

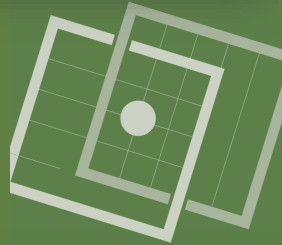


Africa Centre for Strategic Studies (ACSS) East Africa Security Governance Forum: Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (CT/CVE)

**8-11 April 2025
Nairobi, Kenya**



Session 1: Terrorism and Violent Extremism in East Africa: Threats and Responses



***Mr. Idriss M. Lallali
Ag. Director
African Union Counter-Terrorism Centre (AUCTC)***





... Presentation Overview

1. Recent Trends in Terrorism and Violent Extremism
2. Nexus Between Terrorism and Organized Crime
3. Role of National Counterterrorism and Fusion Centers
4. Importance of Governance, Oversight, and Parliamentary Leadership



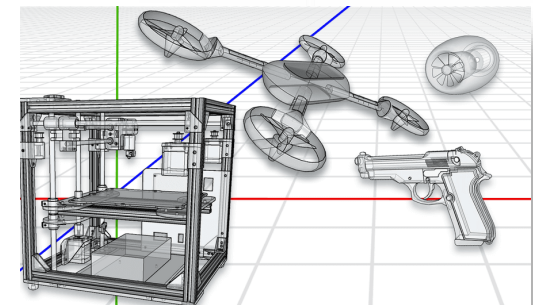
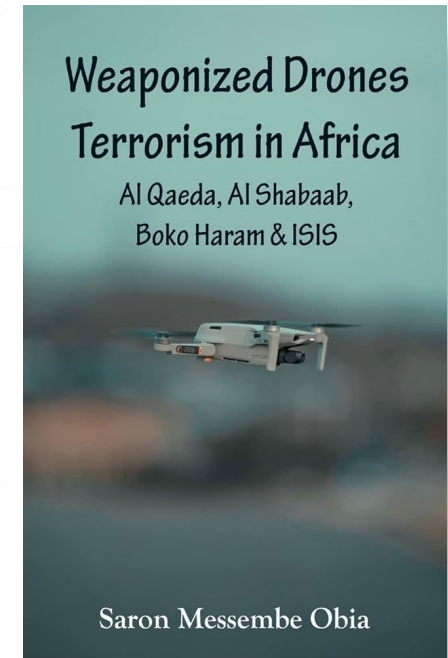
... Recent Trends in Terrorism

- Persistence & Adaptation of Al-Shabaab
- Rise of ISIS Affiliate in Puntland
- Use of Weaponized Drones and Advanced Technologies
- Cyber Radicalization and Online Recruitment
- Cryptocurrencies for Terror Financing
- Export of IED Expertise to other regions



... Al-Shabaab's Advanced Drone Capabilities

- Manufacturing drone components using 3D printing
- Used drones for reconnaissance at Manda Bay attack
- Potential risk of weaponized drones

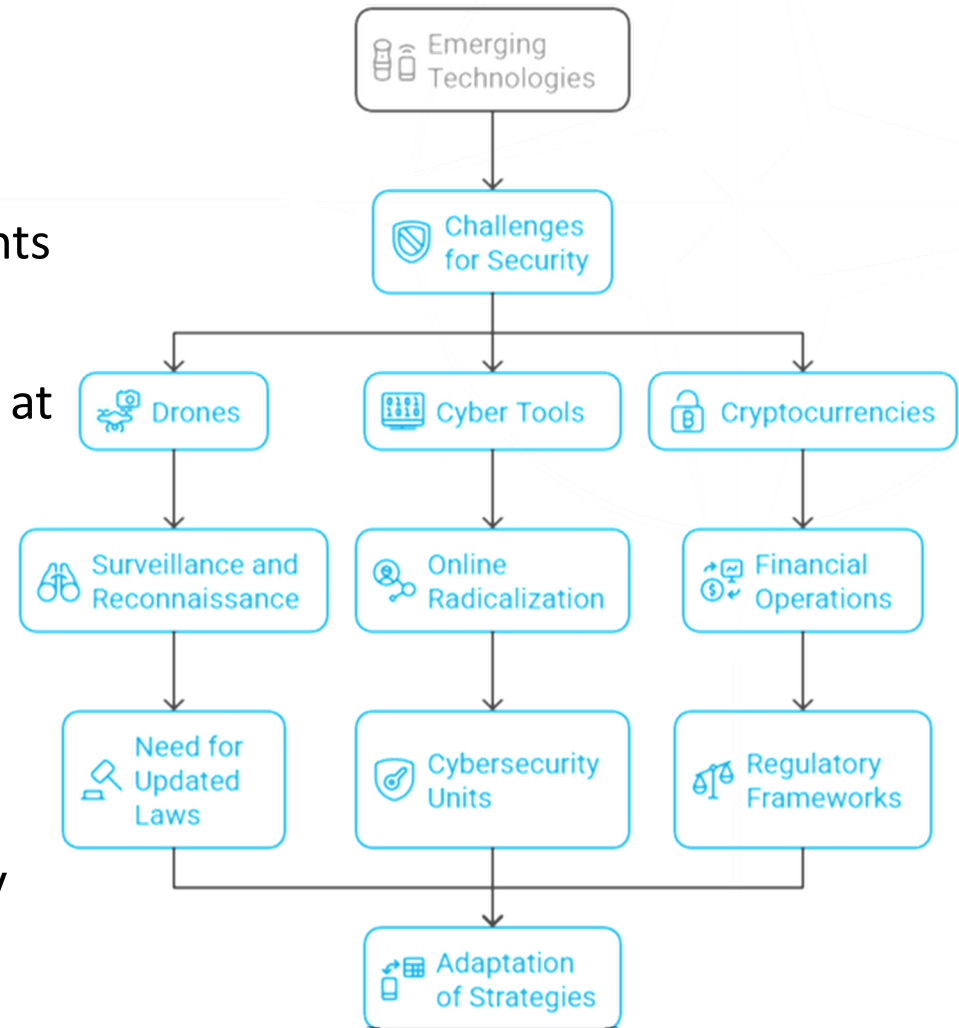




Emerging Technological Threats

Adapting Counterterrorism Strategies in East Africa

- Drone usage by Al-Shabaab (Kenya: Manda Bay attack)
 - Manufacturing drone components using 3D printing
 - Used drones for reconnaissance at Manda Bay attack
 - Potential risk of weaponized drones
- Cyber threats: Radicalization via social media (Kenya, Uganda)
- Risks of cryptocurrency usage by terrorist groups



... Somalia's Strategic Importance

- Puntland region serving as a significant logistical and financial hub for ISIS
- Connecting Middle East, South Asia, and Africa terror networks
- Increased coordination with Mozambique, DRC, and Afghanistan affiliates



... East Africa's Evolving Terrorism Landscape

- Al-Shabaab's persistent threat (Kenya: Westgate Mall, Uganda: Kampala bombings)
- ISIS presence in Somalia (Puntland)
- Somalia as strategic nexus between Africa, Middle East, and South Asia terror networks





... Nexus Between Terrorism & Organized Crime

- Al-Shabaab's \$100M annual revenue from extortion/taxation
- Use of front businesses and money laundering (Crown Bus Services example)
- Illicit charcoal, ivory, narcotics, human trafficking
- Regional criminal network coordination (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Gulf States)
- ISIS use of informal money transfers (hawala) and mobile money

Disrupting Terror Financing in East Africa



Al-Shabaab's Revenue Streams

Extortion and taxation in Somalia



ISIS Financing Methods

Informal transfers and mobile platforms



Regional Cooperation

Kenya and Uganda's collaboration



International Efforts

Sanctions and intelligence sharing

Narco Terrorism

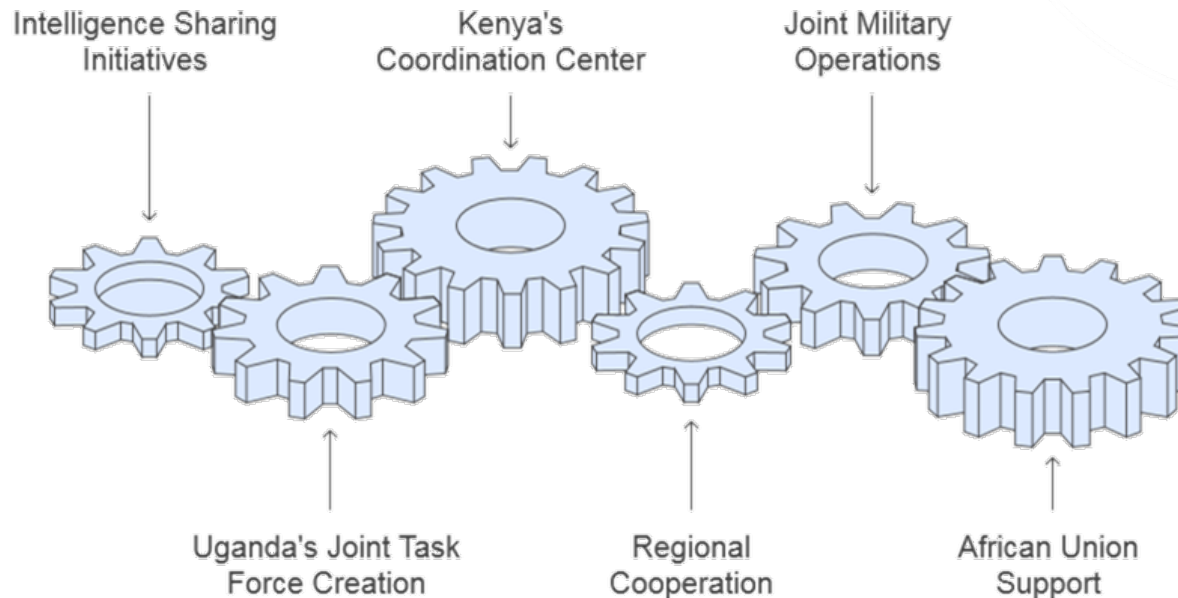
- In Narco terrorism, terrorists making, transporting, and selling illegal drugs to fund terrorists activities.
- Narco terrorism has denoted violence used by drug traffickers to influence governments or prevent government efforts to stop the drug trade.

Example: Making, transporting, and selling illegal drugs to fund terrorists activities.



... Intelligence Fusion & Regional Cooperation

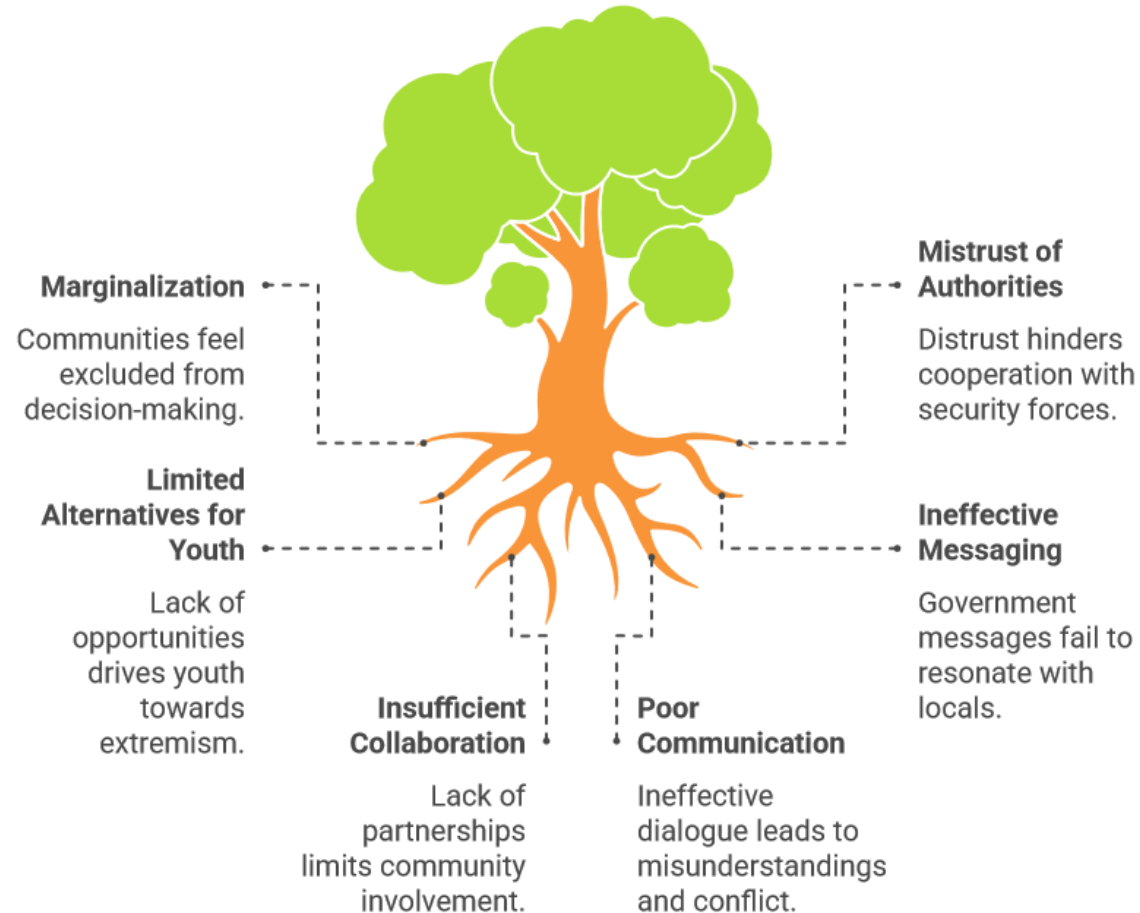
- Fusion centers integrate intelligence & operational responses
- Uganda's Joint Anti-Terrorism Task Force (JATT)
- Kenya's multi-agency intelligence coordination
- Regional operations (Uganda-DRC joint operations against ADF)



Community Engagement & Preventing Violent Extremism

- Kenya's "Nyumba Kumi" community policing initiative
- Role of religious leaders and local influencers in countering extremist narratives
- Rehabilitation & reintegration (Somalia rehabilitation centers)
- Economic & educational initiatives to combat radicalization
- Importance of parliamentary support for community programs

Lack of Community Engagement in Countering Extremism



... Governance, Oversight, and Rule of Law

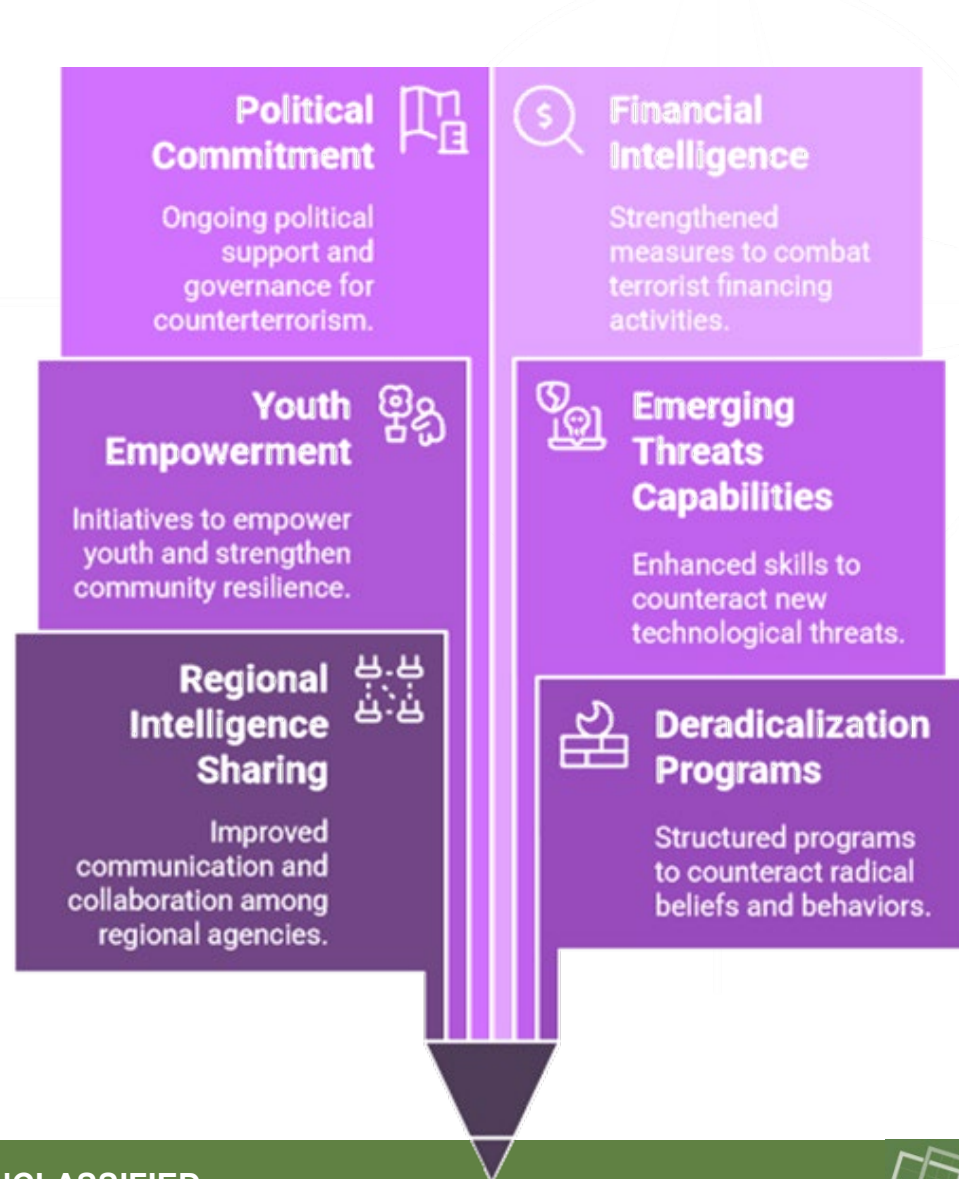
Cycle of Effective Counterterrorism Governance

- Oversight institutions ensuring accountability of security sector accountability (Kenya: IPOA)
- Legislative oversight for CT laws and regulations
- Addressing underlying grievances through governance
- Balancing security measures with human rights
- Transparency in security operations



... Strategic Recommendations and Conclusion

- Strengthen regional intelligence sharing, operational cooperation, and coordination
- Institutionalize deradicalization, reintegration programs, and robust community engagement initiatives
- Enhance youth empowerment through local governance and community resilience initiatives
- Build capabilities against emerging threats including drones, cybersecurity, and cryptocurrencies
- Ensure sustained political commitment, rigorous parliamentary oversight, good governance, and consistent financial investment in counterterrorism
- Strengthen financial intelligence and counter-terrorist financing capabilities



... Challenges...

- Conventional approaches to a non-conventional threat;
- trying to find short-term solutions to long-term strategy of terrorists;
- Local security priorities driven by global CT Agenda (compliance);
- Capacity to swiftly and efficiently adapt to the changing nature and innovation of the threat;
- Self-Defense Militias vs. National Defense and Security Forces
- Lacking of imagination “it will never happen is only true until it does”;
- Little time spent connecting local to regional to global events, at least not quickly enough and efficiently enough to be preventive rather than reactionary;
- Multiple overlapping and redundant regional security mechanisms;
- Lack of capacity building coordination between the international partners;
- No capacity to effectively identify foreign terrorist fighters (partners not sharing lists of biometric data, no shared database...etc.);

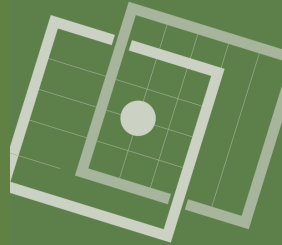




AUCTC

African Union Counter-Terrorism Centre

Thank you



Idriss Mounir Lallali

Ag. Director

African Union Counter-Terrorism Centre (AUCTC)

Tel: +213 21 52 00 83

Fax: +213 21 52 04 14

Email: L.Mounir@acsrt.org

Website : <http://www.caert.org.dz>



ACSRT UNCLASSIFIED