East Africa Security Governance Forum: Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (CT/CVE

Session 6: Engaging Communities, Civil Society, and Media in Oversight of CT/CVE

PHYLLIS MUEMA, HSC

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KENYA COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTRE (KECOSCE)

www.kecosce.org

About Kenya Community Support Centre (KECOSCE) www.kecosce.org

▶ KECOSCE is a national Public Benefit Organization (PBO) established in Kenya since 2006.

▶ Vision a Just, peaceful and progressive society

▶ Have implemented PCVE programs for 15 years and been part of implementation of the Kenya's National Strategy for PCVE, and County Actions for PCVE in the Coast region.

▶ Operates a regional Early Warning and Early Response mechanism (EWER) supported by volunteer community monitors.

Reflection on Threats to security

- Corruption

- Terrorism and radicalization that leads to violent extremism

- cyber-crime and internet facilitated crime

- Existence of Organized Criminal Groups

- Sexual and Gender-Based Violence - (SGBV)

- Climate change induced conflicts – drought, floods, food insecurity, communal conflicts

- Economic Slump and youth unemployment

- Protection and Promotion of Civic Space

WHY ENVOLVE/ENGAGE CSOs/MEDIA

- Kenya's role at the UN Security Council and the pressure to lead by example in CT/PVE, Women Peace and Security 1325, youth, human rights etc

- UN Secretary-General 's plan of action 2015 - calls for a comprehensive approach encompassing not only essential security-based counter-terrorism measures but also systematic preventive steps to address the underlying conditions that drive individuals to radicalize and join violent extremist groups.

- The growing threat to Kenya's Democracy, unity and realization that Terrorism is complex cannot be fought by guns alone, that citizens are the best defiance against terrorism

- Constitutional requirement – the need for citizen inclusion

PUSH FACTORS
- Primordial and religious sentiments
- Economic disparities
- Political differences Perceived injustice
- Ecological threats, such as food insecurity, water scarcity and climate change,
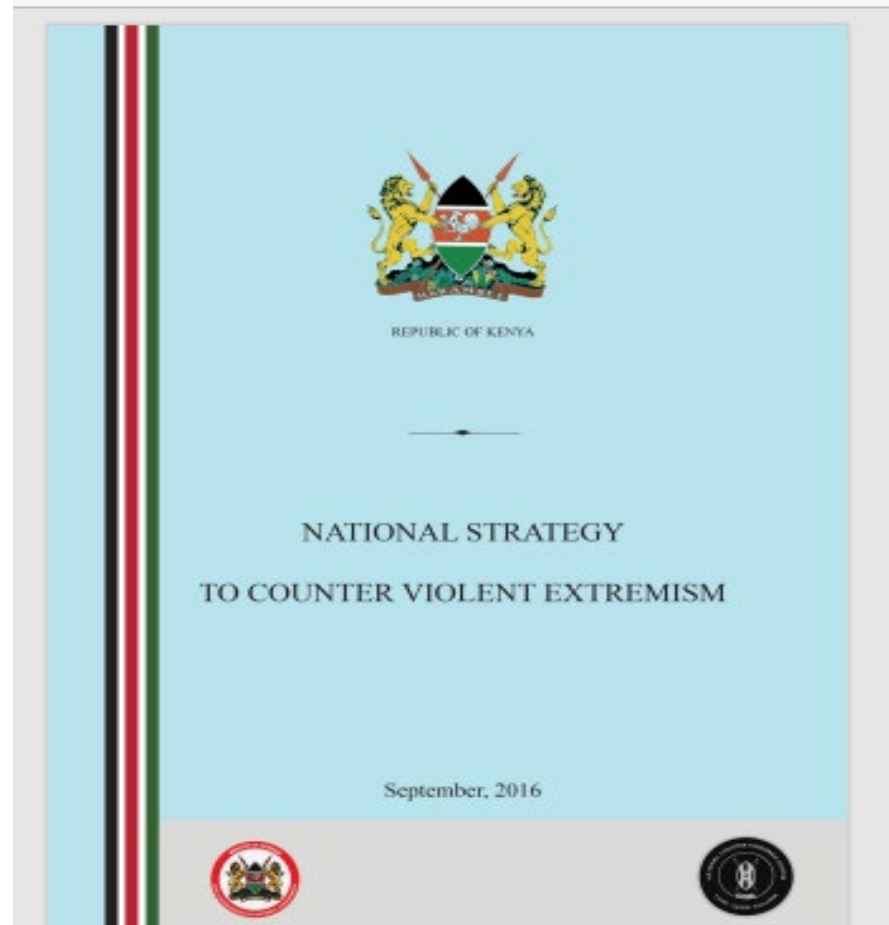
PULL FACTORS
- Self-victimization mindset
- Collective grievances
- Distorted understanding of beliefs rooted in: a) Religion, political ideology, ethnicity, and cultural differences; b) Social networks and leadership influences

- **Soft Approach**
- **Complementary**
- **Systematic, Planned, and Integrated**: Actively involves all stakeholders
- **Principles:** people centric (Human Rights and freedoms; Rule of law and Justice; Gender Mainstreaming; Fulfillment of Children's Rights, Security and Safety; Good Governance Participation of multi Stakeholders; Local Wisdom and Diversity
- A WoG and WoS Approach

- **1 National Strategy 9 pillars of the national strategy**
- **Localization and local ownership 47 County Action Plans over 2000 CSOs involved**

- **Evidence based programming and intelligence led policing**
- **Media involvement**
- **Private sector engagement**

Kenya's WoS/WoG approach to PCVE

NSCVE Approaches

- The work Pillars

- Disengagement and Reintegration

- National and Local Action

- The Research Agenda

- Stakeholder entry points

- Measuring CVE Impact

- Coordination, stakeholder engagement and measurement of impact

Kenya's 9 NSCVE Pillars

- 1. Psychosocial Pillar
- 2. Education Pillar
- 3. Political Pillar
- 4. Security Pillar
- 5. Faith Based and Ideological Pillar
- 6. Training and Capacity
- 7. Arts and Culture
- 8. Legal and Policy Pillar
- 9. Media and Online Pillar

New Strategy 2025-2030

FOCUS	WORKING GROUPS
AWARENESS	Faith and Ideology, Communication and technology
EMPOWERMENT	Economic, education, Psychosocial
EARLY WARNING AND EARLY RESPONSE	Security and community Policing, Training and capacity building
POLICY AND PRACTICE	Governance, and county level MERL
INCLUSIVITY	Kina Mama PCVE networks, youth, male mentors

KEY ACHIEVEMENT

▶ Strengthened social resilience and cohesion in PCVE at grassroots level.

▶ Coordination and Consolidation of efforts to PCVE, facilitating trust building and communication with the Government, and consolidating knowledge-sharing efforts.

▶ Broadened platforms for monitoring, reporting and Providing knowledge-sharing between Government and CSOs and morning

▶ Resources mobilization: supported mainly by development partners and enhanced security outcomes.

▶ Increased legitimacy - awareness and public support on reporting,

Best practices

▶ CSO interventions are well-received due to their humanistic approach and sustainable design, leading to measurable and lasting impacts on communities.

▶ CSOs possess deep knowledge of local contexts, addressing resistance in implementing national policies by aligning interventions with local needs.

▶ CSOs conduct extensive research and collaborate with other organizations, leveraging well-established community networks and local insights.

▶ CSOs excel in simplifying complex terms, accelerating the mainstreaming of key issues within communities. Trained in using appropriate program language, CSOs foster greater community willingness and effective participation.

Engaging Civil society and media in oversight of CT/CVE

▶ Provide information from the ground to inform parliament through EWERs, community groups etc.

▶ Establish accountability mechanisms for ensuring counterterrorism measures are lawful non-discriminatory and respect human rights

▶ Undertake Capacity building of community/citizens to engage parliament

▶ Trust building between communities and state security

▶ Research and Evidence based policy influencing

▶ Support strategic communication, narratives and counter narratives

Call to Action

▶ Parliament's role in legislation, representation, oversight and resources allocation remain very important

▶ Balance Military with Political and Developmental Approaches – Addressing root causes such as youth unemployment and governance deficits is crucial to long-term stability.

▶ Partner with media to increase public trust and buy-in

▶ Support citizen centered PCVE Efforts and the localization agenda

▶ Enhance oversight of CT institutions to ensure they are people centered and human rights focused e.g. victims compensation fund (POTA), Witness protection Agency etc