



Newsletter

NATIONAL COUNTER TERRORISM CENTRE

Stakeholder review of national strategy to counter violent extremism a big success

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A stakeholder meeting in Laikipia County to review the National Strategy on Countering Violent Extremism.

By NCTC Team

The National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) has successfully concluded a series of stakeholder engagements and public participation to review the National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism (NSCVE) 2016.

The primary focus of these engagements was to gather views from the public and from diverse voices of stakeholders including security sector, civil society, academia, religious leaders, national and county administration and communities, on the draft version of the revised strategy.

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From the Editorial Desk



Welcome to the 6th Edition of our newsletter. The National Counter Terrorism Center has successfully conducted a series of public participation fora to review the National Strategy on Countering Violent Extremism (NSCVE) 2016.

The Center is immensely grateful to Kenyans from all walks of life and our local and international partners for their invaluable contribution to the success of the collaborative dialogue towards an inclusive document to be formally unveiled later this year.

The great interest Kenyans showed in the process is a manifestation of the collective aspiration for a safer and more resilient country. Among the primary goals of the review exercise is aligning the County Action Plans on preventing and countering violent extremism with the revamped national strategy.

In the last three months, the Center has also been actively involved in capacity building initiatives targeting the counties and various multi-agency institutions in the security sector to bolster their ability to respond to the dynamic threat of terrorism and violent extremism.

This includes strengthening gender and youth-centric approaches to tackling radicalization and recruitment into violent extremism at community level. Promoting public awareness of the dangers of violent extremism leading to terrorism, through mainstream and online media platforms, remains a key priority for the Center.

As we mark twenty-six years since the horrific attack on the US Embassy in Nairobi, we remember those who perished and honor those who live with the scars of that event. The August 7 1998 bombing was a momentous harbinger of terrorism from Al Qaida and its affiliates in Kenya and remains a painful but poignant reminder of the need for collective vigilance against the enemy lurking within and beyond our borders.

UNOCT hosts workshop on securing 'soft' targets

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) in collaboration with partners including the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), and in partnership with the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC) convened a three-day strategic-level workshop on securing soft targets.

The three-day workshop in mid-May dealt with the development of focused an effective national strategy on protection of vulnerable targets against terrorist attacks. The event brought together senior officers in government Ministries, Departments and Agencies. The workshop was funded by the European Union.



European Union Ambassador to Kenya Her Excellency Henriette Geiger speaks during the opening of a workshop in May 2024 on strengthening Kenya's policy and operational strategies to counter and leverage emerging technologies against terrorism. -Photo Courtesy of EU.

Successful stakeholder review of national strategy on violent extremism ends

Continued from page 1



Nakuru County Commissioner Loyford Kibaara addresses a stakeholder meeting reviewing the National Strategy on Countering Violent Extremism

The final forum in the review process was held on 17th-18th July in Nairobi, bringing together representatives from Nairobi, Kiambu, Murang'a, Wajir, Mandera, Kajiado, Machakos and Narok counties, and attended by key NCTC partners like ACT! and Mercy Corps.

In early July, NCTC engaged stakeholders from Kitui, Garissa and Tana River counties to deliberate on the document, which is now in its final stages of public review, before the formal launch later this year. The event was held in Garissa town.

The NSCVE, first launched in 2016, is undergoing review to align it with emerging realities around the threat of terrorism and violent extremism.

The primary focus of the review is to document feedback from diverse voices from state and non-state actors including security sector, civil society, academia, religious leaders, national and county administration and communities, on the zero-draft version of the strategy.

The process is also aimed at gathering diverse perspectives on the draft reviewed

NSPCVE, to ensure it addresses the unique challenges faced by different counties and regions. This collaborative dialogue is crucial in ensuring the strategy's effectiveness while fostering the buy-in of communities, who are the ultimate beneficiaries of the revamped instrument.

As the NCTC prepares for the final phase of review of the strategic document, the collective insights from these events will be instrumental in shaping an effective and inclusive national strategy to counter violent extremism.

According to NCTC Director, Dr. Rosalind Nyawira, the stakeholder validation process has been characterised by robust contributions from the public, resulting in extension of the initial period slated for the exercise. "The intense engagements we have witnessed showcase the great interest Kenyans have in coming up with a document that reflects the collective aspiration for a safer and more resilient country," says Dr. Nyawira.

She adds that the success of the review exercise highlights the public's vital role in

addressing violent extremism as a threat to national security and wellbeing of the country.

The NSCVE embodies a whole-of-society approach to tackling the threat of radicalisation in Kenya by insulating communities from violent extremists through initiatives that are community-owned and led. Having been implemented over the last eight years, the strategy was ripe for enhancement to address the dynamic trends in terrorism and violent extremism in the Kenyan society.

"The overall purpose of the review is to collectively negotiate and adopt a strategy that is people-driven and responsive to local needs. We need a sustainable and adaptive approach to the way we deal with terrorism and violent extremism to the extent they pose an existential threat to our Nation and society," adds Dr. Nyawira.

By prioritizing grassroots engagement, the collaborative approach seeks to build trust, promote resilience, and create sustainable solutions to counteract extremist influences.

Counties enhance preventive strategies targeting radicalisation



Participants at a PCVE County Engagement Forum in Kajiado County. Empowering local communities is a critical step to creating a society that is more resilient from violent extremism.

As the National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism (NSCVE) review enters the final stages, several counties have taken steps to re-evaluate their policy and institutional capacity to tackle the threat of terrorism and violent extremism within their areas.

The counties of Kajiado, Murang'a, Nakuru and Machakos, working closely with the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC) are in the process of reorganizing their County Engagement Forums (CEFs) to better coordinate implementation of the County Action Plans (CAPs), the local-level plans guiding measures and activities at community level to prevent and counter violent extremism (PCVE).

NCTC convened CEFs in the four counties in June. The CEFs comprise individuals, representing State and non-State actors, who undertake PCVE work in a county in accordance with the CEF Standard Operating Procedures. Key outcomes of the engagements include updated CAPs and reconstituted CEFs.

NCTC is supporting Kajiado, Machakos and Murang'a counties to fast-track implementation of their CAPs. In Nakuru, NCTC in partnership with Midrift Hurinet, conducted a capacity building workshop for the Nakuru CEF, focusing on messaging and other areas critical to the success of PCVE activities in the county. The workshop was also attended by representatives of national and county governments.

NCTC's commitment to supporting the devolved governments in the implementation of CAPs is a testament to its dedication to fostering a collaborative and comprehensive approach to preventing and countering violent extremism in Kenya. By empowering local stakeholders with the skills and resources they need to address the root causes of radicalization and extremism, NCTC is working to create a more resilient and secure society for all.

Marsabit County boosts role of women, girls in PCVE

Marsabit County has stepped up efforts to tackle violent extremism with a renewed focus on women and youth especially girls. This is geared to creating a more inclusive platform to promote peace and cohesion among the local communities.

The county has now added the Gender Pillar to the Marsabit County Action Plan (CAP). The goal is to promote gender-based advocacy in PCVE activities in the county by onboarding women and youth (girls) and amplifying their voices in policy formulation and CAP implementation.

Global experience shows women play a significant role in PCVE. Integrating the Gender Pillar within the CAP framework therefore ensures women's strong influence and representation in PCVE at the devolved level, starting with the County Engagement Forum, the body mandated in law to implement the CAP.

With the support of NCTC, the Marsabit County Engagement Forum (CEF) has been strengthening its capabilities in preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE).

NCTC in conjunction with Strategies for Northern Development (SND), a leading civil society organisation (CSO) in Marsabit County, organised a three-day training in May for the Marsabit CEF secretariat to improve their knowledge and skills on collection and reporting of PCVE activities.

The CEF members were also trained on how to capture data on PCVE activities undertaken by the county, data collation, analysis and reporting, as well as tracking progress and measuring outcomes. They were also taught how to use the Fusion system - the monitoring and evaluation tool used in CAP implementation.

The Marsabit CEF training is aligned with NCTC's mandate of capacity building on PCVE at national and devolved levels.



Imams, madrassa teachers sensitized on protecting youth from extremism



National Counter Terrorism Center and Act Change Transform facilitated a workshop in Gilgil, Nakuru County, for Muslim Imams and Madrassa teachers as part of efforts to raise awareness

The National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC) in collaboration with Act Change Transform (Act!) organised a workshop in June in Nakuru County for Imams and Madrassa teachers to increase awareness of their role in preventing radicalization of young people.

The forum held in Gilgil town was part of the Accelerated Response Initiative Against Violent Extremism (ARIVE) Phase II project funded by the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund.

The eighty-seven participants engaged in insightful discussions on the role played by Muslim religious teachers in shaping young minds, especially to be wary of radical narratives and ideologies promoting violence.

Gilgil Sub-County Deputy County Commissioner, Mr. Willy Cheboi, encouraged the participants to be bold in pushing back against extremist influences and playing their rightful role in preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE).

The successful workshop highlighted the role of NCTC in raising awareness of violent extremism among PCVE stakeholders.

Faith-led counterterrorism awareness drive in Meru

NCTC in collaboration with faith-based organisation, Caritas, organised a two-day awareness campaign on preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE) in Meru County.

The campaign was conducted on Wega FM, a local vernacular radio station, to sensitize listeners on ongoing efforts by the government and other actors in society to fight radicalization as a factor driving violent extremism and terrorism.

The campaign was also part of media activities under the Meru Accelerated Response Initiative to Counter Violent Extremism

(M-ARIVE), a program that is integrated into the Meru County Action Plan on PCVE. The initiative also involved Act Change Transform (Act!), a non-government organization, with the support of Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF).

Public awareness is key to strengthening community resilience against radicalization and violent extremism. The Media plays a vital role in disseminating information and educating the public on the dangers of extremism and ways to avoid falling prey to dangerous ideologies that seek to sow discord in society.



NCTC team with journalists at Wega FM studio

Successful stakeholder review of national strategy on violent extremism ends (continued from page 3)



A community representative airs his views on the revised National Strategy on Countering Violent Extremism 2024. The process has been inclusive participatory as required by the Constitution of Kenya.

The NSCVE review is also designed to be inclusive in order to meet the threshold of the Constitution including public participation but also incorporate the national values and principles of human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, human rights, non-discrimination and protection of the marginalised.

NCTC has also sought the input of civil society and academia in ensuring a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to the new strategic framework on fighting violent extremism and terrorism within

Kenya's borders.

Another key aspect is aligning the mechanism for preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE) at the devolved level, including the County Engagement Forum (CEF) in all the counties, to the revamped strategy.

In addition to public meetings, NCTC established an interactive page on its website to facilitate dialogue and interactions among diverse stakeholders. The public was also invited to submit comments and memoranda through the online portal.

Kenya Tourism Federation supports counterterrorism efforts



Officials from Kenya Tourism Federation and National Counter Terrorism Center

The National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC) and the Kenya Tourism Federation (KTF) convened a consultative meeting in May 2024 to discuss a roadmap on further strengthening safety and security in the tourism industry.

KTF is an important partner in enhancing public-private partnerships as it brings on board private sector players.

This collaboration ensures that the private sector are incorporated in capacity building initiatives and are empowered on understanding of the threat of terrorism and how to be active participants in protecting themselves against violent extremism.

EAC States team up to address common terrorism threats



Military officers parade during the 13th Armed Forces Field Training Exercise (FTX) dubbed Ushirikiano Imara 2024 in Rwanda. Photo courtesy: Rwanda Defence Forces.

East African Community (EAC) member states have resolved to strengthen regional security cooperation and preparedness to tackle complex security challenges associated with terrorism and violent extremism.

The regional integration body hosted a two-week training in June, bringing together military, police and civilian security officials from Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania.

NCTC participated in the exercise also known as the 13th Armed Forces Field Training

Exercise (FTX) dubbed Ushirikiano Imara 2024.

It was officially opened by Rwanda's Minister for Defence, Hon. Brig-Gen. Juvenal Marizamunda who in his remarks emphasized the importance of collective effort in addressing security threats facing the region.

"The importance of security in regional integration cannot be overstated. Indeed, no country can confront contemporary security challenges single-handedly. It is therefore essential for countries to come together as a region to address these security challenges collectively," he said.

The FTX focused on topical security themes such as Peace Support Operations, Counterterrorism, Counter-Piracy and Disaster Management. Participants also took part in various drills and exercises to enhance their capabilities. The exercise not only offered a platform for participants to share experiences and learnings, but also served as an avenue to bolster regional cooperation and integration.

NCTC conducts SSCVE

NCTC took part in an intensive training of military officers in June to bolster their ability to fight terrorism and violent extremism. The exercise at the Kenya Navy Mtongwe, Nyali and Mariakani Barracks in Mombasa, is part of capacity building for the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) under the Security Sector Counter Violent Extremism (SSCVE) programme.

The training underscores the pivotal role of KDF in maintaining fighting terrorism and violent extremism. KDF in collaboration with NCTC has been equipping officers with the skills to handle and effectively combat terrorism including reducing the levels of radicalization in the country.

This initiative aligns perfectly with the NCTC's mandate of delivering training and tools that enhance the competency of counter-terrorism stakeholders. The SSCVE programme is being extended to

other KDF establishments in Nairobi, Nakuru, Eldoret and Garissa. The collaboration between NCTC and KDF exemplifies a proactive approach to national security. Through such training programmes, Kenya is taking significant steps to strengthen its resilience to the ever-evolving threats of terrorism and violent extremism.



NCTC hosts delegation from Malawi

NCTC on 20th - 23rd May 2024, hosted a delegation from Malawi as part of its mandate to foster regional and international collaboration in counterterrorism.

The meeting also focused on sharing good practices in preventing and countering violent extremism as directed by the foreign ministers of member States of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

NCTC signs MoU with National Cohesion and Integration Commission



National Cohesion and Integration Commission Chair Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia and National Counter Terrorism Center Director Dr. Rosalind Nyawira at the signing of a strategic partnership to foster collaboration between the two institutions.

NCTC in June signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) to support programs aimed at combating activities that propagate violent extremism.

The strategic partnership will see the two institutions step up efforts to foster national cohesion and implement alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in educational institutions. They will also focus on initiatives geared to building a safer and cohesive Kenya. NCTC hopes to ride on the established structures within NCIC especially Amani clubs to reach out to the youth in schools as a way of creating resilience and reducing vulnerabilities to violent extremism.

1,500 officers trained on keeping prisons secure from terrorists



Principal Secretary for the State Department for Correctional Services Salome Muhia-Beacco (third from right), Director Probations and After Care and the NCTC during a meeting to discuss deradicalization within the prisons system.

NCTC in June conducted training for the Kenya Prison Service (KPS) as part of the Security Sector Counter Violent Extremism (SSCVE) programme. The purpose of the training exercise was to enhance awareness of the threat posed by terrorism and extremist violence within the context of the penal system.

The training was held at Kisumu Maximum Prison, Kibos Maximum Prison (in Kisumu County) and Kakamega Main Prison and Shikusa Farm Prison (in Kakamega County). Over 1,500 prisons officers benefitted from the exercise.

KPS is one of NCTC's stakeholders and the training is part of the Center's mandate of capacity building targeting stakeholders. In addition, KPS by the nature of its work handles convicted criminals including those involved in terrorism and other violent crimes, hence the need to strengthen its institution's understanding of such threats and how to effectively manage them.

The training also encompassed the threat picture within the region and globally, to acquaint the officers with morphing terrorism trends and terrorist exploitation of technology.

Considering that radicalization and recruitment into violent extremism and terrorism remains a challenge within the prisons, it was necessary to educate the officers on early detection of radicalization and possible recruitment of inmates by terror agents.

Prisons are also critical infrastructure requiring adequate protection from intrusion or prisoner escape. NCTC works closely with KPS to appraise and enhance physical protective and defensive measures to safeguard the penal facilities.

Western Kenya counties realign PCVE action plans

Five counties in Western Kenya are working with the NCTC recently conducted an exercise to strengthen their capabilities PCVE in readiness for the revised National Strategy for Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism (NSPCVE).

Bungoma, Siaya, Busia, Kakamega and Vihiga counties have rolled out initiatives to bolster the capacity of their County Engagement Forums (CEFs), the coordinating mechanism tasked with implementing County Action Plans (CAPs) on PCVE at the devolved level.

This includes capacity building and technical assistance to the CEFs by NCTC and aligning the five CAPs with the revised NSPCVE.

The initiative is a collaboration between the National Integrated PCVE Initiative (NiPi) consortium, in collaboration with NCTC. NiPi is funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and focuses on capacity building programs targeting PCVE stakeholders across Kenya.

The consortium comprises Sharp Development Solutions (SDS) Consulting,

Champions of Peace-Kisumu (CoP-K), Youth, Arts, Development and entrepreneurship Network (YADEN)-EA, and Grassroots Impacts Advisors (GIA).

Representatives of the national and county governments participated in the stakeholder events organised by NiPi and NCTC in the five counties in July, which mark a significant milestone in the transition to the new Strategy.



A capacity building workshop for community representatives in Western Kenya organised by the National Integrated PCVE Initiative (NiPi) consortium.

Coast residents lauded for backing State efforts to counter extremism

Citizens and community groups in Mombasa County have been praised for their active role in championing government efforts to eradicate radicalisation of youth in the coastal region.

Speaking during an interactive public session to review the draft National Strategy to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism 2024 (NSPCVE 2024) in May, Mombasa County Commissioner, Mohamed Nur Hassan, revealed that significant progress has been achieved in addressing violent extremism in the coastal city.

The forum which brought together stakeholders from the coast region actively involved in efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism, was supported by the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) and facilitated by the Technical Working Group on NSPCVE 2024.

Fred Ndegwa, Head of Partnerships at NCTC, emphasized the importance of community input, stressing NCTC's commitment to

incorporating public feedback in the final document.

Joseph Kanyiri, Head of Prevention and Resilience at NCTC, highlighted the need for a robust strategy for combating radicalization into violent extremism and terrorism, fusing diverse perspectives to ensure grassroots realities are integrated.

Meanwhile, the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC) participated in a public sensitization forum on July 29-30, 2024, in Kilifi and Kwale counties. The two-day inter-county exercise centered around peer learning and sharing good practices on implementation of the County Action Plans on preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE) as part of the ongoing nationwide review of the National Strategy on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism. The forum also highlighted the role of the private sector in PCVE. (See photo on Page 12)

PICTORIAL



Acting Director-General of the Kenya School of Government, Dr. Nura Mohammed and National Counter Terrorism Center Director, Dr. Rosalind Nyawira, during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on capacity building and training of public officers as part of empower public officers.



Nakuru County Engagement Forum (CEF) members deliberate on ways to enhance reporting of CEF activities on the Fusion system. The meeting was facilitated by the National Counter Terrorism Center and Midrift HURINET, a local grassroots organisation, with the support of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund.



A consultative forum on the draft National Strategy on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism held in Mombasa in May 2024. This was part of the public participation sessions organised by the National Counter Terrorism Center working closely with grassroots organisations.



Youth and Women for Peace and Sustainable Development (YOWPSUD) organized as religious dialogue with leaders from 4 sub-counties in Kilifi County. The forum discussed ways in which religious communities can integrate mental health awareness into their activities.



Proceedings of the 20th Board Meeting of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund in Geneva, Switzerland in June 2024. The National Counter Terrorism Center was represented at the meeting.



PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT

POTA

2012

TERRORISM OFFENCE



A person who carries out a terrorist act commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding thirty years.

Where a person carries out a terrorist act which results in the death of another person, such person is liable, on conviction, to imprisonment for life.

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