INTERNATIONAL PEACE SUPPORT TRAINING CENTER (IPSTC)

NAIROBI, KENYA

IPSTC RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2021

THEME:

"From the Periphery to the Centre: Enhancing Protection Mechanisms"

04 November 2021
Sarova Whitesands Hotel, Mombasa County

Contents

Executive Summary

The mission of the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) is to be an independent regional research, training and education Centre in Eastern Africa that is responsive to peace operations training and education needs of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). As one of the deliverables of this mandate, IPSTC organised a symposium to disseminate findings of research studies undertaken in 2021. The 2021 IPSTC symposium brought together various stakeholders from National and County government, as well as civil society actors working in the area of P/CVE in Lamu and Mombasa Counties, practitioners from disaster response and management organisations and maritime security, and other development partners. The symposium was held on 4h November 2021 at Sarova White Sands Hotel in Mombasa County, Kenya. The overarching theme of the symposium was: "*From the Periphery to the Centre: Enhancing Protection Mechanisms"*.

The objective of the symposium was to share IPSTC research findings and outcomes with practitioners, policy makers and academia. The symposium further provided an opportunity to stakeholders to give input into IPSTC's field research findings through validating the Occasional papers to be published therefrom. Furthermore, the meeting was an opportunity for collaboration and networking.

The meeting produced substantive observations and reflections that were discussed, critiqued and later validated as a reflection of the situation in Kenya. The proceedings of this symposium will inform the design of training curricula to support peace operations; policy formulation, and will also contribute to the debate towards the enhancement of regional peace and security. This report briefly documents the proceedings of the one-day symposium.

1.0 The Symposium Concept

The International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) is a training and research institution whose focus is capacity building at strategic, operational and tactical levels of peace support operations within the context of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). The research at IPSTC contributes to capacity building of Peace Support Operations (PSO) and responds to PSO needs in the region. The Peace and Security Research Department (PSRD) of IPSTC, is charged with the responsibility of conducting research on peace and security issues in Eastern Africa. The department has produced annual research publications that include occasional papers and issue briefs for the last 12 years. The publications focus on conflict prevention, conflict management and post conflict recovery.

PSRD undertakes research for three main purposes: [a] Designing of a training curricula to support peace operations; and [b] Contribute to the debate towards the enhancement of regional peace and security [c] Inform policy. At the commencement of every year, PSRD begins its calendar year by formulating an agenda to inform its activities as one of its key responses to emerging issues in conflict, peace and security in Eastern Africa. This is done through a Research Agenda workshop. The IPSTC Research Agenda 2021 featured thematic areas related to women, peace and security and understanding emerging conflict trends, dynamics and the response strategies and mechanisms. In 2020, the Centre conducted research to address the theme: "*Towards More Inclusive Peace and Security Approaches."*. On 22nd July 2021, The IPSTC 2021 Research Agenda Workshop was organized to provide a forum to share IPSTC research proposals with policy makers and practitioners and to provide an opportunity for input to the research proposals for wider ownership and enhanced validity before they were implemented. The workshop agenda forged effective and inclusive knowledge-based products that were applied in the research studies that were presented during the Symposium.

1.1 Objectives of the IPSTC 2021 Research Symposium

The IPSTC 2021 Research symposium is expected to lead into;

i. Valuable input to the findings and recommendations of the research outputs.
ii. Buy in to the policy and practitioners' recommendations.
iii. Publication of validated research output.

iv. Enhanced partnerships and collaborations amongst Peace and Security actors.

1.2 Expected Outcomes

To forge effective and inclusive knowledge-based products that will address the dynamic peace and security environment.

1.3 Participants

The symposium brought together different stakeholders from government and civil society working in the area of PCVE in Lamu, Kwale and Mombasa Counties, disaster response and management specialists, maritime security and development partners (See Appendix 1 Attendance list).

1.4 Venue and Date

The symposium was held on 4th November 2021 at Sarova Whitesands Hotel, Mombasa County.

1.5 Methodology

The Research Symposium was led by Professor Hassan Mwakimako (the moderator) while the record of proceedings was done by Dr. Sellah Lusweti (Rapporteur). The opening session began with a security brief from the Management of the hotel. Prof. Mwakimako then presented a synopsis of the activities of the day. The symposium began officially with remarks from three guest speakers: Mr. Jamlick Mutembei Deputy County Commissioner, Mombasa; Mrs. Evelyn Koech – Team Leader, Environment & Resilience, UNDP; Commander Katsumata Takao – Defense Attaché, Embassy of Japan, and finally Brig. Joyce C Sitienei, Director IPSTC who made her remarks to officially open the symposium.

IPSTC Researchers were each given time to present their findings to the plenary. After each presentation, the floor was opened for questions and comments during plenary sessions, led by Professor Mwakimako. In the sessions, participants were allowed and encouraged to provide positive critique, to seek clarification on materials and methods, and to give suggestions of additional focus areas. The workshop was concluded with a wrap-up session where Professor Mwakimako highlighted and summarised the proceedings of the day

Brigadier Sitienei, Director IPSTC gave the closing remarks and officially declared the symposium closed. Participants were also encouraged to give their feedback on the symposium through an online survey questionnaire in order to provide further feedback on the research findings presented.

1.6 Areas of Discussion

The symposium focused on enhancing protection mechanisms in the context of peace and security. Thematic areas were: violent extremism, engagement of women and girls in criminality and disaster risk reduction.

2.0 Opening Remarks

Prof. Mwakimako, the moderator, started by welcoming and acknowledging the presence of the guest speakers, invited participants and IPSTC personnel. He also thanked everyone for making it on time for the function. Prof. Mwakimako then guided the self-introduction session and later invited the guest speaker to make their remarks. The welcome remarks were given by Col I K Guleid, the IPSTC Colonel in charge of Plans and Programmes on behalf of ipstc Director, Brig. Joyce Sitienei.

2.1 Opening Address

Presented on Behalf of the Director, IPSTC by Col. I K Guleid, Colonel Plans & Programmes, IPSTC

Col Guleid acknowledged the presence of Commander Katsumata Takao (Defense Attaché of the Embassy of Japan), Mrs. Evelyn Koech - Team Leader, Environment & Resilience at UNDP; senior national and local government officials, CEOs of civil society organisations, partners and all other distinguished attendees.

He mentioned that it is with great honour and joy that he welcomed participants to the 2021 International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) Research Symposium. He recognized the presence of many partners in attendance and gave a special mention and gratitude to the Government of Japan and the UNDP. He appreciated their partnership with IPSTC in enhancing research and training capabilities over the years. He also thanked Reach Alternatives [REALs] who partnered with IPSTC towards the realisation of the research output that was going to be presented during the session.

Col.Guleid refocused the participants to the 2021 Research Symposium theme: "From the periphery to the Centre: Enhancing protection mechanisms." He mentioned that the underpinning motivation behind the theme was the principle of "leaving no one behind". Indeed, indigenous people working to stop violence, prevent violent extremism and build peace in their communities remain the greatest source of untapped peace building potential both globally and locally.

He pointed out that IPSTC is committed towards improving and reinforcing inclusion of all stakeholders in peace and security discourses and actions. He added that inclusive approaches for peace and security are essential in assuring sustainable, more equitable and prosperous societies; it is through inclusion that we can build a less violent, more stable, cohesive, and resilient world.

The speaker decried the increasing number of female offenders in the society. He noted that women traditionally provide social stability and are important security agents. Therefore, their participation in crime and violence is bound to result to societal chaos. Consequently, the world should take notice and be seized of the urgent need to contain the participation of women and girls in violent crimes. This, he said, justified why women and girls have become the central focus of peace and security policies and programs.

Violent Extremism (VE) often spreads through localized conflict. In this case, VE groups take advantage of and manipulate local grievances to gain position and traction. Therefore, mitigating and preventing extremist violence effectively may demand responsive approaches, such as early warning and early response. Having early and a more accurate assessment of local community's risk and vulnerability will go a long way in informing improved, targeted and more effective support. He added that while great strides have been made to address VE in Kenya, more needs to be done. As such, it is perhaps the right time to reflect on the strategies in place.

Col. Guleid pointed out that there cannot be durable peace and security amid hunger and famine. Indeed, access to food and peace are fundamental human rights. Therefore, various institutions have a key role in assuring that all population segments in a community are free from hunger and enjoy peaceful environment. Additionally, in realizing freedom from hunger and conflict, it is imperative that both formal and informal institutions play an equal role in determining initiatives, program, policies, and legislation that aim to interdict the cyclic problem of conflict and food insecurity. Inherent to this, the speaker pinpointed the inclusive participation of members of the affected communities regardless of; gender, age, ethnic persuasion, political affiliation, religion amongst others.

The speaker concluded by reminding the participants that inclusive peace and security approaches will promote more responsive policies, stronger analytical capabilities, enhanced situational awareness, and shared understanding. He underscored the importance of including

the local community, the vulnerable and marginalised in the efforts to assure sustainable peace. Accordingly, during the symposium, IPSTC welcomed all contribution to the research. He wished all fruitful discussions; and finally he declared the IPSTC 2021 Research symposium officially opened.

2.2 Guest Speakers' Remarks

a. Guest Speaker I:

Commissioner Dominic Mutembei – Deputy County Commissioner, Kisauni Sub-county, Mombasa County

The Commissioner represented The County Commissioner of Mombasa County, Mr. Kitiyo. He welcomed all the participants to Mombasa County. He noted that he was honored to sit in a session on research report. Mombasa being the face of coast regions, hosting many large businesses and international visitors, it is befitting to have the workshop in Mombasa. He also noted that Mombasa has been plagued by juvenile and criminal gangs, radicalization, drug abuse, conflict over resources and historical injustices. He mentioned that from the discussions, solutions to peace will be forged through joint effort and these solutions can be applied across the entire country. He pointed out that the plurality of organisations in attendance should be to resolve key issues affecting peace in Kenya. He further pointed out that the power of love needs to overwhelm the love for power for the world to know real peace. He also reiterated that Mombasa County was ready to work with all stakeholders in this quest; he beseeched participants to always remember that the difference they make in the lives of others determines the significance of the life one lives. He concluded by welcoming all to Mombasa County.

b. Guest Speaker II:

Mrs. Evelyn Koech - Team Leader, Environment & Resilience at UNDP

Mrs. Koech acknowledged the presence of Col. Guleid, Commander Takao, representatives of national and County governments and all other esteemed guests. She remarked that it was always a pleasure and an insightful experience to join IPSTC and partners in the research agenda on peace. She noted that the engagement between UNDP and IPSTC dated back to 2009, with funding from Government of Japan. She explained that the team building in disaster

management, funded by Government of Japan has strengthened and enhanced partnership in CVE. She further noted that the mandate of UNDP is development, and that no meaningful development can be done without current information through timely research to properly inform UNDP's actions. The speaker thanked IPSTC for their consistency and rigor in research work as they go beyond desk reviews which are likely to result in mismatch with contemporary reality. She concluded by saying that she looked forward to getting to know what was found in the research studies, with the aim of improving live in the community and in the country.

c. Guest Speaker III:

Commander Katsumata Takao (Defence Attaché, Embassy of Japan in Nairobi)

CDR.Takao acknowledged all invited guests. He mentioned that it was a great honor to be able to take part in the 2021 research symposium. He continued to say that violent extremism is a global scourge and that more emphasis is now being placed on prevention rather than countering. He continued to say that with the rise in violent extremism in Africa, he was glad that IPSTC has taken this timely direction to increase stability and resilience in communities. He pointed out that Government of Japan was actively taking steps to support such initiatives to stabilize regions across the world. He ended his discourse by stating that Government of Japan hoped that the partnership with UNDP and IPSTC would be fruitful in East Africa and would impact the rest of the world.

3.0 Presentations

3.1.1 Presentation I

Research title: Evaluation of Biopsychosocial Risk Factors in Crime and Violence Amongst Female Offenders in Mombasa County

Presenter: Major Saidi D. Mwachinalo

(a) Introduction

Major Mwachinalo explained and operationalize key terms used in the study: women, girls, crime, violence, crime, Biopsychosocial Risk Factors, female offender, and gender-neutral

factors. He further gave the context in which women and girls in Mombasa County find themselves categorized as female offenders; and showed the extent of the problem especially with the advent of violent extremism and juvenile crime in the County.

(a) Problem statement

Traditionally, women and girls have been viewed as victims rather than perpetrators of crime and violence. Yet, globally, empirical evidence points to their increasing agency in violent crimes. In Mombasa County, this has been manifested by an emergence of female only criminal gangs that execute violent crimes. Despite this negative development, there has been little reflection on the influence of individual and familial risk factors in predisposing women and girls to these disruptive behaviours. Moreover, there is a dearth of knowledge on the forms of violence executed by these female offenders and associated risk factors. This study thus, through Ex Post Facto research design, delineated biopsychosocial risk factors to crime and violence. It further identified prevalent violence typologies amongst female offenders in Mombasa County. This, in turn, informed the customisation and accurate targeting of intervention policies and programs.

(b) Research Objectives:

Findings from the following three objectives were presented:

i. Identify individual risk factors that predispose women and girls to crime
ii. Establish family related risk factors that predispose women and girls to crime
iii. Evaluate principal psychosocial risk factors to crime and violence.

(c) Research methodology

Research design: *Ex-Post Facto* & Cross-sectional. Comparative analysis was done between women in crime and those not involved in crime

- Study sites: Mvita, Kisauni, Nyali, and Likoni Sub Counties in Mombasa County.
- Population: Female Offenders and female non-offenders in Mombasa County, exact population size is unknown (hidden, since exact number of female criminals is not known).

- Sample size: 238 – Mvita 36, Kisauni 65, Nyali 50, and Likoni 87; equal proportionality was considered between offenders and non-offernders. Further the age and location of residence of non-offenders was considered to ensure a match between the two sub-groups
- Data collection tools: Questionnaires and interview guides
- Ethical considerations – research ethics including informed consent, voluntary participation, confidentiality and anonymity, and protection from harm was ensured. Further a research permit was sought from NACOSTI to ascertain adherence to ethics throughout the study.

(a) Study findings

➢ Level of Education

Female offenders were likely to primary education or lower, while non-offenders were likely to have primary education or higher. The study reported that the interaction crime status and level of education was significant (p = .00). This was echoed in a key informant interview that '*Most of the offenders are primary level dropouts due to poor parenting and lack of supervision'*. This finding was important as it can be extrapolated that offenders cannot intellectually challenge VE narratives and thus are easily persuaded into disruptive behavior.

➢ Esteem

High self-esteem provides a feel good factor and willingness to engage with mainstream society. Poor self-esteem on the other hand makes people seek the audience of non-conventional members of society. Using the Debowska et al. (2016) tool, it was found that about 7 in every 10 offenders had low self-esteem, and that 6 in every 10 hated themselves. They expressed that they felt like they did not belong, but when associating with non-conventional others they were easily persuaded into disruptive behaviour.

➢ Self-Efficacy

This construct was measured using the Smith and Betz (2000) self-efficacy tool. The study revealed that, 49% non-offender reported to have low self-efficacy; on the other hand, 81% of female offenders reported having low self-efficacy. It can be deduced that in every 10 female offenders, eight could not solve problems in a peaceful way, and cannot participate in social events, and seven could not make or retain friends easily; and five could not accept or give aid to

other people. This complexity in character was attributed to the fact that most of them come from dysfunctional families. As noted by one respondent, she was *'Constantly being reminded by other relatives that you will end up as a drug addict just like your parent, was extremely hard to bear. Insults were the order of the day*

➢ Impulsivity

The Reise et al. (2013) tool was used to measure impulsivity; which was defined as acting on the spur of the moment, without forethought on the consequences of their actions. 69.5% of offenders reported being impulsive, while 33.9% of offenders reported the same. In essence, in every 10, seven of the female offenders reported that they say things without thinking, do thinks without thinking, they do not plan and do not have self-control. They also reported that they did not think straight after taking drugs.

Respondents were also asked how their family background impacted the risk factors identified. Findings were reported under: nature of upbringing, family attachment, family character and childhood maltreatment.

Findings on objective two on family related risk factors that predispose women and girls to crime showed that family love and connection assures young people of acceptability; when it lacks, people seek out non-conventional support. The study found that 51% of offenders and 89% of non-offenders reported had fairly good family attachment. The variance in to effect on crime status was 57.5%. Precisely, it was found that seven in every 10 offenders said they were rejected by their fathers. In the absence of these primary caregivers, children lose their self-esteem. Rejection from fathers leads to the need to associate with associate with anti-social boys. The presence of fathers provides assurance and boosts self-esteem. Further, poverty was shown to amplify/catalyse the poor family attachment and risk into criminalization.

On family character, about 58% of offenders reported coming from moderate character families, while for non-offenders, the figure was significantly higher at 87%. Family character explained 51.8% of variance in crime status. In particular, it was found that five in every ten offenders came from families whose parents had criminal backgrounds, four in every ten had siblings in crime, three in every ten had infighting with siblings and, two in every ten witnessed gender based violence at home; two in every ten were sexually abused by their parents

In objective three, an evaluation of principal psychosocial risk factors to crime and violence was done. The study findings showed that the risk factors rated as follows from lowest to highest: childhood maltreatment 2.97%, family character (2.97%), anxiety 6.8%, depression 7.8%, impulsivity 13.1%, self-efficacy 17.1%, and self-esteem 43.2%

The following conclusions were drawn from the study:

- Female offenders contend with poor psychological capacities and ill mental health
- Women and girls engaged in crime live in low functioning families characterised by detachment, character disorder and childhood maltreatment.
- Female offenders mainly participate in psychological violence
- Addressing of esteem, self-efficacy and impulsivity may have desirous effect in mitigating violent crimes amongst female offenders.

Recommendations were made as follows:

1. The Mombasa County Government should consider formulating Menstrual Hygiene Management Policy
2. The County Government of Mombasa should consider inclusion of targeted livelihood support programs for vulnerable women and girls in their budget policy
3. Mombasa County Government and CSOs with programs on crime management should consider rehabilitation programs based on psychotherapy focussed on esteem, self-efficacy and impulsivity
4. Practitioners should conduct play and arts therapy in high risk areas
5. Practitioners should consider provision of life skills education
6. Practitioners should consider providing livelihood support and menstrual health packages
7. CSOs should consider trainings on effective parenting
8. IPSTC should conduct a TNA amongst Crime Management actors and develop Training of Trainers programs on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), effective parenting and related life skills

4.1.2 Plenary session – Presentation I

Prof. Mwakimako guided the session. He encouraged participants to querry, critique and comment on the presentation openly.

Participant 1:

An addition to the recommendations that as much as IPSTC will develop mental health curriculum, peace building should be inbuilt in the curriculum for offenders

Response: IPSTC has a course that touches on community peace building, mental health and peace building. However the recommendation will be relooked at

Participant 2:

1. The study had a gap in terms of social contract

A social contract happens between a government and its people. The people agree to give up some freedoms if the government agrees to protect everyone's rights. The starting point for most social contract theories is an examination of the human condition absent of any political order (termed the "state of nature" by Thomas Hobbes). In this condition, individuals' actions are bound only by their personal power and conscience. From this shared starting point, social contract theorists seek to demonstrate why rational individuals would voluntarily consent to give up their natural freedom to obtain the benefits of political order. The central assertion that social contract theory approaches is that law and political order are not natural, but human creations. The social contract and the political order it creates are simply the means towards an end—the benefit of the individuals involved—and legitimate only to the extent that they fulfill their part of the agreement.

2. No recommendation was made on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) – including teen pregnancy, the study only recommended on menstrual hygiene
3. Findings showed that increased educational attainment reduces propensity for crime, researcher should frame a recommendation towards higher attainment as a proactive measure
4. Make it clearer how you factored in/controlled for socio-economic status of the family of the respondents

Response:

- Social contract will be reviewed as a theory, and recommendation will be broadened to accommodate SHRH rather than just menstrual health
- The socio-economic status was captured as an intervening variable in terms of the localities from which respondents were drawn, non-offenders were profiled on age and locality to match profiles of offenders

Participant 3:

1. *What can be done to make school more attractive?*

Response: How to make school more attractive needs further engagement and is a likely topic for future research especially for those willing to return to school for rehabilitation.

Participant 4:

This is a very informative study and was very specific to issues of rehabilitation in prisons. What is the effect of culture on how offenders fit in society, are there community pillars to help offenders reintegrate back into society?

Response: There is an emerging gun culture which is now seen as fashionable, and this is compounding the problem. On community pillars for those incarcerated, unfortunately this was not within the scope of the study. The study focused on offenders who were outside the penal support system as they may have undergone some intervention while incarcerated. However, unfortunately for offenders, they do not start their lives on a clean slate after their release; a good example is seen from the certificate of good conduct which forever carries the negative record, yet is a very important document for reintegration.

Participant 5:

Previous narratives of CVE showed that poverty and low levels of education were push factors into VE. However, this has turned out not to be true for a significant number of cases, in fact very well educated and well off youth have of recent given impetus to extremist ideology and action. How did the study factor in such realities?

Response: Poverty only catalyses probability of being involved in VE. It was controlled for in the study by picking respondents from only one locality but with varied socio-economic status. For instance in Mvita, Kisauni and Likoni (which are generally low socio-economic zones), the offenders started engaging in crime on average at age 15; while in Nyali (a higher economic status zone), they started at age 17. Economic affluence affords youth some prolonged dependence, as well as better infrastructure, probability of schooling and other facilities. All these provide opportunities of forming pro-social behavior.

4.2.1 Presentation II

The Moderator, Prof. Mwakimako introduced the session by giving a brief background of the presenters and stated purpose of the research papers.

Presentation Title: Assessing the Efficacy of Early Warning and Early Response Mechanisms in Countering Violent Extremism in Kwale County

Presenters: Captain Mariam Mazoea Idriss & Dr. M. J. Kimani

(a) Introduction

At the heart of every Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) program is addressing radicalization and recruitment. Nevertheless, many PCVE programs take a reactionary approach aimed at tackling the consequences of radicalization and extremism once Violent Extremism (VE) has erupted. Indeed, the primacy of early warning and preventive mechanisms (EWER) cannot be underscored, yet little focus has been put towards them. Early warning in PCVE, if well applied, can minimize, and subdue threats. It denotes nipping the VE problem in the bud before it manifests. Therefore, this study through exploratory research design sought to establish existing EWER mechanisms and their efficacy in PCVE.

(b) Problem statement

- In Kenya, early warning and early response to violent extremism is an avenue that has been missing in informing CVE (NSCVE)
- Majorly the response mechanisms to PCVE available have been reactive in nature. Reality on the ground reveals a highly incoherent taskforce marred with political wrangles that yielded poor results (Feve & Dews, 2019)

- The benefits of wide adoption of EWER mechanisms to mitigate VE and threats of terrorism have not been widely harnessed

(a) Research Objectives:

- To evaluate the level of awareness of existing EWER mechanisms in Kwale County
- To find out the level of efficacy of existing EWER mechanisms in Kwale County
- To identify potential evidence-based EWER mechanisms adaptable for mitigating VE in Kwale County

(b) Proposed Research methodology

Research Design: Exploratory and cross- sectional Research Design; Mixed-methods research approach; Use of Indicators to measure efficacy

Study Sites: Diani, Ukunda, Kona Ya Musa, Bongwe, Mbuwani, Tiwi, Ng'ombeni, Kombani, Mwapala, Matuga and Lunga Lunga (identified as VE hotspots (KCPCVE, 2017)

(c) Population

National government (County Commissioner, NPS, NIS, Chiefs); Structures (Chairs - Peace Committees, Dev.); Kwale County Government (CECs, MCAs, Ward Reps.); National Counter Terrorism Centre; Kenya Defense Forces - Counter Terrorism Branch, community members and returnees/and parent victims of VE.

(f) Sampling technique

Purposive sampling was used to select key informants involved in EWER and PCVE in Kwale County; snowball sampling was used to identify other key respondents actively involved in EWER and PCVE; a synthesis of the two was used where necessary

(g) Sample size: 12 key informants, 150 community members, 4 returnees, and 24 FGD participants were involved; making a total of 200 respondents

Data collection tools: Questionnaires, Interview Guides, FDGs, KIIs, Observations

(h) Ethical Considerations: Adherence to Data Protection Act 2019 (Confidentiality and informed consent), seeking authority and approval from NACOSTI & Kwale County Government; specific consideration for returnees/victims of VE and those who had renounced

VE were made in terms of venue, security and anonymity; further, for all participants adherence to COVID-19 Protocols was ensured.

Study findings

The study findings were presented to address three key objectives:

1. To evaluate the level of awareness of existing EWER mechanisms in Kwale County
    - There is no one understanding of what VE is, most times it is laced with ethnicity or politics and is there misunderstood
    - 76% of respondents were not engaged in any EWER activity
    - 81% reported that the programs on VE they were involved in did not address EWER
    - 5% reported that they were not encouraged to report/share information on VE
    - There is a denial on the real extent and threat of VE; often it is generalized with religion
    - There is a weakness in predicting the new trends/ dynamism of VE
    - Due to low transition rates, there is an apathy towards education which is normally considered as the great equaliser
2. To find out the level of efficacy of existing EWER mechanisms in Kwale County

    The study established the level of awareness, and sought to find out whether there existed a harmonized EWER framework, and further the level of engagement by the community, monitoring, analysis & forecasting, communication and dissemination of information and level of preparedness at all levels to respond. 69% of respondents indicated that EWER systems have low efficacy:
    - Information is communicated through following channels: social media 35%, CBOs 30%, local administration 15%, police station 12% and Nyumba Kumi 8%
    - Information that cannot be shared easily: VE recruitment, active participation, perpetration of killings (including extra-judicial killings), drug barons, and criminal gangs

Community feels that communication is one-way, government only gives information on need-to-know basis, this makes the suspicious as one is not sure

- for what/when the information volunteered will be used. There is deep fear that information is collected for police action only.
- For many the question still remained who is in charge of EWERs, what are they? No focal point for action is visible

72% of respondents indicated that their voices are not heard; those playing a role in EWER according to community members are: CBOs 38%, Chief 27%, Police 14%, National government 14% and County government 7%. Coordination of youth in EWER was reported to be very low, only 9% agreed that youth are well coordinated. Community members were also asked if there were laws or policies on EWER, 97%said there were none. This is quite a misconception and indicated that the level of community engagement in the preparation of the CAP was low; this impacts on ownership. It was also noted that there was low trust on transparency of resourcing of EWER action and lack of trust and synergy among CSOs. Security agencies on the other hand, expressed dissatisfaction with the CSOs working on PCVE issues especially on issues pertaining to allegations of the government's participation in extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances.

1. To identify potential evidence-based EWER mechanisms adaptable for mitigating VE

The presented introduced the concept of Safe Coast EWER (SCEWER) mechanism. The model comprises of five pillars including: (1) Field monitors, (2) Incident reporting platform, (3) Heat map, (4) Response and prevent committees and, (5) Research and analysis

Key Issues when applying the SCEWER mechanism:

i. Indicators (categories)
ii. Use of Hotline number
iii. EWER contact cards
iv. Security of those interacting with the system
v. Weak ER system, reliance on individual actors
vi. Interest

An example of a functional EWER system:

- Kenya Youth Muslim Alliance (KYMA) model is comprised of youth, women and religious leaders influencers from various villages within Kwale, who are considered as change agents within the community
- The framework is founded on the values and social norms of the Digo community in a bid to maximize on the positives that brings the Digo community together (KII 11: 25 August 2021)
- The approach to tap into shared identities is promising towards transforming violent extremism

Conclusion

The following were the key findings of the study: Lack of a common understanding of the forms of VE, inadequate general understanding of EWER Indicators, inadequate prediction of emerging trends to VE thorough EWER. low engagement levels of the community in EWER. There is also a level of 'Denial' of the extent of VE problem, low level of Information sharing across the divide, communities have little knowledge on existing laws or policies on EWER/PCVE, low ownership of existing policies, and inadequate resourcing of EWER initiatives

Effective adaptation requires: Cooperation among stakeholders, cultivation of trust, involvement of all stakeholders, adequate resourcing and proper monitoring and reporting

Recommendations were presented for policy, for practitioners and for training institutions.

4.2.2 Plenary session – Presentation II

The moderator Prof. Mwakimako thanked the researchers for a comprehensive presentation. He noted that the inclusion of a gender perspective in the study was commendable. He then opened the floor for comments and contributions from participants.

Participant 1:

The participant noted that the study gave a true picture of the situation of the CVE space and EWER in Kwale County. He noted that for his specific CSO (HUDA), resources are a challenge

since for example their forums are not funded thus extending their EWER programs is not possible. He also agreed with the finding that there was an information gap between community members and CVE actors especially on funding, thus the misconception that government and/or CSOs are not transparent with the resources directed to CVE.

Participant 2:

For EWER to work, the bloodline is trust. It is concerning that findings show that CSOs are competing, and that communities do not have trust with government. There is need to find ways to build trust among stakeholders. The concept of MAPS (Mainstreaming Acceleration) could be adopted as it applies small activities to get quick results. He noted that for KECOSCE candid discussion is needed with NCTC to ensure that engagements start on a right footing. In partnering, it should be very clear on who will provide funding and to what scope of activity so that trust can be built and maintained.

Response: The study findings indicated that the competition between CSOs is majorly on who goes in first on happenings thus resulting in poorly coordinated action. It is vital for coordination to begin at the project inception time, not just at implementation.

Participant 3:

- EWER is understood from different perspectives, what was the definition used in this study?
- Historical grievances have been an ever present link to VE, how can these be factored in to address and support EWER?
- Intelligence information is needed for proper and timely action to be taken. However, rights have to be protected as information is sought, at the same time responsibilities of actors and community must be clearly outlined for EWER to work
- Government has often taken a discriminatory approach to monitoring of VE. For instance why is there a focus on Madrasa curriculum and no other? Focus on one religion creates the perception that all other religions are working with security to violate basic rights. A broader more people-conscious approach should be taken.

Response: Human rights, just like trust, is a key pillar to EWER. When rights are violated, trust is destroyed and the entire EWER system may collapse, thus going forward, as noted by the participant EWER systems must clearly define the rights and responsibilities of those involved.

Participant 4:

- The participant was very concerned that for a while, it was felt that good progress was being made in the CVE space in Kwale, with functional partnerships between CSOs, government and community; in fact Kwale has been modeled as a success in partnering. The findings are therefore quite disconcerting. The participant pointed out that the specific concerns of lack of coordination and perception of lack of transparency may trickle down to the specific CSO that was engaged in the study. She noted that over the past decade, so much has been achieved in partnering and trust building.
- Clear guidelines on selection of *Nyumba Kumi* officials need to be set. In some instances it has emerged that some of the *Nyumba Kumi* leaders are also tied to violent extremists. Thus all the information shared is received by the extremists. There may be need for background checks for these leaders.

Response: The findings actually point towards poor communication systems, there is a perception among community members and some CSOs that County government has funds for CVE action which is not being properly used. This is the perception that needs to be addressed and made clear. The suggestion for background checks for *Nyumba Kumi* will be included in recommendations.

Participant 5:

The presentation was very informative. It would be good to know how other countries are implementing their *Nyumba Kumi,* is there a model that can be emulated; Kenya borrowed the idea wholesomely from Tanzania, thus it remains a big name and no implementable action. Can Kenya scrutinize this concept, if possible rebrand it or repackage it to suit the Kenyan context

Response: Recommendation will be crafted on the above

Participant 6:

- Findings show very little awareness of the EWER systems in the community yet in Kwale County especially, awareness is quite high. It actually may be the definition of EWER that they may not have understood. Framed differently, the question may have elicited some significant change in statistics
- There is need to strengthen inter-agency co-ordination, e.g. judiciary and NVTC are not pulling together, the gains made by NCTC are easily reversed by judiciary, sometimes on grounds of human rights, can the two organizations find ways to set minimum acceptable standards so that cases brought to the law are properly grounded.
- Medium Term Plans should guide programming for Counties in CVE, e.g just the same way HIV/AIDS was approached aggressively in the 1990s. CVE should now carry the day in planning; infrastructure development, education, health etc all must factor in CVE in their planning for CVE and EWER

Response: EWER for this study was delimited and was operationalized by the pillars: (1) Field monitors, (2) Incident reporting platform, (3) Heat map, (4) Response and prevent committees and, (5) Research and analysis. It is likely that a different operalization will result in higher findings. Recommendations of the study have addressed coordination; reporting and EWER systems need to be harmonized for easier tracking; and the need to mainstream EWER in medium term plans will also be underscored in the recommendations

Participant 7:

There was adverse mention of funds and strategy for CVE in Kwale County. Was County government a respondent in the study?

Response: The team reviewed the County action plan as one of the guiding documents for the study; and sampling of KIIs included CAP implementers. However, it must be noted that these study findings mainly reflected perceptions of community members. That some of these perceptions may be misguided is a good entry point for education and awareness so that stakeholders are on the same page when implementing EWER action.

Participant 8:

How was EWER explained in FGDs?

Response: Questions were framed around the pillars of EWER. Responses were probed to elicit answers from basic household level, to neighbourhood action, and to county and nation-wide action. The current context presents EWER as 'snitching' to government. There is need to rebrand it. In some areas e.g. Kanamai and Thika, EWER has worked well as it is used to improve even health and education. As a concept it must really be delineated from community policing.

4.3.1 Presentation III

An assessment of Operation Amani Boni on disaster risk reduction: Focus on food security in Lamu County, Kenya

Presenter: Dr Michael M. Sitawa

- Introduction

Dr. Sitawa begun by explaining the of cost conflict on vulnerable people across the world and in Kenya. In Lamu, there have been pointers to impending food insecurity due to the operation Linda Boni. Attacks by violent extremists on areas of Lamu prompted effect of MJTF to execute Operation Linda Boni. The operation was meant to be a two-month intervention, however, the operation is still on-going since 2015; and Ksh.50 billion has been spent. Many planting seasons have been lost due to lack of access to the forest that had been the mainstay of the local people. Furthermore, there is limited information on the safeguarding of food security. There has been silence (not non-intervention) to food security.

- Problem statement

- [GoK] gives provision for the establishment and tasking of MJTF to promote and guarantee national security Article 238 (2) to protect the rights of people (CoK, 2010)
- Attacks on areas of Lamu prompted effect of MJTF to execute Operation Linda Boni in 2 months
- Operation still ongoing, Ksh 50bn spent since 2015
- KDF has a DRU and carry out MACA

- Gap: Limited information on the DRR during Operation Amani Boni on Food security in Lamu County, Kenya

- Purpose of this study is to carry out an assessment of Operation Amani Boni in disaster risk reduction with specific focus on food security in Lamu County, Kenya.

  The Research objectives

  1. To assess the evolution of the food security situation in Lamu county from 2015 to date
  2. To identify the effects of the prevailing food security situation on the communities in and around the Boni Enclave
  3. To find out the effect of relief interventions on food security in the Boni Enclave
  4. To appraise the investment in production interventions on food security in the Boni Enclave
  5. To evaluate the status of structural interventions on food security in the Boni Enclave of Lamu County

- Research Design: the exploratory and cross sectional research designs
- Study Site: Lamu County (Pandanguo, Mpeketoni, Kibiboni, Mangai, Basuba, Mikimani)
- Population: 143,920 (Lamu CIDP),
- Sample Size: as advocated by Isreal (1994), 100 is sizeable for the above population. The study involved 129 household and 27 community leaders

  The main respondents will be locals of Lamu County while the secondary population will be key informants from the Multi-Agency Task Force in Operation Amani Boni, natural/community leaders, Lamu County Administration, and the Lamu County Commissioner's Office.
- Research instruments - questionnaires, interview guides and focus group discussions
- Ethical consideration - Necessary approvals and permits, Confidentiality, Anonymity, dissemination of findings; and the do no harm principle was applied.

  Study findings

  1. To assess the evolution of the food security situation in Lamu county from 2015 to date.

     Before the Al Shabaab attack, there were functional industries and processing plants, and there was a vibrant tourism sector. Notable issues: frail healthcare system, weak education system, and poor supply of water. However, unrestricted movement allowed access to alternatives. After the

attack, food security deteriorated drastically: Reasons: Capital flight, locals were placed in encampments, destruction of infrastructure, and loss of labour through killings (mainly targeting men) and displacement**.** There has also been time and zone limitations to ocean resources, job losses due to industrial shocks (processing and tourism), imbalance in food production, worsened access to education and health, and persistent to access to water**.** This situation has been compounded by the COVID-19 restrictions and reliable rainfall leading to crop failure, drying up of river pans, and death of livestock

Respondents rated access to food on a scale of 1 to 5; findings showed the following: Before Al Shabaab activity (4.3), during operation Linda Bone (1.51) and at present (1.26). They also rated food intake as: Before Al Shabaab activity (3.94), during operation Linda Bone (1.54) and at present (1.35). On foo stability, ratings were Before Al Shabaab activity (3.0), during operation Linda Bone (1.82) and at present (1.66).

The present study found that, food security was rated as good. Reasons: Forest abundance supporting hunter-gatherer lifestyle, abundant access to the BE resource, access to vast tracts of land for rotational farming (accessible to island communities), transport network thus vibrant trade, rainfall (climatic conditions), food donation drives by state and non-state actors (informed by value systems).

1. To identify the effects of the prevailing food security situation on the communities in and around the Boni Enclave

- Increased cases of early marriage, loss of employment, increased vulnerability of vulnerable populations, increased prostitution, increased feeling of marginalization, child malnutrition, ill health due to water pollution, wild animals invading water pans, invation of farms by herds of cattle, conflict leading to attacks and injuries to humans and animals,

2. To find out the effect of relief interventions on food security in the Boni Enclave
    - Relief food & water tablet donations
    - County Steering Group (CSG)
    - Corporate support (Jafar Foundation, Al Kheri, Gulf Bank, Diamond Trust Bank,)

- Generosity of security forces
- Medical services
- Air evacuation services (medical and educational reasons)
- LAWASCO's initiatives on water tracking

Challenges: Small budgetary allocation, politicization of relief distributions, limited donation by GoK.

1. To appraise the investment in production interventions on food security in the Boni Enclave
    - Limited planning capability by County
    - Lack of a DRM policy
    - Over-stretched relief demands
    - Poor quality relief food
    - Medical supplies a high value target

Despite the above challenges, there are socio-economic empowerment projects, crop protection programmes, widows' socio-economic programme, equipping fishers, rangeland reseeding and ALs, and seed provision. These are however further hampered by tsetse fly infestation, delay in disbursement of seeds/Consumption of seeds, costs of Project follow-up, mismanagement of cooperatives and stalling of *kazi kwa vijana.* Further there is a serious waste of resources as youth engage in drug and substance abuse especially bang*, muguka* and other hard drugs. There is also a negative mindset towards some projects brought in by to boost production e.g. some neglected the hives that had been donated to them or using seeds donated as immediate food sources

2. To evaluate the status of structural interventions on food security in the Boni Enclave of Lamu County

- DRM Policy supported by the USAID- KUZA Programme.
- LAWASCO water infrastructure
- Desalinization plants
- The Garsen-Witu-Lamu highway
- LAPPSET project (Lamu –Ijara road)

Related challenges were listed as: Lack of critical expertise in Lamu East, vandalism of water infrastructure, politicization of projects, duplication of efforts, and lack of an EOC. There are also challenges caused by poor land adjudication/ grabbing, poor post harvesting challenges for crop, livestock and sea food

Conclusions

- Significant differences on the status of the food security situation in Lamu county before and after Operation Amani Boni whereby there has been a notable decline.
- There have been adverse effects of the prevailing food security situation on the community wellbeing
- Relief interventions have had a minimal influence on food security
- Production interventions have had a minimal effect on food security
- Structural interventions have had a minimal influence on food security

Recommendations were made for policy, for practice and for training institutions

4.3.2 Plenary session – Presentation III

Prof. Mwakimako opened the floor for comments and contributions from participants.

Several participants from Lamu County opined that the study is factual and truly captures the picture of Lamu County and the Boni enclave. They commended the researcher for the comprehensive study. One participant validated the findings and said that even as they were in the symposium, some communities in Lamu are in morning due to loss of life for security officers. He requested that frontline respondents including drivers and reinforcement officers need to be trained to identify real points of target and how to react. Lamu County reinforcement team would really appreciate such training.

Another participant noted the reported lack of disaster risk policy, he mentioned that this is not unique to Lamu. He suggested that partners come together in urgency to prepare these documents. County government disaster agencies should direct and take lead to work with CSOs, partners and the community.

A concern was raised by another participant that alternative livelihoods as structured by partners (eg bee keeping) seem not to be working in some regions, is it that it is being imposed on

communities? Or could it be the drought situation so not trees and no flowers to support bee keeping?

A resident of Lamu county responded by explaining that bee keeping is accepted and is working in many communities especially in places like Witu and Mpeketoni where the population is more heterogeneous in ethnicity. But the Aweer (who are the indigenes of Boni forest) still prefer their lifestyle of hunting and gathering, thereby limiting their livelihoods since access to the forest is limited.

Dr. Sitawa concluded his presentation by giving a special mention of the support provided by Brig. Sitienei while the research team was on the ground in Boni and faced eminent attack. He appreciated the quick action to airlift them to safety. He further thanked Madam Eucabeth of IPSTC for the support and coordination during the course of research, and Mrs. Evelyn Koech of UNDP for the support that the organization continues to lend to IPSTC's research and training agenda.

6.0 Closing Ceremony

The closing speech was delivered by Brig. Sitienei. She acknowledged the presence of CDR. Takao Katsumata- Defence Attaché, Embassy of Japan; Mrs. Evelyn Koech - Team Leader, Environment & Resilience, UNDP; Senior National and Local Government Officials; executive directors of the various civil societies; and all other guests.

She took a moment to celebrate and commend the participants for their presence, despite the COVID19 health challenge. She noted that it is not only a demonstration of how this symposium was of great importance, but also a reflection of their willingness and optimism to reflect on the continuous collective ambition for more participatory peace and security processes. This commitment, *even in the face of uncertainties and multiple security challenges* posed by the modern-day threats, she noted, was significant.

Secondly, Brig. Sitienei thanked participants for their patience and valuable contributions. She assured that this would go a long way in reassuring IPST and all partners that we are on course to more inclusive peace and security approaches. She applauded all participants for putting serious thought and effort in enhancing the outputs of IPSTC's researchers. Undeniably, the symposium

had a very rich and exciting discourse where participants interrogated issues raised and to some extent validated them. She was categorical that the objectives of the symposium had been attained.

The Director continued to say that it was her sincere hope that all would leave the symposium happy and fulfilled especially because their input will not only shape IPSTC final research publications but will also have a great impact on peace and security in the region. She also hoped that through interactions with IPSTC staff and fellow participants, the attendees would leave the symposium with new and positive perceptions.

She further recognized and appreciated the fundamental role and academic guidance given by the moderator, Prof Hassan Mwakimako. And noted that his guidance had been instrumental in helping to communicate and consolidate ideas. She further invited all to visit the IPSTC website www.ipstc.org and to access IPSTCs publications and other resources. She welcomed feedback on what participant's would find useful and also point out areas that require improvement or focus. She encouraged all to consult Dr Sitawa on how you can contribute to IPSTC journal: *The Africa Amani Journal.*

Brig. Sitienei concluded that it had been a great pleasure, honour and privilege to have met, shared and deliberated with the esteemed guests; and looked forward to more partnerships. She welcomed participants to identify priority research areas in the symposium e-evaluation to shape our 2022 Research Agenda. She thanked all attendees and wished them success in their endeavors.

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