba Kumi elders with P/CVE training to enhance awareness at the grassroots. This should be done in collaboration with NCTC.
- There is a need to target schools and fast-track curricula for them and tertiary institutions, including universities. Learning institutions should strengthen their resilience against radicalization, recruitment into extremist groups and potential attacks through awareness raising and trainings.
- The project needs an extension. Partners and donors should ensure the engagement is sustainable by increasing engagement time to set up stable structures. Critical transformation requires adequate time.

Chapter 3: Summary, Conclusions, Lessons Learnt, and Recommendations

3.1 Summary

CEFs in the three counties and their capacity for P/CVE have been enhanced. Community teams who will lead psychosocial support for at-risk groups have been identified and trained. The identification process was rigorous to ensure the acceptance of beneficiaries and the community.

The project has developed and delivered high-quality training modules to community teams to enhance their knowledge and skills, practices, and attitudes on P/CVE, psychosocial and facilitation methods. As a result, there is demonstrable improvement in members' knowledge, skills, confidence, and attitudes towards P/CVE. Before the training, only 18.5% of the community team members felt their knowledge and skills were high on P/CVE, psychosocial, and facilitation methods, which increased to 90.7% after it. The trained community team members have already started engaging with communities even without financial support from ISD/SCN. Innovation grantees have also started interventions on P/CVE in their communities.

Some CEF pillars (e.g., within the Nakuru CEF) are already getting private sector support to undertake P/CVE activities, which is an indicator of the future sustainability of the program.

The program has received recognition from the national government, including the NCTC and county administration, as a viable, community-based, and sustainable initiative for dealing with VE in counties. The first governor's roundtable was held to create high-level buy-in and support. As a result, stakeholders' support, including national and county governments, has grown for the principle of and rationale behind community-led P/CVE interventions.

When institutionalizing local partnerships, the program's effectiveness has been moderate. P/CVE activities are still being led by external funding organizations. Although the CEFs have started institutionalizing local partnerships and coordination efforts, effective resourcing remains a challenge.

Awareness of communities' role in P/CVE is still low at the community level. Therefore, there is a need to build greater security actor trust for community-led processes in P/CVE through reducing risks to program beneficiaries and enhancing referral support.

The contextual developments to be aware of for the remaining project period are as follows:

Most KII and FGD respondents indicated that in-person recruitment by violent extremists is decreasing but that the use of technology or online recruitment is increasing as youth gain greater access to Android phones. Face-to-face recruitment is also becoming riskier due to enhanced security surveillance. Therefore, there is greater need for technological/online approaches to curb radicalization.

Although the national and county governments have high awareness levels regarding P/CVE and CAPs, most KII respondents feel that the majority of funding for activities is left to external donors. A deeper analysis indicates there is a good amount of funding from national and county governments for programs to address push factors, such as those in the economic and education pillars.

This is evident in the governments investments TVET, agriculture, and affirmative funds. Despite this, although affirmative funds are allocated within national and county governments to address youth economic issues, funds are not tailored to address those youth who are specifically most at risk of recruitment.

Respondents expressed fears that the 2022 general elections may spike tension and violence in the country, specifically in the target counties; this could reverse gains made by the program in enhancing community cohesion.

3.2 Conclusions

From this analysis of the midline assessment, we arrive at the following conclusions.

Conclusion 1

Capacity building and facilitation of CEF work by ISD/SCN, including support in CEF organization and structuring via pillars to cascading to sub-counties, has greatly enhanced their motivation. This has also raised awareness of stakeholder's CAP roles and has started catalyzing investment in P/CVE by the private sector, religious leaders, media, and others.

Conclusion 2

Capacity building of community teams by ISD/SCN has effectively enhanced their knowledge, skills, confidence, and attitudes regarding vulnerable groups, P/CVE, psychosocial, and facilitation methods. Many members of community teams have already started engaging with communities even without financial support from ISD/SCN, which promises the future sustainability of the model.

Conclusion 3

Community awareness of VE is still low, and more understanding must be built, especially in the rural areas. When awareness was created, people were very appreciative of stakeholders and shared the effects of terrorism on their lives.

Conclusion 4

Although the national and county governments have high awareness levels regarding P/CVE and CAP and are contributing to addressing some push-and-pull factors, most of the funding for coordination of P/CVE interventions has been left to external donors.

Conclusion 5

There is a real risk of polarization and violence in the 2022 general elections unless actions are taken to prevent political incitement in communities and the use of gangs.

3.3 Lessons Learnt

The design and initial implementation phases of the program have generated several lessons.

Good working relationships with national partners, such as NCTC, and support from county leadership, such as County Commissioners and other stakeholders (members of the CEFs), CSOs, and local stakeholders, are necessary to support a P/CVE program.

Training of community teams that is informed by a thorough needs assessment, baseline survey, and design process leads to effective programming and implementation.

Localizing interventions and supporting grantees to implement different pillars of the CAPs can potentially increase the project results.

Rigorous selection of community team and CEF members, based on institutional representation, generates greater institutional ownership and long-term sustainability. However, inconsistent attendance by CEF membership damages institutional memory and business continuity. The development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the CEFs by NCTC will mitigate this.

A TOT approach in capacity building for community projects will have a trickledown effect on the communities, increasing impact. This is evident in the community teams' model.

With good management and adaptation, it is possible to achieve results in community programs even during a pandemic, as shown by the implementation progress during COVID-19.

Local program management teams require more autonomy in programmatic decision-making in order to respond quickly to partner needs, monitor effectively, and adapt their management style.

3.4 Recommendations

Recommendations for governments (national and county - including CEF)

For optimal implementation of the CAP, all stakeholders must be meaningfully involved, including national and county governments, community teams, educational institutions, religious leaders, security officers, CSOs, mainstream media, and social media platforms. This will improve monetary and in-kind resource mobilization, enabling broader coverage when preventing radicalization and violent extremist groups.

County governments need to embed county funding for peace in legislation. In addition, more funding should be allocated to the CAP through CIDPs. In addition, there should be greater advocacy for appropriations legislation that will give the counties a legal framework to support the implementation of CAPs.

Recommendations for ISD/SCN, and partners

The community teams' model needs to be promoted at the national level to garner more support from security agencies and reduce risks to beneficiaries. The project also needs to be extended; critical transformation requires adequate time, and partners and donors should ensure sustainable engagement. Additionally, more time will allow the county partners to implement the community model and assess its effectiveness.

There is a need for continuous monitoring, mentorship, and support of community teams as they are deployed to the communities in order to guarantee the quality of delivery and measurement of results. For better coherence and results at the county level, the county CSO leads need to offer more coordination and technical support to innovation grantees. ISD/SCN staff should undertake frequent visits to the counties in order to offer mentorship support.

The program must create links and synergies with other P/CVE donor-supported programs, for example, supporting CEF coordination meetings and pillar activities in the communities to address identified P/CVE drivers.

It is necessary to create more awareness at the community level of the community teams model and interventions. A grassroots focus ensures that communities are conscious of and utilize the interventions/services. Furthermore, chiefs and assistant chiefs, religious leaders, and Nyumba Kumi elders should be used to generate this awareness. There is also a need to develop and deliver a curriculum on P/CVE for schools and tertiary institutions, including universities. Resilience should be created in educational institutions and strategies developed for when an attack happens.

There is a need to enhance cross-learning between programs implemented in different counties and duplicate best practices in each county, especially regarding private sector engagement and mainstreaming P/CVE in county legislation.

Recommendations for P/CVE stakeholders more generally

Stakeholders, including donors, CSOs and government, could, if an opportunity arises, effectively involve community teams in supporting 2022 peaceful elections by:

- Creating awareness among youth, and highlighting violence's social and economic implications during the electioneering period
- Liaising with local media outlets and regional online platforms to campaign for peace
- Collaborating with those political parties seeking leadership in the county to further their message of peace as their leaders have more influence
- Working with community and security agencies to address the gang violence issue

