

NATIONAL DEFENCE UNIVERSITY (KENYA)



NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE (KAREN)

**ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN COUNTERING VIOLENT
EXTREMISM: CASE OF COAST REGION, KENYA**

JOHN KILONZI MUSYIMI

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DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this paper is the result of my Research. The views and/or observations on this issue involved is my own. They do not in any way reflect the official position of the Ministry of Defence or that of National Defence College

DECLARATION

I declare that research project that I have submitted is based on thorough research process and composition of my original work that has not been presented in any version to any college, university or learning institution for the purposes of an examination or awarding a diploma or degree.

John Kilonzi Musyimi

Signature.....

Date.....

The Research Thesis has been submitted for partial fulfillment of the examination requirements for the award of the degree with my approval as University Supervisor.

Dr. Dennis M. Ndambo

Signature.....

Date.....

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ABSTRACT

There are numerous research gaps on the contributions of different actors in the fight against violent extremism and that is why my research thesis will critically evaluate the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) in the Coastal region of Kenya. The African continent has experienced several incidences of violent extremism and scary instances of terror attacks in different regions. Kenya has experienced numerous terror attacks across the national boundaries and within the capital city prompting the need to focus on the effective mechanisms that can address severe security threats and deal with terrorism that has resulted in deaths, destruction of property and radicalization of people leading to war and instability. It is based on this understating that this study intends to rally policy makers and academia on the role of CSOs in CVE. This research employed Soft Power Model and asserts that social cohesion can be used to deter vices such as crime, terrorism and violent extremism that threaten community cohesion. Social cohesion is a form of social capital that advocates and promotes a sense of belonging in the community, social justice, sense of worth, participation and acceptance as a member of a given community. This research employed case study that focused mainly on the Coastal region of Kenya, which has been most affected by terrorism activities. The research study analyzes the critical roles played by various CSOs in CVE at the Coast region of Kenya and the potential challenges limiting their contributions in countering violent extremism. It was established that limited engagement and consultations with the government, laws and regulatory frameworks, financial and administrative challenges are some of the challenges limiting the contributions of CSOs in CVE. The information gathered from the CSOs was collaborated by expert's opinion from terrorism and security sector such as Kenya Defence Forces, Kenya Prison Service, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, National Counter-Terrorism Center (NCTC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Intelligence Services and National Police Service. The study therefore applied a systematic sampling to generate the targeted research respondents. The study used both primary and secondary data sources to gather relevant information on the topic. Questionnaires and informant Interview guide were the major primary sources of data. Secondary sources of data such as books, magazines, reports, periodicals, journals and articles were also used to provide specific information on different matters of concern. The collected data was analyzed using effective techniques such as document and content analysis to confirm the hypothesis that CSOs play an active role in CVE and establish the limitations of operations towards enhancing security in the coastal region of Kenya. The content analysis was seeking-out the themes that describe the role of CSOs in CVE in the Coastal region. The final results of the study were presented using bar graphs, pie chart, frequency tables and narrative. Finally, this research adhered to the research standards and the guidance of the supervisor.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AU	African Union
AQAP	Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CT	Counter-Terrorism
CVE	Countering Violent Extremism
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
HoA	Horn of Africa
KDF	Kenya Defence Forces
KPS	Kenya Prison Service
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NCTC	National Counterterrorism Center
NDC	National Defence College
NDU	National Defence University
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NIS	National Intelligence Service
NSCVE	National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism
P/CVE	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
PVE	Prevention of Violent Extremism
SSA	Sub Saharan Africa
UN	United Nations

UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
VE	Violent Extremism
HoA	Horn of Africa

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

1. Introduction

The chapter provides a general background on Violent Extremism (VE) that leads to Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism (CT) approaches and how Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) contributes towards Countering Violent Extremism (CVE). I will also provide a statement of the research problem, outline the research questions, objectives of our study, and state the hypothesis. The chapter will also provide a review of literature, study justifications, theoretical framework, research methodology, definition of terms and study outline.

2. Background of the Study

CVE is complex and sensitive due to the negative connotation associated with the terror activities and fear of threats arising from acts of terrorism and violent extremism. Terrorism as a contemporary global issue remains an area of grave concern owing to its potential threat of destroying lives, livelihoods and property of the state, corporations, households, families and even individuals. The Coastal region of Kenya is one of the least developed regions of Kenya and a significant population are living in abject poverty due to reduced employment opportunities that increases the risks of insecurity and conflicts between different communities living in the region. There is a high prevalence of border related crimes and extremism along the porous coastal boundaries and North Eastern regions of Kenya that has been fueled by the influx of illegal immigrants from volatile neighboring countries such as Somalia and smuggling of arms and illicit drugs.

The coastal cities of Kenya are inhabited by the Swahili Muslim communities that have different ideologies and cultural heritage leading to the conflicts and religious radicalization due

to difference in belief systems¹. Over the past two decades, many Muslim communities within the coastal region of Kenya have formed Islamic groups to mobilize their communities to stand for their rights against discrimination and marginalization in political and socioeconomic activities in the coastal regions. There has been a steady rise in cases of extremism in the coastal region of Kenya due to the rise of extremist groups in the neighboring countries like Somalia. The rise of economic inequalities due to lack of economic opportunities for the youths in the coastal counties and political polarization has also increased the risk of recruitment to extremist groups since youths are radicalized to believe that involvement in criminal activities would provide alternative sources of income.

There is a hardening position in Mombasa against the state that has existed for over a decade due to the contested regional identity and the belief that the coastal populations are neglected from the rest of the populations in Kenya. The coastal region has unique problems stemming from lack of education, political polarization and high poverty levels that increase the risk of criminal activities and drug abuse. Youth radicalization, rising cases of social inequalities and increasing violent extremist tendencies across the globe have increased the threats of terrorism². According to the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), there has been a gradual understanding that a security-based response to violent extremism should be accompanied by deliberate focus on preventive efforts.³ This is true as there is a growing shift

¹ Kiriinya, Linda. "Rise of Islamic radicalism in the Swahili Coast: the case of Kenyan coast." PhD diss., 2015.

² Ramdeen, Marisha. "*Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa*." Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, (2017), pp. 6-8.

³ The United Nations. The African regional high-level conference on counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism, Nairobi, Kenya (2019).

from kinetic approaches by the state-centric actors to non-kinetic approaches focusing on prevention by entities such as CSOs.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reiterates that such current thinking is reflected within the VE Action Plan in which the United Nations (UN) stresses much emphasis upon context and the drivers of terrorism, what is loosely referred to as the push and pull factors of VE that leads to terrorism.⁴ Therefore, violent extremism loosely establishes the beliefs and biased actions of destruction that depicts the extreme views of the perpetrators.⁵ The extremist views can be aligned with various issues, including social, cultural, religious, and political and or gender relations.⁶ Hence global, regional, national and local counter-terrorism must consider emerging additions to the body of instruments applied in preventing and countering of VE.

Kuwali argues that in the context of Africa, the effects of terror threats can be felt across the porous boundaries. Therefore, all countries must consult and work in partnership to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization to stifle it from maturing into terrorism.⁷ Sub Saharan Africa (SSA) currently accounts for 48 percent of global terrorism deaths.⁸ For instance, Sahel region is considered to be one of the fastest growing and most-deadly terrorist territories. There is a significant increase in the number of deaths resulting from terrorism in SSA in

⁴ United Nations Development Programme. “*Prevention of Violent Extremism. Annual Report on Prevention of Violent Extremism 2021.*” UNDP Crisis Bureau, One United Nations Plaza, New York, United States of America, (2022), pp. 3-5.

⁵ Koehler, Daniel. *Violence and Terrorism from the Far-Right: Policy Options to Counter an Elusive Threat.* ICCT Policy Brief, (2019), pp. 1-3.

⁶ The United Nations. The African regional high-level conference on counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism, Nairobi, Kenya (2019).

⁷ Kuwali, Dan. *A soft power approach to eradication extremism in Africa*, (2015), pp. 2-3.

⁸ The Global Terrorism Index. *Measuring the Impact of Terrorism.* Institute for Economics and Peace, Sydney, Australia, (2022), pp. 2-4

countries such as Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso.⁹ The threat of terrorism and VE is spreading rapidly in the continent with emerging areas of concern been in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Mozambique amid expansion of Al-Shabaab terror gangs in different African countries such as Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya.

The key to solving the terrorism problem depends on the effectiveness of collaboration between various actors in societies through military and non-military tools, including, media, the civil society, diplomatic agencies, business community, and multi-agency approaches.¹⁰ This means that CVE on a regional level has further broadened in scope and actors, thereby requiring appropriate and concise solutions. According to Mesok, countering violent extremism increasingly involves addressing the motivations and existing conditions that provide a good environment for the spread of the phenomenon.¹¹ As such, civil society groups have established themselves as essential players that develop effective strategies to counter violent extremism in the Horn of Africa (HoA).¹²

3. Statement of the Research Problem

In the last two decades, Kenya has faced numerous terrorist attacks compared to other African countries outside Somalia. The presence of Al-Shaabab in Somalia and the porous nature of the territorial boundaries increase the risk of attack. Instances of terror threats and violent extremism are on the rise particularly, in the Coast and Northeastern parts of Kenya owing to growing presence of Al-Shabaab militants in the two regions. Therefore, there is a need for renewed and sustained focus in countering violent extremism and the various national and

⁹ Kuwali, Dan. *A soft power approach to eradication extremism in Africa*, (2015), pp. 2-3.

¹⁰ Long, Austin. *Small is beautiful the counterterrorism operation in Afghanistan*. *Orbits*, Volume 54, No, 2, (2010), pp19-24

¹¹ Mesok, Elisabeth. *Counterinsurgency, Community Participation, and the Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism Agenda in Kenya*. Taylor and Francis Online, (2022), pp. 9-13.

¹² The United Nations. *The African regional high-level conference on counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism*, Nairobi, Kenya (2019).

county security stakeholders and non-state actors in the coastal regions of Mombasa, Lamu and Kilifi that play critical roles in CVE.

It is worth noting there are limited studies in Kenya towards understanding why the threat of VE continue to rise, notwithstanding growing presence of CSOs in PCVE in the country. Despite playing an increasing visible and active role in CVE initiatives, there need to be more scholarly efforts towards analyzing in detail the contribution and capacities of CSOs to effectively complement the state security actors in preventing and countering VE. This study will therefore attempt to critically analyze and evaluate the roles of CSOs in CVE with view to enhancing their role alongside state security actors towards realizing the objectives of the Terrorism Prevention Act and Kenya National Strategy to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism.

4. Research Questions

My research project will be discussing the following questions:

1. What is the role of CSOs in CVE in the Coast region of Kenya?
2. What are the key challenges undermining the role of CSOs in CVE in the Coast Region?
3. What are the appropriate measures which may enhance the role of CSOs in CVE in the Coast Region?

5. Objectives of the Research Study

The contribution of CSOs in CVE in the Coast region of Kenya will be the general objective of my research study. The specific objectives of the study will include to;

1. Examine and analyze roles played by CSOs' in CVE at the Coast region of Kenya.
2. Identify the key challenges undermining CSOs' role in CVE in the Coast region of Kenya.

3. Determine and proffer appropriate measures towards strengthening the role of CSOs' in CVE in the Coast region of Kenya.

6. Literature Review

The research study on the contributions of CSOs in CVE has been conducted by many scholars and there is a lot of empirical and theoretical literature on the topic. I shall review the arguments and discussions by various scholars to make conclusions and recommendation to enhance national security objectives in Kenya. In addition, the sub-section will review literature and analyze information relating to CVE through CSOs and provide possible solutions to the emerging security threats.

6.1. Theoretical Literature Review

There is a dynamic process that radicalizes an individual to accept the ideology of an extremists group and use violence, intimidations or threats as a possible, perhaps even legitimate course of action.¹³ Violent extremism refers to extreme actions that involve the use of violence to achieve a given ideology. There is no specific character that is associated with all terrorists, and there is no particular factor or motivation that turns individuals to terrorism.¹⁴ Although sometimes might differ from region to region in Africa.

Nye avers asserts that there are many set of conditions that are conducive for terrorist radicalization which are complex and create unique motivations to participate in terror activities.¹⁵ There are many stereotypical assumptions that have been raised based on religion, race, ethnicity, socio-economic status that have proven to be not only discriminatory but also

¹³ The United Nations. *The African regional high-level conference on counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism*, Nairobi, Kenya (2019).

¹⁴ Hoyt, Timothy. *Pakistan, an Ally by Any Other Name*. U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings 137(2011), pp. 41-42.

¹⁵ Nye, Joseph. *The Future of Power*. New York: Public Affairs, (2011), pp. 12-15.

need to be more effective.¹⁶ Therefore, the government must consider the factors that would make it want to pursue a policy of soft power model, and what elements will constitute its soft power strategy. The strategies used to change the beliefs systems of radicalized youths are effectively delivered through community based initiatives such as counseling and rehabilitation¹⁷. CSOs are interactive social groups that provide a supportive environment for victims and also play a critical role in mitigating the underlying social issues that can lead to recruitment and radicalization of violent offenders.

According to Hoyt, the best way to reach ‘at risk’ youths or those that are from marginalized societies is by adopting the Soft Power Approach.¹⁸ Some of the best strategies that can be used to enhance Community Outreach are; educational programs, sports, arts, and cultural events. Digital technology and social media platforms can also be used to engage the youths and address their underlying issues since they are effective avenues for community outreach and peer engagement.¹⁹ Counter-terrorism also involves countering politically motivated and communal violence. This is because counter violent extremism work, it is critical to prioritize the safety and security of activists.²⁰ Activists should utilize creative pathways and avenues to secure social engagement in safer spaces and develop innovative mechanisms to counter violent extremism using soft power approaches that create better relationship between

¹⁶ Rapoport, David and Yonah, Alexander. *The Rationalization of Terrorism*. Maryland: University Publications of America, (1982), p. 22.

¹⁷ Prislán, Kaja, Krunoslav Borovec, and Irena Cajner Mraović. "The Role of Civil Society and Communities in Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalisation." *Policija i sigurnost* 29, no. 3/2020. (2020): 223-245.

¹⁸ Hoyt, Timothy. *Pakistan, an Ally by Any Other Name*. U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings 137(2011), pp. 44-50.

¹⁹ The United Nations. *The African regional high-level conference on counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism*, Nairobi, Kenya (2019).

²⁰ Mesok, Elisabeth. *Counterinsurgency, Community Participation, and the Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism Agenda in Kenya*. Taylor and Francis Online, (2022), pp. 9-13.

different security actors. In using its soft power, the Government should be sincere, genuine and must be seen, to be honest in its engagement with the CSOs.

To combat terrorism, there is a need for addressing radicalization and use of threats by reviewing the current national strategies and formulate effective policies and practices that can prevent recruitment and participation in violent extremism.²¹ Hoyt found that, “soft-power approaches aim at intervention before violence occurs, and have given rise to a new vocabulary, CVE, countering terrorism and preventing radicalization to violent extremism.”²² There have been numerous attempts by many scholars seeking the combination of strategies in Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) and Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) under one broad category of Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE).

Koehler further postulates that the two terms are often used interchangeably and thus combining them into one broad category is a logical development since it is difficult to identify the distinction of the strategies used in their application.²³ However, there are credible literature materials that focus on critical preventative approaches that can address violent extremism and are explicitly outside the measures that have been outlined in the formulated security-driven framework.²⁴ These preventative approaches have largely emerged to mitigate and respond to the extensive criticism and gaps of the existing measures that are used in countering extremism.

²¹ Koehler, Daniel. *Violence and Terrorism from the Far-Right: Policy Options to Counter an Elusive Threat*. ICCT Policy Brief, (2019), pp. 1-3.

²² Hoyt, Timothy. *Pakistan, an Ally by Any Other Name*. U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings 137 (2011), pp. 44-50.

²³ Koehler, Daniel. *Violence and Terrorism from the Far-Right: Policy Options to Counter an Elusive Threat*. ICCT Policy Brief, (2019), pp. 1-3.

²⁴ Mannes, Aaron. *Testing the Snake Head Strategy: Does Killing or capturing its Leaders Reduce a Terrorist Group's Activity?* 9 *J. International Policy Solutions Journal*, (2008), p. 2.

6.2. Empirical Literature Review

An empirical review is considered a systematic review of literature that aims at analyzing previous empirical studies to provide concrete answers to the contribution of CSOs in CVE. Therefore, rather than drawing information from theories or beliefs, empirical relies on observation and measurements from books, articles, journals, periodicals and reports to arrive at a concise conclusion.

Terrorism and Violent Extremism

‘Terrorism’ comes from the term ‘terrere’ which is a Latin word that means ‘to frighten’. The word terrorism has gained a lot popularity in the new era but we can trace it’s origin from as early as during the Reign of Terror in France (1793–1794).²⁵ Acts of violence and inhumanity that ranged from crucifixion of individuals and would escalate to full-scale genocide were used by the Roman Empire to rule and guarantee submission of all subjects under their powers. More than 20,000 people were brutally executed during the French Revolution which resulted to use of excessive force and violent extremism against particular individuals. The Nazi rule in Germany, the Stalinist Soviet Union, communist China of the Mao period, Pol Pot’s Cambodia is examples of drastic state dictatorships and totalitarian regimes.²⁶

Silke argues that there are many non-state perpetrators that have compelled its members to use violence to coerce and instill fear among its enemies. For instance, the Jewish Zealots assassinated their enemies during their battle against the Roman Empire. Guy Fawkes is also an

²⁵ Records, Jeffrey. “*Bounding the Global War on Terrorism*.” Carlisle Barracks: Strategic Studies Institute. US Army War College, (2003), pp. 4-6.

²⁶ The United Nations. *The African regional high-level conference on counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism*, Nairobi, Kenya (2019).

example of a leader who nearly destroyed the British Parliament in 1905. For a long time, anarchists have assassinated many high-ranking state officials and heads of state in the struggle for power²⁷ A Serb nationalist known as Gavrilo Princip shot dead Archduke Franz Ferdinand triggering drastic events that led to the First World War that was disastrous and brought significant suffering to millions of people across the world. The 9/11 attack showed that some organizations may have religious motivations to use violence in pursuit of their goals.²⁸ There is a well-known history of terrorism where individuals, social entities and organizations have involved in violent acts of terror whether rightly or wrongly.

Rapoport and Alexander posit the phenomenon of terrorism is complex and its dynamics are ever changing based on the local, national and international agendas.²⁹ There are three broad typologies of terrorism as identified by different scholars which includes the revolutionary, sub-revolutionary and established. The broad framework provides a better understanding and evaluation of motivations behind involving in terror activities. Silke points out that terrorism takes many forms that are adopted by a wide variety of terror groups to pursue their motives and subdue their enemies.³⁰ There is unending debate on the distinction between a terrorist and others genuine fighters since it depends on the ideology, actions and perspectives of different organizations.³¹ Moreover, it is difficult to define terrorism and establish the actions that qualify the definitions since it can charge emotions. According to Koehler, a terrorist is committed to

²⁷ Silke, Alfred. *Terrorists, Victims and Society: Psychological Perspectives on Terrorism and its Consequences*, England, John Wiley and Sons, (2013), p. 23.

²⁸ The United Nations. *The African regional high-level conference on counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism*, Nairobi, Kenya (2019).

²⁹ Rapoport, David and Yonah, Alexander. *The Rationalization of Terrorism*. Maryland: University Publications of America, (1982), p. 18.

³⁰ Silke, Alfred. “*Terrorists, Victims and Society: Psychological Perspectives on Terrorism and its Consequences.*” England, John Wiley and Sons, (2013), p. 23.

³¹ Rapoport, David and Yonah, Alexander. “*The Rationalization of Terrorism.*” Maryland: University Publications of America, (1982), p. 18.

extreme violence which distinguishes him from other forms of extremists.³² Violent extremism comprises of a set of belief systems, views and actions that are supported by a specific group and are used to support ideologically motivated violence in an attempt to achieve radical political, social, religious or cultural objective.³³ Different groups exhibit violent extremist views in a range of issues such as politics, religion and gender relations.³⁴ The exact nature of how violent extremism is propagated is still poorly understood.³⁵ In common parlances, there are six types of tactics that terrorist groups generally use, and they include hijacking, kidnapping, bombings, assassinations, armed assaults, and barricade-hostage incidents.

The Notion of Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

Knudsen opines that there are many economic, political and human rights considerations that are made by every nation when defining what actions constitute terrorism and thus there are varying subjective definitions across world.³⁶ Brill asserts that terrorism is a global challenge that poses significant problem to most governments due to the traumatic consequences that it can unleash to the victims.³⁷ Universal and regional counter- terrorism instruments, consider the new additions to the body of CVE strategies.

Brill further posits that most techniques and tools used to combat terrorism have their own innate advantages and challenges.³⁸ This means that diverse methods and techniques should

³² Koehler, Daniel. *Violence and Terrorism from the Far-Right: Policy Options to Counter an Elusive Threat*. ICCT Policy Brief, (2019), pp. 1-3.

³³ Silke, Alfred. *Terrorists, Victims and Society: Psychological Perspectives on Terrorism and its Consequences*, England, John Wiley and Sons, (2013), p. 23.

³⁴ Koehler, Daniel. *Violence and Terrorism from the Far-Right: Policy Options to Counter an Elusive Threat*. ICCT Policy Brief, (2019), pp. 1-3.

³⁵ The United Nations. “*The African regional high-level conference on counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism*.” Nairobi, Kenya (2019).

³⁶ Knudsen, Devin. *A new wave of African counterterrorism legislation: contextualizing the Kenyan security laws*, Georgetown journal of international affairs, (2015), pp. 8-11.

³⁷ Brill, Steven. “*Is America any safer?*” The Atlantic, (2016), pp. 2-5.

³⁸ Ibid, (2016), p. 7.

be used to resolve terror situations since there are no mutually exclusive techniques but different options can be synchronized and work in harmony towards combatting specific threats before they occur. Coercion and hard power strategies cause more harm than good and thus there is a need for counseling and constructive dialogues by non-state actors to build trust and help radicalized individuals in local societies to change their perspective about crime and violence.³⁹ Terrorism as a topical subject has attracted a lot of uncalled-for attention from politicians, the media, clergy, scholars, policy makers and even the citizens.⁴⁰ Terror attack has many economic, social and political impacts that not only affects premises near the scene but can also result to severe human casualties, damage of property, business interruption, legal liability issues, breaking of international relations and trade restrictions.

In response to the frequent threats of extremist attacks, there should be more investments on advanced skills, innovation and research on the current policies and strategies that are used in combatting terror and establish practical solutions that would enhance partnership between different stakeholders and social actors in local communities. Different state and non-state actors must collaborate in the fight against violent extremism and the global challenge of terrorism. There are many military and non-military tools, some of which include the use of media, civil society and diplomatic tools that can be used to address the root causes of violence and extremism in the society. The business community, learning institutions and other social agencies must be also brought on board when formulating the effective security approaches to

³⁹ Prislán, Kaja, Krunoslav Borovec, and Irena Cajner Mraović. "The Role of Civil Society and Communities in Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalisation." *Policija i sigurnost* 29, no. 3/2020. (2020): 223-245.

⁴⁰ Ganor, Boaz. "Trends in modern international terrorism." Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, (2014), pp. 34-36.

deal with radicalization and violence among different populations.⁴¹ This is because the problem of terrorism is a complicated one that needs appropriate and not over simplified solutions. According to Bognoe, the United Nations (UN) entities have made great strides to institutionalize how they relate and cooperate with CSOs at different levels of interaction.⁴² The United Nations relations with civil society are well defined and valued.⁴³ The UN recognizes the importance of partnering with CSOs, because such a partnership can help to advance the organization's goals, and support our work at the regional, national and community.

The General Assembly and Security Council of the United Nations has passed several global counterterrorism strategies that acknowledge the need to engage CSOs and other faith based organizations in the fight against global terrorism.⁴⁴ For instance, the resolutions of the General Assembly, adopted the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy that highlighted the need for encouraging the engagement of non-governmental organizations and civil society in formulating and implementing appropriate strategy to deal with violent extremism.⁴⁵ The UNOCT mobilizes civil society to achieve an all-inclusive approach in countering terrorism and violent extremism. There is a need for and effective rehabilitation and reintegration of radicalized youths back to the society to prevent marginalization and targeting.

The importance of CSOs in Countering Violent Extremism and preventing Terror Attacks

⁴¹ Long, Austin. "Small is beautiful the counterterrorism operation in Afghanistan." *Orbis*, Volume 54, No, 2, (2010), pp19-24

⁴² Bognoe, Camilla. "Understanding the role of gender in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, good practices for law enforcement." *Security and cooperation*, (2016), p. 3.

⁴³ McAleenan, Kevin. "Department of homeland security strategic framework for countering terrorism and targeted violence." *Homeland security*, United States (2019), pp. 12-19.

⁴⁴ Kyriakidis, Kleanthis. *The 21st Century Terrorism: Wrong Diagnosis, Inadequate Remedy*, Naval Postgraduate School Thesis, (2015), p. 27.

⁴⁵ The United Nations. *The African regional high-level conference on counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism*, Nairobi, Kenya (2019).

CSOs play a significant role in the preventing conflict and violent crimes.⁴⁶ Pristan et al asserts that, CSOs are strategically placed in the local communities and provide an interactive environment where local citizens from different ethnic backgrounds and socioeconomic status can exchange opinions and views on issues that touch a specific social group. Civil Societies also highlight the existing inequalities and motivations to join terror organizations and thus are critical in preventing terrorism.⁴⁷ There are many international peace resolutions and policies that have stressed on the need involving CSOs to achieve a comprehensive and multi-dimensional approach for dealing with the threat of terrorism. According to McAleenan, the UN General Assembly, has affirmed the need for UN member states to encourage non-governmental organizations and civil society to join in the fight against radicalization and violence.⁴⁸

The Challenges Undermining CSOs Contribution in CVE

Civil society actors are a significant force in counterterrorism and prevention of violent extremism and have contributed immensely in the noble societal roles.⁴⁹ CSOs promote peace education curricula in schools to guarantee peaceful coexistence of learners from different backgrounds and prevent the radicalization of teenagers in countries such as Pakistan. Civil Society groups also provide psycho-social interventions for marginalized youths in Jordan to

⁴⁶ McAleenan, Kevin. *Department of homeland security strategic framework for countering terrorism and targeted violence*. Homeland security, United States (2019), pp, 22-23.

⁴⁷ The United Nations. *The African regional high-level conference on counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism*, Nairobi, Kenya (2019).

⁴⁸ McAleenan, Kevin. *Department of homeland security strategic framework for countering terrorism and targeted violence*. Homeland security, United States (2019), pp. 26-27.

⁴⁹ Koehler, Daniel. *Violence and Terrorism from the Far-Right: Policy Options to Counter an Elusive Threat*. ICCT Policy Brief, (2019), pp. 1-3.

prevent them from joining criminal gangs.⁵⁰ There is a need for assessing and monitoring of several risk parameters and motivations to effectively manage the threat of terrorism. Bognoe argues that there is a need for developing trust between the citizens and law enforcement agencies to ensure that potential victims of social injustices and marginalization can manage their feelings of hopelessness and resolve their inner drives that leads to radicalization. The County governments in Kenya must adopt effective action plans that ensure there is a comprehensive local PVE strategy to raise awareness, identify and mitigate the early signs of radicalization to violence among youths. It is also important to help and reintegrate disillusioned former young members of terror gangs such as Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab.⁵¹ A probabilistic modeling should be used to understand the potential risks and exposure to the push factors that can escalate to thoughts of involving in terrorism.

Many member states of the United Nations are reluctant in including CSOs as key stakeholders in countering terrorism due to fear that they may be funded by terror organizations and work with other sympathizers to support some ideologies and religious beliefs⁵² Civic Organizations and other local actors have unique abilities resolve issues within their communities, cities, and countries since they understand the existing conditions and constantly interact with the vulnerable populations and victims of different crimes and inequalities in society. Many civil society organizations, activists groups and faith based organizations are empowering youths and addressing existing social problems that can escalate to violent extremism and terrorism.⁵³

Therefore, CSOs should be viewed as potential partners and not adversaries in the fight against

⁵⁰ Tonra, Ben and Thomas, Christiansen. *Rethinking Social Policy*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, (2004), p. 97.

⁵¹ Bognoe, Camilla. *Understanding the role of gender in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, good practices for law enforcement*. Security and cooperation, (2016), p. 3

⁵² Kyriakidis, Kleanthis. *The 21st Century Terrorism: Wrong Diagnosis, Inadequate Remedy*, Naval Postgraduate School Thesis, (2015), p. 27.

⁵³ The United Nations. *The African regional high-level conference on counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism*, Nairobi, Kenya (2019).

global threats of terror and all member states of International Organizations should be doing more to recognize and champion that.

The Measures towards Strengthening Contribution of CSOs in CVE

According to Powell, Civil Societies and NGOs educate populations and explain human rights provisions that are provided by the constitution to ensure that the formulated counter-terrorism strategies adheres to the fundamental human rights principles and are not an impediment to accepted values and codes of conduct.⁵⁴ CSOs provide information on the existing threats among school students, youth workers, police and law enforcement officials.⁵⁵ NGOs may also partner with law enforcement agencies in developing targeted programs of cooperation that increase awareness levels on potential risk of radicalization and the need to appreciate diversity in communities. CSOs are key change agents in local communities and thus there is a need for joint collaboration and networking to ensure that there is effective lobbying and inclusivity in formulation of strategies and solutions to persisting social issues.

7. Gaps in Literature

This section found that literature reviewed needed to be more comprehensive on the contribution of CSOs in CVE and there were emerging gaps. Therefore, CVE operations in the Coastal region lie in attracting and deepening the participation CSOs alongside state-security actors. A review of the literature also found that owing to the dynamic social and political landscapes in Africa, particularly in the Horn of Africa countries including Kenya.

Globalization and development of technology is utilized by terrorist groups to increasingly position themselves in the global scope and escalate their abilities to launch deadly

⁵⁴ Powell, Robert. *Nuclear deterrence theory: the search for credibility, digitally printed version*. Re-Issue. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, (2018), pp. 2-6.

⁵⁵ Bognoe, Camilla. *Understanding the role of gender in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, good practices for law enforcement*. Security and cooperation, (2016), p. 3

and coordinated attacks, recruit and radicalize thereby, the need to counter terrorism and VE activities in the region. This section found that although (CSOs) can provide new solutions security problems, there is a need for conducting extensive research on the challenges that limit their contributions to CVE.

8. Hypothesis of the Study

This research hypothesis will be as follows;

1. CSOs play an active role in CVE.
2. Existing legal frameworks are challenges for CSOs contribution in CVE in the Coast region of Kenya.
3. Youth skills enhancement can strengthen contribution of CSOs in CVE in the Coast region of Kenya.

9. Justification of the Study

This section will provide the reasoning and rationale for conducting the research. It will also provide an explanation on the choice of the study design and methods used throughout the research process.

i) **Policy Justification**

Governments play an essential role in protecting their citizens against the wanton destruction of property and loss of lives associated with terrorism and violent terrorism. In addition, governments are required by law to protect its citizens and prevent any form of threats and violent extremism. Therefore, the findings of this study will positively contribute towards Kenya government's efforts towards containing or eliminating this threat. The findings are expected to inform policy reviews in this particular area. For example, the findings will be of

great importance to the NCTC and other government agencies mandated in the CVE in the country particularly at the Coast region.

i) Academic Justification

It should be acknowledged from the onset that no state can consider itself immune from the threat of terrorism. Therefore, the state and security agencies alone cannot deter radicalization and prevent instances of marginalization and violent extremism.⁵⁶ Consequently this study will provide scholarly literature on the contribution of CSOs in CVE in Africa and particularly in the Coastal region of Kenya.

ii) Society Justifications

It is significant to note that society has been and remains the main target of acts of serious terrorism and thus there is a need for conducting more research on the roles and effectiveness of various preventive strategies. Therefore, the findings of this study will inform and provide appropriate measures for mitigating security threat posed by terrorist groups such as the Al-Shabaab in the East African border regions.

10. Theoretical Framework

This research study will rely on the soft power model that Joseph Nye first hypothesized during a time when there was drastic paradigm shift in the governance of men. In 1990, Nye used the soft power model to discuss the collapse of the Berlin wall and Soviet Union beginning its wind up as a sovereign political entity. Until then, the view of contesting political and economic ideologies seemed only to be reconciled through violent, physical conflict or threats

⁵⁶ The United Nations. The African regional high-level conference on counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism, Nairobi, Kenya (2019).

and intimidations to instill fear. After the cold war, Nye felt that there could be another way to reconcile differences: diplomatic persuasion rather than militant coercion.⁵⁷

CSOs are voluntary social organizations unlike the state departments that adopt restrictive and formal regulations and thus are an integral part in local communities since they have direct interactions and communications with members of the society from diverse social and economic backgrounds⁵⁸. CSOs gather information relating to the root causes of social problems and provide narratives to marginalized populations to support them resolve the underlying challenges and support them towards alternative course of action to avert violence and extremism and thus focus on soft power solutions and mediations of existing conflicts and community problems. Over the last decade, the alternative soft power policing has proved to be more efficient than coercion which is counterproductive and instills fear of reporting the existing crimes in the society to avoid victimization. Soft power model and persuasion attracts individuals and social groups to actively participate in formulating practical solutions to underlying social problems. Community and faith based groups raise awareness on the potential activities that can lead to violent radicalization and thus implement prevention –oriented approaches that can mitigate identified challenges and needs before they escalate to violence and extremism.

Radicalization and involvement in extremist criminal behaviors is a social attribute that takes place in local communities and thus formulation of relevant social initiatives and persuasive strategies are central to empowerment of local populations against the vices. Community engagement relies on effective interpersonal relationships and trust and thus CSOS

⁵⁷ Koehler, Daniel. “*Violence and Terrorism from the Far-Right: Policy Options to Counter an Elusive Threat.*” ICCT Policy Brief, (2019), pp. 1-3.

⁵⁸ Prislán, Kaja, Krunoslav Borovec, and Irena Cajner Mraović. "The Role of Civil Society and Communities in Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalisation." *Policija i sigurnost* 29, no. 3/2020. (2020): 223-245.

have developed effective partnership with local security stakeholders and can effectively promote peace and wellbeing of all members of the societies. CSOs and other grassroots organizations operating in the local communities play a critical role in preventing victimization of marginalized populations and social polarization resulting from radical views, social inequalities and lack of proper representation⁵⁹. A 'soft' approach to counter-terrorism is the better way to turn away the youth from dangerous, seductive ideas that could radicalize them as it offers options of support from the Government so that the youth can be productive members of society.⁶⁰.

The 'soft' approach main aim is to debunk certain beliefs that the youth and at risk members of the society have been indoctrinated into hence rehabilitating the individual instead of just neutralizing them.⁶¹ CSOs can effectively alleviate the negative indoctrinations and propaganda that lead to extremism since they have established effective social inclusion mechanisms and conduct in depth research on the societal grievances, economic injustices and other forms of inequalities that if not addressed can escalate to violence against political powers or community members who are deemed to be oppressors. CSOs increase Social Capital through formulation of social networks that enables that society to function effectively. It has five aspects to it which can be discussed in five dimensions: **first**, networks-which are the different associations found in a community whether established by an individual or even a group; **second**, reciprocity-the expectation that an individual or a group's action will be mirrored

⁵⁹ Prislán, Kaja, Krunoslav Borovec, and Irena Cajner Mraović. "The Role of Civil Society and Communities in Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalisation." *Policija i sigurnost* 29, no. 3/2020. (2020): 223-245.

⁶⁰ Tonra, Ben and Thomas Christiansen. *Rethinking Social Policy*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, (2004), p. 97.

⁶¹ Nye, Joseph. *Soft Power Superpowers: Cultural and Natural Assets of Japan and the United States*. Armonk, NY and London, England: M.E. Sharpe, Inc. ix-xiv, (2008), p. 89.

by other individuals or groups. **Third**, trust, which is risking action that a group or an individual feels, will be reciprocated by others; **fourth**, social norms-the unspoken codes of behavior expected from members of a community; and **fifth**, personal and collective efficacy- citizens feeling a sense of responsibility for their communities.⁶² These aspects to social capital shape societies according to the degree they are invoked within communities.⁶³ This section demonstrates that CSOs facilitate peace negotiations and mediations between different states to promote the formulation of effective security policies against global terrorism. The research examines the specific roles that CSO groups have played in building international peace during the era of new terrorism and argues that soft power is used to overcome the individual state interests during negotiations.

The civil society and cultures of a nation are the sources of the country's soft power and not the ruling government. Nye is precise and clear on his definition of what constitutes soft power and thus the state security apparatus that comprises of armed military officers, police, Para-military, and border forces are conceptually linked to hard power. However, Soft power and hard power should not be considered as mutually exclusive but complementary techniques. For instance, many CSOs in the coastal region complement state- centric operations that focus on deradicalization of the youths since they have infiltrated the local communities on the Kenyan coast. The CSOs have demonstrated that there is a need for partnership and working hand in hand as friends and not foes to succeed in the global war against terror⁶⁴. There is an urgent need to continue incorporating state and non-state actors in the efforts against extremism and

⁶² Tonra, Ben and Thomas Christiansen. *Rethinking Social Policy*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, (2004), p. 97.

⁶³ Nye, Joseph. *Soft Power Superpowers: Cultural and Natural Assets of Japan and the United States*. Armonk, NY and London, England: M.E. Sharpe, Inc. ix-xiv, (2008), p. 89.

⁶⁴ Mesok, E. *Counterinsurgency, Prevention, Countering, & Community Participation of VE in Kenya*.

formulating the best strategies to create a better relationship with the public to report and deter the recruitment of youths to terror gangs.

The CSOs in the coastal region have focused on alleviating disparities and building shared values between different citizens and communities to ensure a common enterprise of countering terrorism and changing certain beliefs that promote hatred and extremism. There is a growing presence of extremist militants and sympathizers on the Kenyan coast. Thus, prompting the need for adopting soft power mechanisms that mitigate the existing risk situations and rehabilitate the brainwashed youths from joining terror groups. The CSOs must plan various capacity building initiatives to promote all the human security aspects and engage unemployed youths who are the main targets by terror gangs such as the Al-Shabab. Violent Extremism and Terrorism significantly affect economic growth and therefore, there is a need for minimizing conflicts and other push and pull factors compromise the war against terror. The coastal region relies on port and tourist activities and thus there is an influx of diverse cultures and beliefs. The civil societies, NGOs and faith based organizations actively contribute to the daily public life of communities in the coastal region to counter the negative effects of marginalization and understand the root causes of extremist thoughts and actions. The CSOs have been vocal in advocating for people's rights and raising awareness on the social injustices and issues that may arise between different communities and authorities in the coastal region.⁶⁵

11. Methodology of the Research Study

This section outlines the specific procedures and techniques that will be used in identifying, analyzing and processing information and data relating to the topic. The reader can critically evaluate the overall validity and reliability of the study that was conducted. It is worth

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

noting that the effectiveness and the challenges facing CSOs in CVE in the Kenyan coastal region are not adequately researched despite the escalating threats of terrorist and violent extremism. The existing gaps in literature have informed our research study that attempts to discuss the key challenges and measures that can be used to improve the effectiveness of CSOs in CVE at the Kenyan Coastal region.

12. Study Design

The research design that will be employed in our study is a case study that will be done in a real-world context to give the researcher a clear view of what is what is happening in the global order. A Case study provides credible literature that can be used to advance theoretical ideas.

i) Site of the Study

The study will be undertaken in Kenya using a case study approach targeting the Coastal region of Kenya. The research will be mostly looking at the Coastal region of Kenya that have been most affected by terrorist activities mainly linked to Al-Shabaab militants.

ii) Target Population

The main target population for the study will include CSOs involved CVE at the Coast region of Kenya as well government terrorism and security experts at national and county levels such as from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), Kenya Prison Service (KPS), County Commissioner, the County Governments at the Coast region, National Intelligence Service, National Police Service and NCTC. The study will therefore employ systematic sampling specifically to pick out the respondents.

iii) Sample Size and Sample Frame

The sample size makes inferences about a specific population that is sampled during research.⁶⁶ Respondents are selected when making statistical inferences and estimates that represent the expected characteristics of the remaining population that is being studied. Systematic sampling involves the selection of members from a targeted population at a regular interval or order. A simple random sampling method can be used in case the population is in a random order. The sample size for this study is twenty-five CSOs generated through systematic sampling from a list of seventy-five CSOs in CVE at the coast region of Kenya availed by NCTC. Simple random sampling is justified for the research since it provides equal opportunities to all potential respondents to give generalizations relating to the operations of various CSOs without adverse biases and targeting of specific populations to be the subject of our research study. The 25 CSOs operating at the coastal regions were randomly picked to ascertain their ideal community based initiatives that can reduce youth radicalization and resolve social inequalities to prevent violent extremist ideals.

A sampling frame refers to the devices and lists that are outlined by a researcher to establish the specific area of interest and components of the study that can be sampled from a particular study population. Limited resources, inaccessibility to remote areas and withholding of critical information about the missions by some respondents are some of the challenges faced by researchers and can hinder collection of data from all target population segments, as shown in Table 1.1.

⁶⁶ Anthony, Turner, Sampling frames and master samples. United Nations Secretariat, Expert Group Meeting to Review the Draft Handbook on Designing of Household Sample Surveys, (2003), pp. 3-4.

Table 1.1: Sampling frame

Number	Civil Society Organizations	Population
1.	Awapsa	1
2.	Bigship Organization	1
3.	Chec-Kenya	1
4.	Coast Citizens Council	1
5.	Collaboration of Women in Development	1
6.	DSW Kenya	1
7.	Haki Africa	1
8.	Haki Yetu	1
9.	Kanco	1
10.	Kenya Muslim Youth Alliance	1
11.	Kenya Network of Post Test Clubs (KNEPOTEC)	1
12.	Kituo Cha Sheria	1
13.	Manyatta Youth Entertainment CBO	1
14.	Mkunguni Community Health	1
15.	Mombasa Leo CBO	1
16.	Mombasa Youth Assembly	1
17.	Msa Women For Peace	1
18.	Mvita Community Development Organization	1
19.	Nkoko Iju Africa	1
20.	Onug Pwani	1
21.	Rainbow Women Of Kenya	1
22.	Technology and Care for Improved Livelihoods (Tecafili)	1
23.	The Voice CBO	1

24.	Transparency International Kenya-Coast Regional Office	1
25.	Tunaweza CBO	1
	Total	25

Source: Author (2023)

iv) Data Collection

Qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques will be used to collect primary data for the research project. The data and information will also be supported using credible secondary data sources such as books, journal, peer reviewed articles and periodicals to analyze what has already been done by other scholars on the contribution of CSOs in CVE on a global perspective. The information will provide a better understanding of the radicalization and motivations of terrorism. Questionnaire and interview guides were the main tools used to collect primary data from the respondents. Questionnaires are the most common research tools since they comprise of open ended questions that are easy to fill, efficient and less expensive to ensure that respondents give their opinions and information relating to the subject matter. Respondents are not expected to give their identification details on the questionnaire to guarantee them that the information given in the subject matter is not shared with state authorities or management of their specific CSOs.

v) Data Validity and Reliability

A pilot study will be conducted to test the reliability of data collection tools and establish whether they capture the specific outcomes that meet the objectives of the study. In addition, the researchers will maintain high ethical standards, professionalism and academic policies to ensure that it provides insight on how to enhance counter terrorism mechanisms.

vi) Analysis and Presentation of Data

Document and content analysis techniques will be used to sort and analyze credible information that can be used to address emerging global security issues. Document analysis will provide a clear interpretation of data and results from different studies to give insight to national cohesion and national security nexus in Kenya. On the other hand, content analysis used to identify, analyze and report on the common themes within a data set. It also provides a detailed information and description of the main data set in the research process. The final results for the research project will be presented as a narrative. Other data presentation such as graphs, pie charts and frequency tables will also be used to present statistical data and numbers to provide an opportunity for the readers to establish whether the presented information is supported by the credible data.

vii) Ethical Consideration

It is important to note that this research will intentionally acknowledge and uphold all the research procedures, and reference all sources of information used during the study .In addition, I will seek a voluntary consent from all respondents and communicate my intentions for the study before administering a questionnaire.

viii) Scope and Limitations

It is worth noting that there are many limiting factors that can adversely affect the research process and it may be challenging to get experts with vast information on the sensitive and technical subject matters in our study. The study will be limited to the coastal region of

Kenya that comprises of the coastal cities of Mombasa, Malindi, Kilifi and Lamu. There are specific NGOs and other faith based organizations in the coastal region that play a critical role in addressing the socioeconomic issues of coastal populations and collaborate with the efforts of county and national security teams to counter violent extremism. The study shall only focus on the different missions by CSOs that improves the standards of living, create youth employment and reduce religious radicalization of Islam communities to counter violent extremism. Some respondents from the NGOs may conceal critical information relating to their operations, sources of funds, challenges and programs designed for the marginalized groups. To mitigate , the limitations of sharing information, I will convince and assure the respondents from the CSOs that the information provide will be confidential and for research purpose and thus will not be used to audit their operation and effectiveness of different community initiatives.

13. Definition of Terms

Civil Society Organizations refers to organized group or non-state institutions that provide free humanity services to empower different people in our society and thus do not which mainly focus on making profits. Citizens and individuals with shared aspirations and interests voluntarily come together and form organization that are led by their selected leaders to champion their collective goals and concerns that may be faced by specific target groups, or the general public. The nature of governance and effectiveness of various interventions by CSOs are determined by those at the helm of leadership and the participation of members from the target constituency without any form of government-controlled participation or representation.

Preventing Violent Extremism generally refers to a collective strategy that advocates recruiting of key security stakeholders from different sectors to assist the government in

identifying and mitigating extremist threats and individuals that may be at risk of becoming radicalized to join violent gangs.

Counter-terrorism broadly refers to strategic policies and framework that are developed by state actors, law enforcement authorities, intelligence organizations and military forces to thwart terror plots, arrest suspects and dismantle terrorist organizations.

Radicalization loosely entails the process of increasingly supporting extremist ideas and the motivations to join their terror gangs to satisfy the inner belief systems and drives. Sometimes the term can be used to mean an implicit link to support radical ideas and using violence to seek support for specific ideologies.

Terrorism in common parlance, refers extremist acts committed by organized individuals or groups that are inspired or linked with known foreign terrorist organizations or nations that support terror activities.

Whole-of-society approach refers to an approach that advocates for the involvement of multiple actors and policymakers from the state and non-state institutions to envision the best strategies that can be used in prevention, intervention, and de-radicalization/disengagement of youths in violent extremism.

14. Chapter Outline

Chapter One: Introduction to the Research Study.

Chapter Two: Contribution of CSOs in CVE at the Coast region.

Chapter Three: Key challenges undermining CSOs' contribution in CVE in the Coast Region.

Chapter Four: Measures towards strengthening the role of CSOs in CVE in the Coast Region.

Chapter five: Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

ROLE PLAYED BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AT THE COAST REGION IN PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM.

2.1. Introduction

This chapter examines and analyses the critical roles that Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play in Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) at the Coast region of Kenya. The chapter logically analyses the actual and the potential contribution of CSOs, particularly in addressing the threat posed by violent extremism, bearing in mind that these organizations complement the activities of state security institutions mandated by law and other regulations to address the menace. The CSOs mainly operate and are organized on voluntary and non-profit basis.

2.2. Background of the Coastal Region of Kenya

The six counties in the coastal region of Kenya includes Taita Taveta, Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi, Lamu, and Tana River. The Kenyan Coastline is about 1420 Kilometers and 45.7 % of the coastline is found in Lamu which has an irregular coastline and several islands that are characterized by tidal flats and mangroves making it easy for illegal intrusion across the porous boundaries. The three most prominent islands in the Kenyan coast are Manda, Pate and Lamu and they are covered with mangrove forests that extends southwest from Somali border to the shores of the Indian Ocean. The Kenyan coast bordering Somali in the Northern end is volatile for terrorist activities. The largest coastal county is Mombasa which is situated in the southeastern part of the Kenyan coast. The port of Mombasa is an international port that serves numerous countries in African region and thus poses significant threats to national security due to smuggling of illegal goods and unauthorized immigration. The coastal region has a higher population of immigrants from different racial and ethnic communities which exacerbates the

poverty levels and hinders community participation in CVE initiatives in the coastal counties⁶⁷. Tana River County covering an area of 38437 square kilometers on the western side of River Tana also extends from the inland to the Kenya coastal area. There are seasonal plains that are covered with mangroves along many coastal counties in Kenya that provides good hiding places for extremists' groups and terror gangs.

The Kenya Coast is located south of the Equator and covers a distance of approximately 450 Kilometers, but the sea front covers about 600 Kilometers. There are extensive mangrove vegetations and coral reefs that start from the far south and the coastal region is also characterized by near-shore Islands.⁶⁸ Mombasa Island also comprises of natural harbors on both sides making it prone to illegal access by potential terror gangs from all sides. The Rugged Coastline that extends to the north and existence of deep water creeks such as Mtwapa, Kilifi and the shallow Mida creek makes it prone to terror attacks. The reef covers halfway of the coastal region and ends in Malindi. The Coast Province is one of the earliest colonial provinces in Kenya and is located along the Indian Ocean coastal strip. Mombasa as the main city in the coastal region that is mainly inhabited by the Swahili and Mijikenda tribes but there are many other tribes found in the Metropolitan region

Many push and pull factors explain the motivations behind youths joining terror groups in the coastal region, prompting the need for rethinking on the counter measures that can prevent youth radicalization and extremist ideals. Previous research establishes that unemployed youths

⁶⁷ Hassan, Farida A., Hilda A. Ong'ayo, and Melckzedek K. Osore. "Assessing the Influence of Demographic Factors on Community Participation in a Demand Driven Development Project: The Case of Hazina Ya Maendeleo Ya Pwani Approach in Coastal Kenya." *Open Journal of Social Sciences* 7, no. 01 (2019): 209.

⁶⁸ The Research Field Data. The Participant Number 1. (2022).).

are significant targets of various terrorist groups since they are susceptible to radicalization and recruitment. There is a need for establishing influential community based organizations and civil society Organizations to counter the frequent cases of youth radicalization in the Kenyan coastal region. Through the National Counter violent Extremism strategy 2016, the Government of Kenya has made significant efforts to partner with non-state actors and CSOs to build on the best CVE infrastructure to combat youth radicalization and violent extremism. There is a need for enhanced community resilience and advocacy on human rights to raise the citizens' voices and create awareness of fighting against terrorism and violent extremism.

2.3. The National Counter Violent Strategy 2016

In 2016, The National Combined Violent Extremism strategy was initiated in Kenya to change the militaristic and security focused approaches used to mitigate terror threats. The Kenyan government emphasized on adopting soft approaches and involving multiple non state actors to create employment opportunities and reduce youth radicalization. There was a need to enhance community-level cohesion through effective coordination and partnership between non-state organizations and civil societies to combat violent extremism in crime hotspots. Civil Society Organizations actively participate in antiterrorism campaigns and human rights protection to ensure effective participation and inclusivity while implementing different CVE programs at both national and county levels. For instance, the Kenyan government acknowledges the need for incorporating the CSOs as active players in CVE since they infiltrate the local communities and can complement national security initiatives, especially in the coast region⁶⁹. The study establishes that participation in the activities of CSOs can effectively counter civil

⁶⁹ Mesok, Elisabeth. *Counterinsurgency, Community Participation, and the Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism Agenda in Kenya*. Taylor and Francis Online, (2022), pp. 9-13.

unrest and marginalization since the community can address the underlying issues and coordinate efforts with security enforcement authorities to prevent violence and terrorism.

2.4. Nature of Civil Society Organizations

The definitions of CSOs are pretty numerous. However, CSOs fundamentally refers to formal or informal social networks within the society based on relationships between individuals, groups, organizations and corporations.⁷⁰ According to the United Nations, Civic Societies are not after making profits since they are voluntary non state organizations that are formed by persons in the social sphere to meet their social interests and maintain effective social ties.⁷¹ The CSOs usually include Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Special Interest Groups (SIG), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), Not-for-Profit (NfP), and other community arrangements.

82 % of the respondents acknowledged that CSOs actively advocate for social change and influence government action since they act as watchdogs for the citizens to ensure accountability and commitment of leaders to adhere to the existing laws and human rights principles. CSOs also provide an interactive environment for discussions between stakeholders in the local communities and government entities on effective measures and course of action in different situations since they are grass root organizations that work with marginalized communities and understand their challenges.⁷² The mode of leadership, members or the target constituency under which CSOs operates determines the suitable intervention strategies without

⁷⁰ Kimutai, Gilbert. *Civil Society Organizations and Regional Integration in the East African Community*. Maseno University, Kisumu County, Kenya, (2022), pp. 9-11.

⁷¹ United Nations. On November 30th, 2021 UNODC held a consultation round table meeting with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) and Prison Reform in Uganda. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes, (2021).

⁷² The Research Field Data. The Participant Number 9. (2022).).

any form of control or representation from the leading government.⁷³ Among other critical roles, the civil society focuses on protecting democratic rights and enhancing equitable development for all citizens in their areas of operation.

In Kenya, CSOs respond to the identified gaps in the provision of basic needs in different regions that are not met by the state or other market forces. CSOs are created to serve different objectives and thus some institutions focus on development projects or producing goods, while others are bring inaccessible goods and services to affected communities. However, there are organizations that develop sustainable community projects to empower members and deliver goods to needy communities. The scope of operation of CSOs is not only limited to local development, but can also extend to regional, national, or even international levels based on their objectives and ability to reach many needy people in the global society.⁷⁴ For instance, in Kwale County, Coast region the “Citizen Voice in Devolved Governance Project” is assisting selected organizations to train individuals on how to communicate their issues and formulate innovative avenues to engage government actors. The project in Kwale has worked with more than 200 community-based organizations to enhance civic engagement and community participation in the developing effective county development programs and implementing better policies to stop marginalization.

2.5. Background of the Research Participants

This section was specific on the sampling of the research participants and thus different tools were used to get response from sample population and critically process and analyze information regarding the contributions of CSOs in CVE in the Coastal region. This section notes that CSOs

⁷³ Koehler, Daniel. *Violence and Terrorism from the Far-Right: Policy Options to Counter an Elusive Threat*. ICCT Policy Brief, (2019), pp. 1-3.

⁷⁴ Sikoyo, Leah and Kobia, Simon. *Enhancing the Role of Civil Society Organizations in Public Education Sector Monitoring and Accountability*. International Quality Education Conference, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, (2021), p. 19.

can be diverse government structures of different types, sizes and serve as an important function in their community. This study sampled 15 CSOs (participants) out of a total population of 25.⁷⁵ However, only 15 CSOs successfully completed the questionnaires giving a response rate of 60 percent. The low response rate is attributed to the sensitivity of the study, with many participants blatantly refusing to cooperate.

a) Distribution by organization

Table 1: Participants response by organization

Number	Civil Society Organization	Population
1	Collaboration of Women in Development	1
2	Haki Africa	1
3	Haki Yetu	1
4	Kanco	1
5	Kenya Muslim Youth Alliance	1
6	Kenya Network of Post Test Clubs (KNEPOTEC)	1
7	Mombasa Leo CBO	1
8	Mombasa Youth Assembly	1
9	Msa Women For Peace	1
10	Mvita Community Development Organization	1
11	Nkoko Iju Africa	1
12	Onug Pwani	1
13	Rainbow Women Of Kenya	1
14	Technology and Care for Improved Livelihoods (Tecafili)	1
15	The Voice CBO	1

⁷⁵ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 9: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

	Total	15
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Source: Author (2023)

Source: Field data (2023)

The table shows the distribution of participants from different organizations that took part in completing the research study. The distribution of targeted participants established that the majority of the respondents were experts and fit to provide viable information on the research topic.

b) Distribution of respondents by profession

The study found that the CSOs had employed the right professions in their organizations to assist in their role in CVE. The study found that the participant in the health sector comprised of trained doctors (30%), nurses (20%), health researchers (15%), pharmacist (5%), laboratory (10%) and social workers (20%) thus were skilled professionals who can assist CSOs in the delivery of their programs aimed at CVE.

c) Specialization of the interviewed expert respondents.

Table 11: Participants response by their work specialty

Specialty	Frequency (f)
Academia	1
Administration	1
Defence	2
Devolution	1
Foreign Affairs	2

Intelligence	1
Prison	1
Others	1
Total	10

Source: Field data (2023)

The table showing the distribution of the expert respondents establishes that the targeted participants were specialized experts who could provide viable research information and thus were competent and knowledgeable participants.

d) **The Age Distribution**

The study established the participants' age group as follows;

Table 1: Participants by age range

Age (years)	Percentage (%)
20 – 30	10
31 – 40	30
41 – 50	25
51 – 60	25
61 – 70	10
Total	100

Source: Field data (2023)

Population sample size: 15

Mean: 44

Median: 42

Mode: 41

Lowest value:	21
Highest value:	70
Range:	49
Standard deviation	12

The study established that 30 percent of the respondents were between the age of 31 and 40 years. 60% of the participants were above 40 years indicating that they were mature, experienced and reliable as research study respondents.

e) Occupation Distribution

This section interviewed respondents from various CSOs establishing that the occupation of respondents was diverse since some organizations are community-based, village associations, labor unions, environmental groups, women's rights movements, youth organizations, farmers association, faith-based organizations, labor unions, etc.

f) Education Distribution

The level of education of interviewed was as shown in the table below.

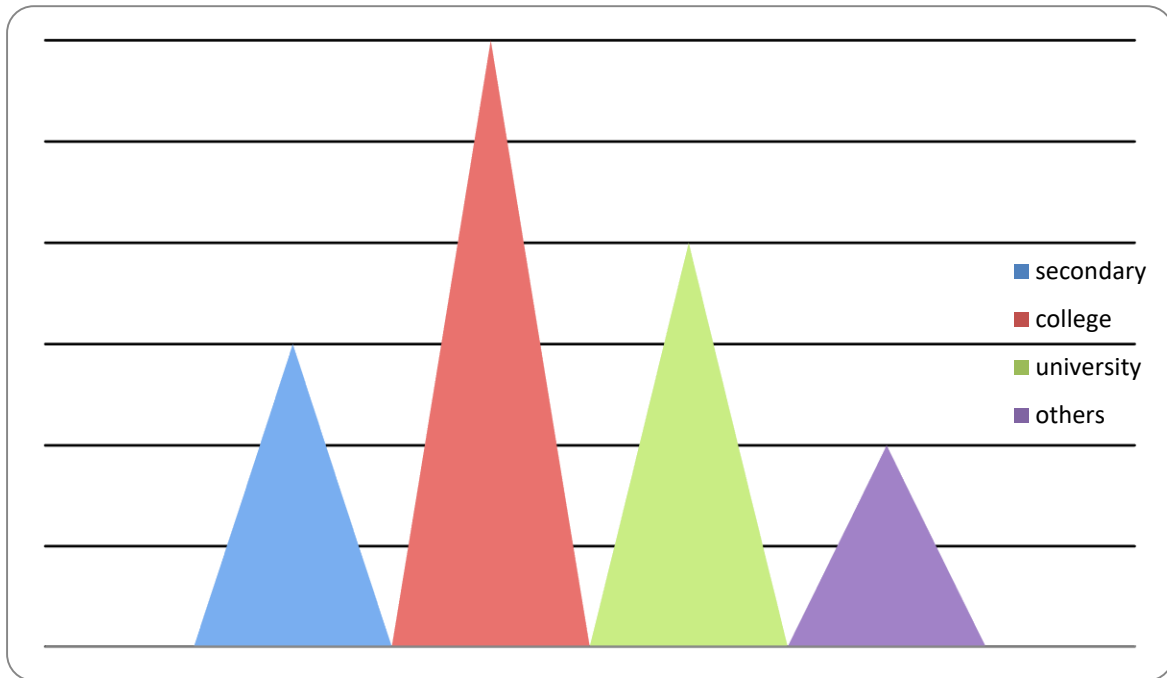


Figure 3: Education level of the participants

Source: Field data (2023)

Figure 3 shows the education levels of the participants. It is established that most of the participants taking the questionnaire were educated above college level and were exposed to various challenges and contributions of different actors in the fight against crime and violence.

g) The Gender Distribution

The analysis of the respondents by gender indicated that 87% while 13% were female. The distribution is as shown below.

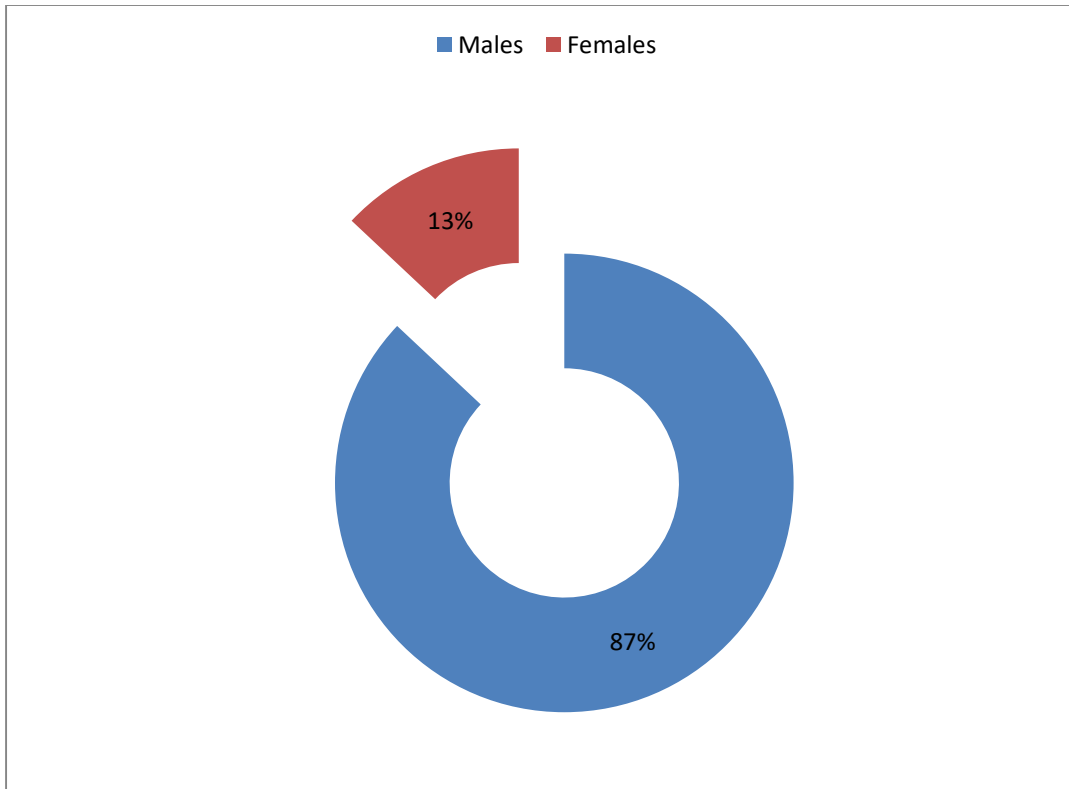


Figure 2: Gender of the respondents

Source: Field data (2023)

h) Period in Office

The distribution of the participants by duration in office is as shown below.

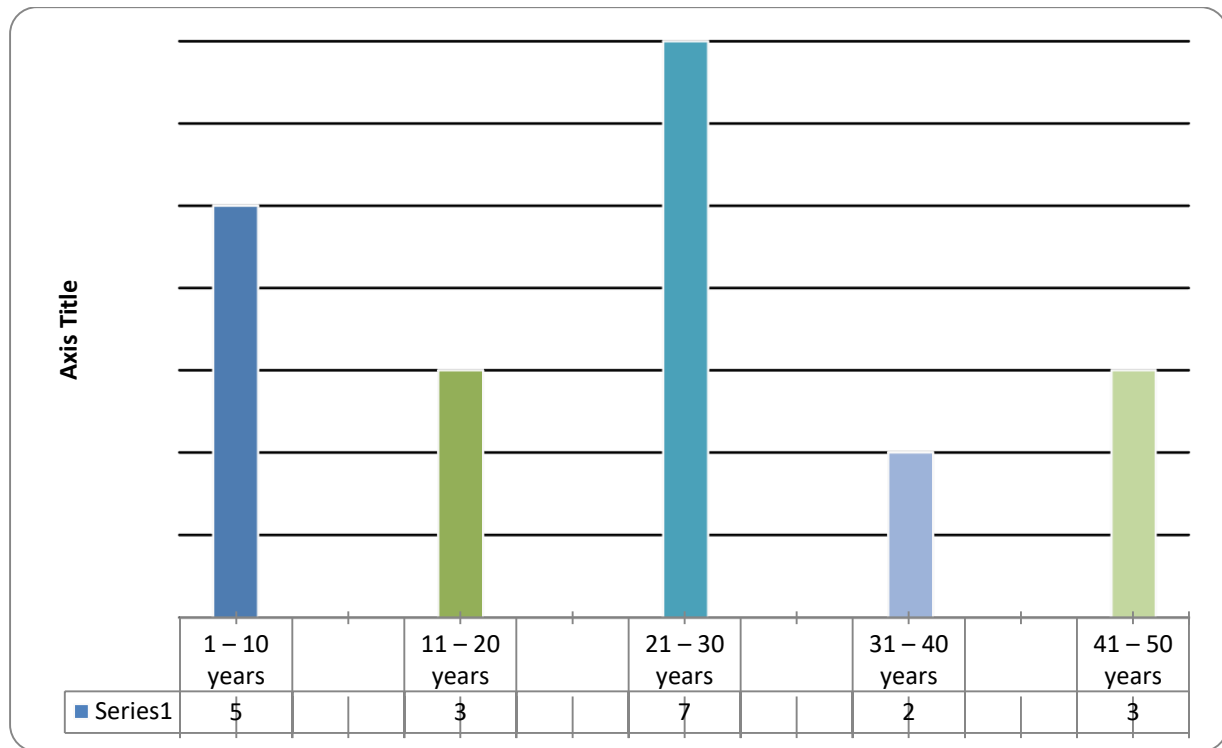


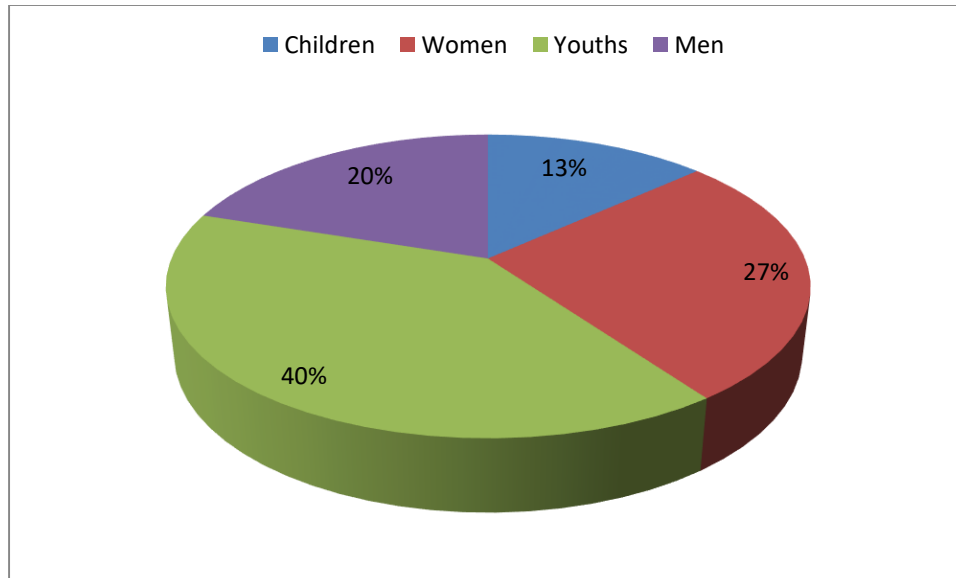
Figure 4: Participant distribution by duration in office

Source: Field data (2023)

Most of the respondents taking part in our research study had served for more than ten years in their current offices and work stations. For instance it was established that 70 percent of the targeted respondents had served for between 21 – 30 years and thus had adequate knowledge and experience on matters pertaining to the research topic.

2.6. Target Population in the Coverage Area

The figure below presents the findings about the general characteristics and needs of the target population that various CSOs covered in the area of study.



This section found that most of the CSOs were concerned with youth related affairs, especially in their role in CVE. Many of the respondents acknowledged that they had access to different activities of CSOs and thus represented the ability of the organizations to reach numerous individuals and the wider communities in general.⁷⁶ Different respondents said that they had attended some meetings, discussion forums, training and community building events conducted by CSOs operating within their localities.⁷⁷ However, it was established that there was a lower turnout of the youths in public accountability and general meetings which demonstrated lower public participation and inclusivity of all social groups in social the events of CSOs.⁷⁸

⁷⁶ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 1: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

⁷⁷ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 4: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

⁷⁸ Kimutai, Gilbert. *“Civil Society Organizations and Regional Integration in the East African Community.”* Kisumu County, Kenya, (2022), pp. 9-11.

a. Types of Initiatives or Programs by CSOS

Type	Frequent
Business	2
Education	4
Governance	2
Health	3
Peace	1
Youth	3
Total	15

Generally, CSOs are voluntary non state associations of people with a common interest of securing, protecting and providing different human needs and empowering the less fortunate individuals within the organization to achieve set objectives.⁷⁹ There are varying objectives of different CSOs that range from providing humanitarian assistance to health facilities, empowering businesses and economic activities, promoting educational services, eradicating poverty and cultural development.⁸⁰ Civil Society collectively refers to socially active groups that comprises of members who voluntarily choose to form corporate bodies and organizations to work together towards meeting specific objectives in a society.

According to the research data, 82% of the total respondents established that CSOs were effective and accountable in discussing and resolving existing issues of public concern.

Likewise, most respondents believed that CSOs had include them or known family members in

⁷⁹ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 10: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

⁸⁰ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 7: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

different empowerment programs. Additionally, it was evident that most of the respondents had benefitted either directly or indirectly from the CSO programs.

2.7. The Contribution of CSOs in CVE in coastal region of Kenya

The roles played by civil society organizations in CVE were a significant concern of our study, and therefore, a survey was conducted to establish the nature of community participation and how civil societies have participated in countering violent extremism in the coast region. CSOs have played an active role in the global fight against terrorism since they utilize effective methods such as inclusivity, capacity building and rehabilitation to counter negative radicalization and brainwashing that motivate the recruitment of youths to extremist groups. This section found that some (81%) respondents opine that solution to CSOs fighting CVE means that CSOs members need to implement effective consultation procedures since some strategies formulated without an all-inclusive decision making process are not effective and practical⁸¹. Notably, the response from public servants and experts established that the public administration has not promoted awareness to the general public and many people lacks the appropriate skills and methods to enhance meaningful cooperation and policymaking between different stakeholders despite the existence of a political goodwill to hold constructive consultations.

The research study has established that there are numerous programs and initiatives that have been introduced by different organizations in the coastal region to improve the various aspects of human security and provide a favorable environment to deter recruitment of youths in terrorist groups and provide alternative means of livelihood⁸². The majority of the respondents in

⁸¹ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 4: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

⁸² Prislán, Kaja, Krunoslav Borovec, and Irena Cajner Mraović. "The Role of Civil Society and Communities in Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalisation." *Policija i sigurnost* 29, no. 3/2020. (2020): 223-245.

our research study established that they have significantly benefitted from diverse programs and initiatives established by CSO that increase awareness on the violent extremism and measures that can counter terrorist acts.

The Kenyan government and law enforcement agencies acknowledge the value of collaboration between different security partners towards mitigating potential threats of terrorism. Bognoe postulate that the main focus of CSOs is to promote service delivery and promote accountability of different actors in society⁸³ The CSOs are integral in the democratic process, governance, social development individual empowerment. They are active stakeholders that focus on the social and economic aspects of different parts of the society. On the other hand, Bunyan asserts that the size, mandate and functions of CSOs have changed across the globe.⁸⁴ A vibrant civil society can voice the issues of vulnerable populations and play a critical role in the promoting human and constitutional rights. Civil society can also determine the global issues that require collective problem-solving strategies.⁸⁵ The CSOs also play an essential role in providing humanitarian assistance to victims and vulnerable groups that cannot access basic services during protracted state crisis. CSOs and community based organizations confirmed that youths attend meetings and participate in public accountability forums; however, there is lower turnout and limited public participation in CSO events and initiatives⁸⁶. Participation in programs

⁸³ Bognoe, Camilla. *Understanding the role of gender in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, good practices for law enforcement*. Security and cooperation, (2016), p. 3.

⁸⁴ Bunyan, Paul. *The Role of Civil Society in Reducing Poverty and Inequality: A Case Study of the Living Wage Campaign in the United Kingdom*. Reducing Poverty Project, Edge Hill University, Ormskirk, Lancashire, United Kingdom, (2016), p. 30.

⁸⁵ United Nations. On November 30th, 2021 UNODC held a consultation round table meeting with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) and Prison Reform in Uganda. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes, (2021).

⁸⁶ Kimutai, Gilbert. *"Civil Society Organizations and Regional Integration in the East African Community."* Kisumu County, Kenya, (2022), pp. 9-11.

and initiatives of various CSOs is a significant step towards building community resilience and promoting CVE and counter terrorism strategies in Kenya.

CSOs are proving to be critical players in community development since they are actively taking part in creating hospitals facilities to promote good health, schools for better education and have also promoted the agricultural sector to boost food production in different regions facing acute food shortages and malnutrition.⁸⁷ They have also played a critical role in peaceful resolutions and mediations to end civil wars in volatile African countries. The CSOs in Kenya have peaceful coexistence and security since they have brought together people from different social, religious and economic backgrounds to respect diversity and values within our nation.⁸⁸ Moreover, CSOs have enhanced inter-cultural exchange through different exchange programs and practices that engages members from different ethnic and religious groups to ensure there is mutual interaction and inclusivity⁸⁹ The United Nations opines an urgent need to improve CSOs effectiveness, alertness and credibility in CVE.⁹⁰ Research shows that CSOs promotes socialization between state agencies and the members of a community and thus can enhance community policing and provide an opportunity for constructive communication and sharing of security intelligence with law enforcement authorities.

Koehler argues that CSOs can play a significant advisory and educational role.⁹¹ They can provide policy advice and expertise on aspects of preventing terrorism that is often not

⁸⁷ The Research Field Data. The Participant Number 9. (2022).).

⁸⁸ Lawrence, Mmaitisi. Revitalizing Civil Society Organizations in Kenya: An Assessment of their Contribution to Archive Sustainable Development Goals in Narok County. Maasai Mara University, Kenya, (2021), p. 11.

⁸⁹ Kimutai, Gilbert. *Civil Society Organizations and Regional Integration in the East African Community*. Maseno University, Kisumu County, Kenya, (2022), pp. 9-11.

⁹⁰ United Nations. On November 30th, 2021 UNODC held a consultation round table meeting with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) and Prison Reform in Uganda. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes, (2021).

⁹¹ Koehler, Daniel. *Violence and Terrorism from the Far-Right: Policy Options to Counter an Elusive Threat*. ICCT Policy Brief, (2019), pp. 1-3.

available within government.⁹² Equally importantly, CSOs experts provide alternative appropriate language and terminology to public officials in addressing issues related to terrorism and security. Koehler states that, to strengthen their co-operation with governments, CSOs may also find it appropriate to acknowledge positive steps or measures taken by law enforcement officials and government where they occur.⁹³ In addition, they may have a positive advisory role in providing concrete alternatives to counter-terrorism policies and measures that they consider ill-conceived.⁹⁴ It is essential to recognize, however, that the non-state sector needs to be given relevant information to understand the actual extent of the threat and to be able to provide adequate suggestions of a response.

Sikoyo and Kobia, acknowledges that there have been complex security challenges at the coastal region of Kenya that have prompted the need to focus on the effective VE strategies that can mitigate the identified issues.⁹⁵ Despite the increased funding from various national and international actors, there is a need for the developing and implementing holistic and all-inclusive solutions that focus on the needs of a specific community and can address the underlying risks and threats in VE. The study found that Search International and other local CSOs in the coastal region have established community-tailored initiatives/programs that build trust and enhance collaboration between key stake-holders in the security sector in determining the practical measures that can manage extremist acts in the Coastal region of Kenya.

On the other hand, Lawrence opines that despite growing global interest in CVE, evidence in the Coastal Kenya indicates those preventive and countering approaches are effective

⁹² Tonra, Ben and Thomas, Christiansen. *Rethinking Social Policy*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, (2004), p. 97.

⁹³ Koehler, Daniel. *Violence and Terrorism from the Far-Right: Policy Options to Counter an Elusive Threat*. ICCT Policy Brief, (2019), pp. 1-3.

⁹⁴ Tonra, Ben and Thomas, Christiansen. *Rethinking Social Policy*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, (2004), p. 97.

⁹⁵ Sikoyo, Leah and Kobia, Simon. *Enhancing the Role of Civil Society Organizations in Public Education Sector Monitoring and Accountability*. International Quality Education Conference, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, (2021), p. 19.

in addressing the causes of conflict unlike the reactive and militaristic approaches.⁹⁶ The study found that over 50% of the CSOs interviewed focused on the programs that analyzed the root causes of violence and not just the prevailing crimes in their localities. CVE programs must be impartial to ensure that they identify the core issues affecting the community and facilitate dialogue to avoid resistance and violent action against members of a specific social group.⁹⁷

Past researches on CSOs programs in the Coast of Kenya indicate that mobile theatres and digital platforms have been effective in spreading inspiring narratives among marginalized social groups that are vulnerable to extremism.⁹⁸ Digital technologies and social media platforms have a broader-based programming and thus are powerful tools that can be used to inspire and motivate at risk individuals to speak of their daily challenges. Communication programs and mediums air success stories of peaceful conflict resolution to encourage conflicting factions to engage in peaceful dialogue and conflict resolution techniques when addressing their grievances. The inspirational narratives from social media captions and posts reach a wide audience and can provide the need and benefits of adopting peaceful crime resolution alternatives and avert violence.

CSOs operating in Kenya have been effective in promoting security, peaceful coexistence, respect for cultural diversity and religious tolerance between different sections in our nation.⁹⁹ It is also evident that, CSOs have promoted mutual interactions between different cultural and ethnic groups due to the formulation of inter-tribal cultural exchange programs that

⁹⁶ Lawrence, Mmaiti. Revitalizing Civil Society Organizations in Kenya: An Assessment of their Contribution to Archive Sustainable Development Goals in Narok County. Maasai Mara University, Kenya, (2021), p. 11.

⁹⁷ United Nations. On November 30th, 2021 UNODC held a consultation round table meeting with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) and Prison Reform in Uganda. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes, (2021).

⁹⁸ The Research Field Data. The Participant Number 2. (2022).

⁹⁹ Lawrence, Mmaiti. Revitalizing Civil Society Organizations in Kenya: An Assessment of their Contribution to Archive Sustainable Development Goals in Narok County. Maasai Mara University, Kenya, (2021), p. 11.

ensure understanding of the diverse cultural and religious aspirations.¹⁰⁰ For instance, group activities such as meetings, awareness campaigns, and other festivities ensure that there is mutual interaction between diverse group members.¹⁰¹ Civil society organizations have established practical programs and services that meet societal needs gaps and empower communities to improve their living standards and achieve standard developmental goals (SDGs) in all spheres of life.¹⁰² There is a need for cooperation between different stakeholders and security agencies from domestic and international state actors to ensure successful implementation of SDGs.¹⁰³ The Kenyan government is guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SD), that postulates the need for a collective action between different actors to ensure diverse participation of state and non-state organizations.

According to Sikoyo and Kobia, civil society is a critical component of State transformation and must be engaged towards achieving a pluralistic society.¹⁰⁴ For instance, the civil society has played a critical role in the struggle for multipartyism and drafting of the 2010 New Constitution in Kenya.¹⁰⁵ Today, there is a strong civil society movement known as *Tekeleza Katiba* that checks on the implementation of the constitution and champion devolution of powers, services and resources. Additionally, civil society groups have worked with political

¹⁰⁰ Kimutai, Gilbert. *Civil Society Organizations and Regional Integration in the East African Community*. Maseno University, Kisumu County, Kenya, (2022), pp. 9-11.

¹⁰¹ The Research Field Data. The Participant Number 9. (2022).).

¹⁰² Okongo, Charles. "Evaluating the Challenges and Opportunities of the Use of Military Diplomacy in Intrastate Conflict Management in the Horn of Africa." *International Journal of Scientific Research Management*, (2021), pp. 9-11.

¹⁰³ Lawrence, Mmaitsi. *Revitalizing Civil Society Organizations in Kenya: An Assessment of their Contribution to Archive Sustainable Development Goals in Narok County*. Maasai Mara University, Kenya, (2021), p. 11.

¹⁰⁴ Sikoyo, Leah and Kobia, Simon. *Enhancing the Role of Civil Society Organizations in Public Education Sector Monitoring and Accountability*. International Quality Education Conference, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, (2021), p. 19.

¹⁰⁵ Okongo, Charles. "Evaluating the Challenges and Opportunities of the Use of Military Diplomacy in Intrastate Conflict Management in the Horn of Africa." *International Journal of Scientific Research Management*, (2021), pp. 9-11.

parties to form strong socio-political movement as it was witnessed during the 1997 and 2002 general elections in Kenya.¹⁰⁶

The United Nations opines that in order to improve CSOs effectiveness, there is a need for alertness and credibility in CVE.¹⁰⁷ Most respondents recommended that there is a need for using common ground approaches by various CSOs to ensure that they mitigate the risk factors raised by vulnerable and at risk social groups such as unemployed youths and women from marginalized communities.¹⁰⁸ Additionally, our research established that CSOs facilitates interactive forums between State Security Agencies and their community to ensure there is a constructive communication on the best strategies that can achieve the success of CVE.¹⁰⁹ It is clear that many CSOs can operate within one community and thus there is competition for the available resources that significantly affect the outcomes of different programs.¹¹⁰ To prevent this, there is a need for integration and coordination of strategies and activities by different organizations to prevent duplication of roles and ensure sharing of information towards formulating concrete solutions to social problems. Moreover, different CSO groups can use existing community-led framework to engage the target populations and resolve the needs of the local groups in the coastal region. These CSOs must continue to adhere to the principle of “Do No Harm” when working with local communities and security forces, to avoid exacerbating the conflict and amplifying the grievances of the local population.

¹⁰⁶ Wenas, Frega. *“Recalibrating Indonesia’s Defense Diplomacy for the New Normal.”* Emerging Voices on the New Normal in Asia, South Korea, (2021), pp. 15-17.

¹⁰⁷ United Nations. On November 30th, 2021 UNODC held a consultation round table meeting with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) and Prison Reform in Uganda. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes, (2021).

¹⁰⁸ The Research Field Data. The Participant Number 9. (2022).).

¹⁰⁹ Trybull, Marzena and Sirko, Stanislaw. *“Military units as Elements of Development Potential of Small and Medium-Sized Cities.”* European Research Studies Journal, (2020), pp. 200-219.

¹¹⁰ Okongo, Charles. *“Evaluating the Challenges and Opportunities of the Use of Military Diplomacy in Intrastate Conflict Management in the Horn of Africa.”* International Journal of Scientific Research Management, (2021), pp. 9-11.

Civil Society Organizations at the Coastal region of Kenya play a crucial role in promoting fundamental rights and contribute to the functioning of democracies as a mechanism in the fight against violent extremism.¹¹¹ These CSOs cooperates and regularly consults with the local community.¹¹² They increasingly report that it has become harder for them to support the protection, promotion and fulfillment of human rights within the coast region. Over the past ten years, counterterrorism policies have put civil society groups under increasing pressure and constraints. Some governments have targeted nonviolent opposition groups and human rights defenders in their fight against terrorism.¹¹³ Overly militarized counterterrorism policies based on isolating and destroying terrorist groups have harmed civilians and undermine the essential work of human rights defenders, conflict prevention practitioners, and humanitarian aid workers.¹¹⁴

Focusing on national security rather than human security has trapped civilians and civil society in the middle of violent conflict between states and terrorist groups.¹¹⁵ Without adequate respect for human security and human rights, counterterrorism measures are counterproductive and provoke further radicalization. Effective counterterrorism policies must prioritize human security and respect human rights and human dignity.¹¹⁶ CSOs plays an essential role in adjudicating the protection of human rights and ensuring that other state actors and law enforcement officers use reasonable force and adopt strategies that adhere promote different aspects of human wellbeing. The UN must take more steps to recognize civil society as a partner

¹¹¹ The Research Field Data. The Participant Number 1. (2023).

¹¹² The Research Field Data. The Participant Number 3. (2023).

¹¹³ Okongo, Charles. "Evaluating the Challenges and Opportunities of the Use of Military Diplomacy in Intrastate Conflict Management in the Horn of Africa." *International Journal of Scientific Research Management*, (2021), pp. 9-11.

¹¹⁴ The Research Field Data. The Participant Number 1. (2022).

¹¹⁵ The Research Field Data. The Participant Number 9. (2022).

¹¹⁶ Wenas, Frega. "Recalibrating Indonesia's Defense Diplomacy for the New Normal." *Emerging Voices on the New Normal in Asia, South Korea*, (2021), pp. 15-17.

in addressing violent extremism, support civil society conflict resolution, human rights, and prevention programming, and protect civil society space from being closed down in the name of counterterrorism policy.

Most respondents noted that they have got a deeper understanding of VE through community based organizations and have identified the need for improving different aspects of governance at the county and national level to ensure that proactive policies and techniques are employed in the fight against security threats.¹¹⁷ For instance, a peaceful and favorable environment should be created to ensure that there is a clearly established framework that provides better alternatives to at-risk individuals who are vulnerable to radicalization that would culminate to violent extremism. National security agencies and the state should refine the capacity and roles of CSOs to effectively incorporate their contributions to strategic security. Interactive communication between different stakeholders and community members on the best approaches to resolve social issues and crisis can be organized by CSOs to increase their success in combating conflicts and differences.

Kenya is in the process of digitalization and thus traditional communication mediums such as face to face discussions and broadcast media are the main communication channels since not all people have embraced social media platforms. CSOs must understand the effectiveness of different mediums to ensure that they get to at-risk groups and have a face-to-face interaction with victims to understand the root causes of existing social issues.¹¹⁸ Research establishes that programmed media platforms have a broader audience among youths and therefore can be used

¹¹⁷ The Research Field Data. The Participant Number 9. (2022).

¹¹⁸ Okongo, Charles. "Evaluating the Challenges and Opportunities of the Use of Military Diplomacy in Intrastate Conflict Management in the Horn of Africa." *International Journal of Scientific Research Management*, (2021), pp. 9-11.

to support victims and enhance community resilience in the fight against marginalization and extremist threats.

2.8. Success of CSOs in CVE in the Region

This section found that the CSO past programs in the Coast of Kenya have used mobile theatre to inspire victims and challenge marginalized groups to voice their issues.¹¹⁹ The selected communication channel should have a broader target audience to ensure that it reaches the consumer spaces and are viral on the social media pages followed by most at-risk individuals.¹²⁰ Inspiring narratives and thought provoking discussions are powerful tools that can be used to condemn injustices and facilitate peace resolutions in our society. Civic organizations use the success stories of peaceful conflict resolution in other regions to inspire conflicting parties to engage in dialogue and avert violence that would have severe implications on the wellbeing of its members. Inspirational narratives spread through digital media programs provide alternatives to violence and thus promotes peaceful coexistence despite the existing differences.

This section found that CSO participation and inclusion of all stakeholders are fundamental factors that determine the successful formulation and implementation of the Kenya's counter terrorism strategy. CSOs advocates for human right principles and thus voices the needs and interests of different social groups to relevant authorities and lobby for projects that can be used to address the identified issues.¹²¹ Many respondents from different parts of the country have asserted that CSOs have significantly advocated for their issues or the underlying causes.¹²² Unlike the government that focuses on military power in the fight against terrorism, civil

¹¹⁹ The Research Field Data. The Participant Number 2. (2022).

¹²⁰ Wenas, Frega. *"Recalibrating Indonesia's Defense Diplomacy for the New Normal."* Emerging Voices on the New Normal in Asia, South Korea, (2021), pp. 15-17.

¹²¹ Kimutai, Gilbert. *"Civil Society Organizations and Regional Integration in the East African Community."* Kisumu County, Kenya, (2022), pp. 9-11.

¹²² The Research Field Data. Participant Number 9: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

societies use diverse and practical approaches to resolve and mitigate potential threats.¹²³ Awareness creation against terrorism is one of the approaches used by CSOs in countering violence since the members of a specific society understand the existing types of terrorism and the motivations to terror events. Some of the other approaches are damnation, appraisal motivation and rehabilitation approach to assist victims and reform the perpetrators of violence. Community organizations also use partnership forums and indoctrination approaches to transform and reintegrate marginalized and labeled groups into the society. A coordination approach is also used to form strong alliances between non state organizations to find lasting solutions to global terrorism and international crimes.

2.9. Chapter Summary

This section found that homes, maskanis, and Mosques are good informal meeting places that can be used to facilitate social interactions between counselors, at-risk individuals and victims of different social inequalities. Social workers and other influencers must have the appropriate skills and strategies to provide practical solutions to problems faced by at-risk individuals and empower them to achieve their goals. Young people need a favorable environment and guidance on how to avoid peer influence and radicalization that has resulted to forming violent gangs and outlaw movements. Therefore, there is a need for including youths when formulating the best strategies that can provide employment opportunities and diverse options for resolving social disputes to discourage the use of threats and intimidations that have dire consequences. For instance, peer-to-peer support programs designed by local CSOs ensure that friends, peers and workmates can exchange practical and non-violent strategies to resolve social problems and frustrations that motivate the desire to join existing terror gangs. Repeat

¹²³ Okongo, Charles. "Evaluating the Challenges and Opportunities of the Use of Military Diplomacy in Intrastate Conflict Management in the Horn of Africa." *Journal of Scientific Research Management*, (2021), pp. 9-11.

offenders and potential radicalized individuals must be introduced to proper counseling programs and civil organizations must create more awareness on the prevalence of terror and risk of recruitment. More rehabilitation facilities should be created within local communities to address psychological issues and addictions that are major causes of violence and criminal behaviors among the youth.

CHAPTER THREE

CHALLENGES UNDERMINING CSOS CONTRIBUTION IN COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AT THE KENYAN COAST

3.0. Introduction

This chapter examines the key challenges undermining the effectiveness of Civil Society Organization's in the fight against violent Extremism in the Coast region of Kenya. The Government of Kenya recognizes the need partnership with civil society organizations to enhance social stability and economic development. The fight against terrorism is a critical issue in the modern global society and thus civil groups makes significant steps in promoting security and mitigating potential threats before they escalate to violence. The CSOs use education, social empowerment, capacity building, planning, awareness, damnation, appraise, motivation, rehabilitation, indoctrination and coordination approaches to back up their efforts against global terror.

3.1. Key Challenges Undermining CSOS Contribution in CVE in the Coast Region

This section found that there are varying challenges that affect the contributions of CSO in the coastal region. The impact of each challenge on the roles of a social organization depends on the nature, size and historical contexts behind its formation and development as a civil society.¹²⁴ For instance, most CSOs lack a proper budget framework and auditing strategies to determine the amount of funds and resources used to implement different social development projects. The general public lacks adequate report of how much money from national or public funds is used to support the activities of different humanitarian organizations or fund the internal operations that directly influence their success. Furthermore, there are legal and legislative barriers that prevent recording of violent attacks and cover up cases of mistreating social activists and thus there is

¹²⁴ The Research Field Data. The Participant Number 1. (2022).

limited data on how threats, intimidations and frustrations from law enforcement agencies can impact on the operations of CSOs.¹²⁵

3.2. Limited Ability to Operate

This section found that CSO members are interested in adopting various legislations and administrative policies that touches on government taxes, electoral systems and lobbying laws that may influence the activities of CSOs.¹²⁶ Rules and restrictions have a significant effect on the activities and deliberation of different organizations however, the effects of single legislative or administrative acts can be difficult to assess in isolation. There is an existing relationship between different laws and principles in a legal-political system that determines the fundamental human rights and regulates the conducts of behaviors. The ability of CSOs to operate in a given region may be limited by combining a series of regulatory measures that increases the legality burdens and requirements that must be met by civil society actors before involving in CVE operations.¹²⁷ The Civil Society Organizations in the coast region in their fight against CVE identified that the regulative environment, lack of the recognition and deregistration of CSOs can adversely affect their missions and operations.¹²⁸ Some administrative units may fail to recognize the roles played by unregistered CSOs to mitigate violence and extremist threats while others may require new registrations for specific CSOs to continue with humanitarian operations.¹²⁹ In one of the sub counties in Kenya, introduction of a new law prompted the need for amending CSO registration documents barring the operations of many humanitarian organizations within the targeted communities because a lot of time and resources were required to meet the requirements.

¹²⁵ The Research Field Data. The Participant Number 4. (2023).

¹²⁶ The Research Field Data. The Participant Number 3. (2023).

¹²⁷ The Research Field Data. The Participant Number 6. (2023).

¹²⁸ The Research Field Data. The Participant Number 3. (2022).

¹²⁹ The Research Field Data. The Participant Number 1. (2022).

3.3 Financial and administrative challenges

According to the study, many CSOs were facing acute financial constraint due to a significant cut of funding by various sponsors and international donors. CSOs have limited resources because of the existing legal barriers and policies on distribution of resources and infrastructure that limit their effectiveness in their contribution in CVE. Some respondents state that funding cuts may be used to influence advocacy positions and activities that focus on raising awareness within a specific society. Funds meant for providing health care and other social services may also be withheld and new restrictive terms are imposed on the beneficiaries. Some of the obstacles in obtaining funding include burdensome and complex qualification procedures, cumbersome and disproportionate reporting procedures that do not match the projections after funding, short or long term project funding that is not sustainable and lack of infrastructure funding. Some respondents note that CSOs face challenges in financial management, leadership, human resources, operations, and communication challenges. These fundamental areas must be supported to build up organizations' long-term capacity, which requires institutional, not project-based, support. Additionally, many organizations depend on donor funding and thus are not sustainable in an event that the funds are delayed or some donors have withdrawn their support distracting their missions and change of plans to find alternative means of funding their daily operations. Many global organizations are facing a decline in donor funding raising the issues of dependency and unsustainability of CSOs. Many organizations are focusing on finding alternative sources of funds for financial stability instead of following the set objectives and missions. Some finance models such as dues, fee-for-service activities, grants and other cost sharing partnerships between donor and private sectors are used to promote independence and stability of CSOs.

3.4. Policy Challenges

This section found that when it comes to the contribution of CSOs in the CVE efforts, there are limited legal initiatives and policies that governs the right to participation hence inconsistency in the implementation of charity missions. There is also lack of political good will to hold consultative forums and formulate quality policies that meets the interests and objectives of different actors. Many CSOs are unaware of the best methods, skills and modes of involving different stakeholders in policymaking process to formulate practical solutions to identified social issues. There are specific challenges and barriers that limit the involvement of people living with disabilities in social activities. For instance, many organizations have not implemented the necessary measures and standards to ensure that physically challenged people can access equal services and opportunities without adverse biases.

3.5. Limited Government and CSOs Consultations

The majority of the CSOs felt that there were limited engagements between them and National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC). Fifty five percent of the respondents expressed reservations that the NCTC and County Government officials rarely engaged them in implementing the County Action Plans, which are geared towards mitigating the threat posed by VE in the Coast region of Kenya. In the past many governments have viewed CSOs especially those involved in CVE with suspicion and as foreign funded agents of opposition, thereby thwarting their influence.¹³⁰ Many governments view CSOs as opponents instead of partners.¹³¹ Such a contentious view usually affects their desire to participate in social development by promoting moral values within communities.

¹³⁰ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 6: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

¹³¹ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 8: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

3.6. Limited Engagements among the CSOs

The study established that CSOs rarely held joint consultative forums to share experiences on the successes of their initiatives and programs to chart a common approach or even pool resources towards addressing the escalating threat posed VE. The individual approach by the CSOs undermined the advantages that go with synergy. Data Analysis indicated that a few of the CSOs only interacted at forums organised by NCTC and County government officials. It was established that only 30 percent of the CSOs held joint forums or consulted with the locals to share experiences on the challenges they were facing and the best ways to surmount these problems.

3.7. The Laws and Regulatory Challenges

This study established that CSOs had many concerns regarding the existing legal frameworks. They felt that the government laws and regulations particularly on the involvement of the CSOs in CVE were rigid and punitive, thus impacting negatively on them. The national government is reluctant in sharing powers with CSOs in CVE and thus has established strict registration processes and may deregister some CSOs in local communities without clear motives and reasons to stop their watchdog roles. In particular, bureaucratic practices within the government proved to be problematic regarding the ease of registering the organizations and heavy demands on transparency on their operations, thus complicating the operating environment.¹³² In addition, the CSOs felt that the government rarely consulted them when developing and revising policies and strategies as regards the role of CSOs in CVE. For instance, over 40% of the CSOs felt that the government often closed doors when developing laws and regulations governing their role in CVE and other activities. Respondents from CSOs and public administrators acknowledge a lack of trust and accountability in CVE activities resulting to

¹³² The Research Field Data. The Participant Number 3. (2022)

funding to support certain activities. Limiting of funds also is used to regulate advocacy and litigation processes by human rights activists and limit awareness creation activities. There are obstacles to obtaining funding such as complex application and qualification procedures for accessing donations and resources.

3.8. Chapter Summary

CSOs manifest the benefits of associational life through the formation of decentralized voluntary groups that may be organized or unorganized to provide fundamental human values and needs with adverse marginalization. The freedom of speech and a vibrant civil society are the important tools towards promoting equality and dignity of all human beings despite their differences. However, the composition and requirements of CSOs are often contested and thus there is an unending debate on whether organizational form or scope of operation qualifies an organization as a CSO.

Kenya has mutually benefited from informal and formal organizations. For instance, there are general requirement for legal registration of CSOs however, it is evident that there exists informal organizations that are not registered but are operating in the coastal region. Despite the nature and form of CSOs and media, they are effective tools that generally link the State and society and represent their interests and positions. The vision, mission and objectives of different CSOs align with identified needs and public interests. However, there is an emerging concern about whether CSO and media sectors operating at the coastal region represents the burning issues, aspirations, needs of the local populations.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE MEASURES TOWARDS STRENGTHENING CONTRIBUTIONS OF CSOs IN CVE IN THE COAST REGION

4.1. Introduction

This chapter set out to evaluate the appropriate measures geared towards strengthening role of Civil Organizations in mitigating acts of violence experienced at the Coastal Region. This chapter harvested primary and secondary data from credible sources and essential findings to make practical recommendations on improving the effectiveness of CSOs in CVE within the Coastal region of Kenya.

4.2.0. Measures that Enhance the Role of the CSOs in CVE in the Coast Region

This section notes that several measures were taken with the aim of enhancing the contributions of formal and non-formal community organizations in the preventing violence and extremism in the Coastal regions. This is because civil society in diverse contexts around Kenya has proven to be an indispensable partner to the Government of Kenya (GoK) in addressing VE challenges.

4.2.1. Government Support

This sub-section aimed to know how best to enhance the role of the CSOs through the provision of government support in the Coastal region. The information was presented in a likert scale as shown below.

□1 = strongly agree, □2 = Agree, □3 = Undecided, □4 = Disagree, □5 strongly disagree

Table 4.1: Scale of government support

Likert scale	1	2	3	4	5
Percentage (%)	54	14	10	20	2

Source: Research Field Data (2023)

This chapter aimed to evaluate the appropriate measures geared towards strengthening the operations of Civil Society Organizations in combatting Violent Extremism at the Kenyan Coastal Region. Therefore, this section was keen to know if government support would strengthen the contribution of CSOs in CVE. The study consisted of (15) respondents from the CSOs and (10) from government.

*The civil society is an essential building block for addressing the challenges of terrorism and national cohesion; the Coastal region being a place where many youths are unemployed, the civil society fills the space that the government cannot reach, and these CSOs need government support to successfully provide essential services that are not provided by the state.*¹³³

This section found that (54%) of the participants strongly agreed that government support would help boost the effort towards CVE activities. One respondent out of the majority of the CSOs stated that they provide essential links between citizens and governments.¹³⁴ Another respondent stated that government support means policies are monitored, and actions hold government accountable. The CSOs and government engagement encourage inclusivity and effective decision making process to provide alternative policies for the government agencies and other non-state actors involved in enhancing national security.¹³⁵ The findings of this study aligned with Okongo, who stated that CSOs need government support in their fight against terrorism and CVE, since the government generally invests into the capabilities of the civil

¹³³ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 9: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

¹³⁴ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 2: From Civil Society Organizations, (2023).

¹³⁵ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 4: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

society.¹³⁶ This section deduces that in addition to supporting the CSOs programs, the government can also significantly influence their operational capacity to meet specific objectives and priorities that in line with CVE missions.

a. Resource Boost to Enhance Role of CSOs

This sub-section aimed to know how best to enhance the role of the CSOs through the provision of resources boost that enhance the CSOs role in the Coastal region was presented in the chart below

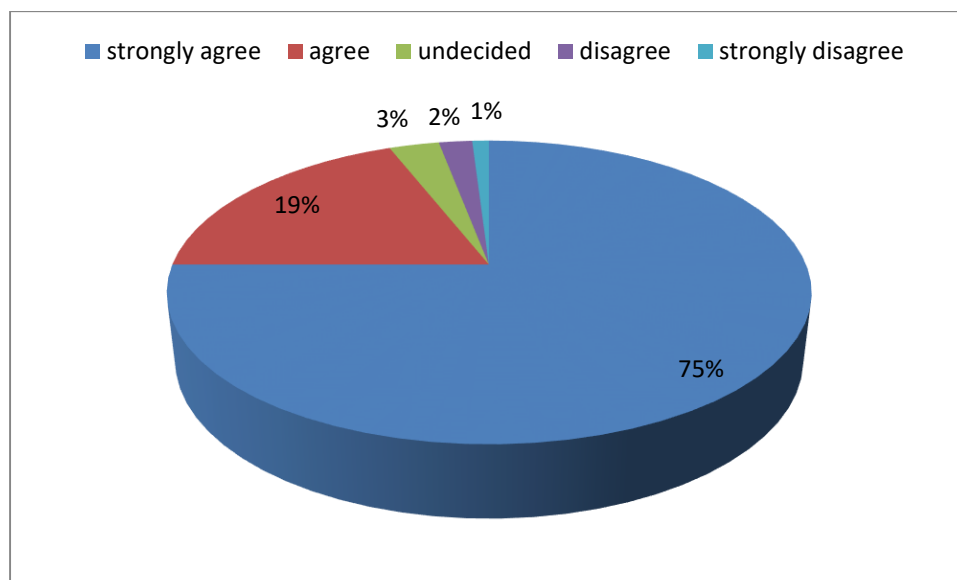


Figure 4.1: Scale of resources boost

Source: Research Field Data (2023)

This section found that most respondents (75%) strongly agreed that CSOs would benefit from a resource boost in terms of financial support (funding). The resource boost, especially in terms of funding enhances the functional capacity of CSOs in CVE and also supports individual

¹³⁶ Okongo, Charles. "Evaluating the Challenges and Opportunities of the Use of Military Diplomacy in Intrastate Conflict Management in the Horn of Africa." *Journal of Scientific Research Management*, (2021), pp. 9-11.

organizations and other security actors by creating effective networks and working resources.¹³⁷ The (19%) of the participants felt that a boost in resources will help in capacity building and promote the level of participation to enhance mutual engagement that targets the broader society.

This sub-section found that funding boost can also empowered the CSOs as the funds will be channeled directly or through intermediary mechanisms.¹³⁸ The main concerns when it came to matters of funding include insufficient engagement of CSOs due to lack of resources, limited donor flexibility when it comes to providing funding and also increased dependency on foreign funds.¹³⁹ These finding aligned with Wenas, who argues that, “Civil society support comes through a variety of funding mechanisms and donors, including bilateral governments, pooled donor mechanisms and private foundations.”¹⁴⁰ This section found that all the respondents acknowledged the importance of financial support as a critical source of resource boost to encourage the engagement of the civil society in CVE.

According to Kimutai, funding or monies are very important for CSOs in enhancing their CVE initiatives. This is because as resources get more limited and CSOs’ operational demands increases, the subject of the measures towards strengthening role of civil society organizations to sustain their CVE programs is of utmost importance.¹⁴¹ The United Nations reiterates that the sustainability of a CVE program requires a lot of financial resources and a concerted, deliberate effort to adhere to the set objectives.¹⁴² Some CVE programs that are successful at achieving sustainability use strategic planning mechanisms to determine specific programs that should be

¹³⁷ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 6, 9, & 11: From Civil Society Organizations, (2023).

¹³⁸ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 14: From Civil Society Organizations, (2023).

¹³⁹ Mmaitsi, Lawrence. “*Revitalizing Civil Society Organizations in Kenya: An Assessment of their Contribution to Archive Sustainable Development Goals in Narok County.*” Maasai Mara University, Kenya, (2021), pp. 6-7.

¹⁴⁰ Wenas, Frega. “*Recalibrating Indonesia’s Defense Diplomacy for the New Normal.*” South Korea, (2021), p. 91.

¹⁴¹ Kimutai, Gilbert. “*Civil Society Organizations and Regional Integration in the East African Community.*” Kisumu County, Kenya, (2022), pp. 9-11.

¹⁴² United Nations. “On November 30th, 2021 UNODC held a consultation round table meeting with Civil Society Organizations working on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Prison Reform in Uganda.” The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes, (2021).

implemented, the desired change and the success of each strategy to establish whether a significant progress is achieved.

b. Supportive Policies and Frameworks

This sub-section aimed to know how best to enhance the role of the CSOs through supportive policies and framework that promote CSOs role the Coastal region, and the Likert scale found;

☐1 = strongly agree, ☐2 = agree, ☐3 = undecided, ☐4 = disagree, ☐5 strongly disagree

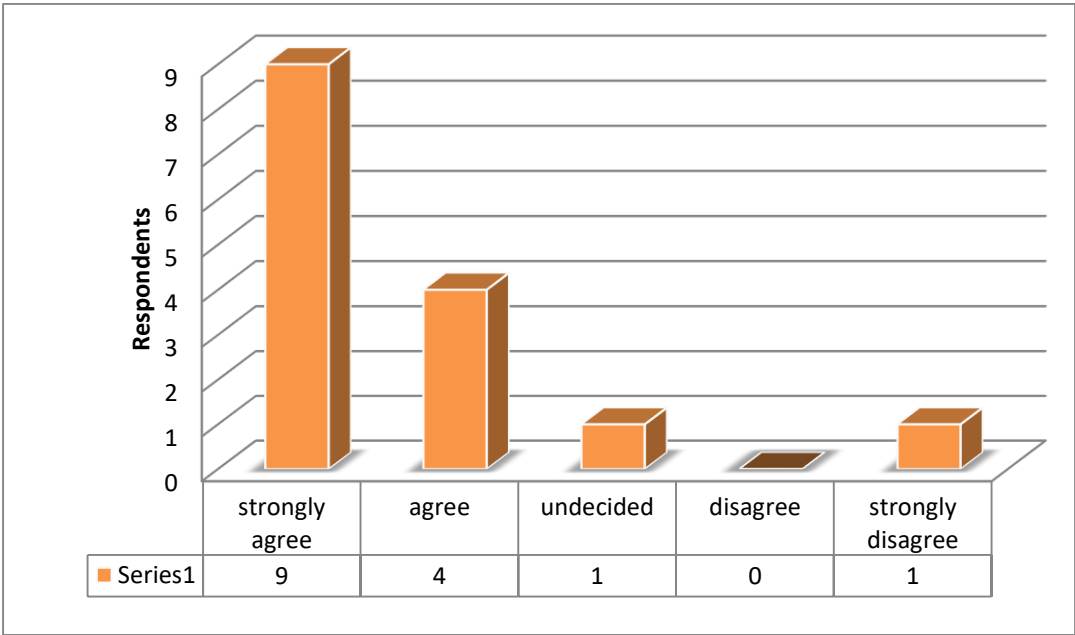


Figure 4.1: Scale of resources boost

Source: Research Field Data (2023)

This sub-section notes that the guiding agencies have failed to provide an explicit definition of terrorism and violent extremism and therefore some member states do not understand the effective measures that can prevent violence. About (9) respondents, who were the vast majority pointed out that the gap in policies and framework is sometimes due to the

broad and vague role of CSOs in curbing CVE.¹⁴³ In addition, about (4) respondents highlighted the absence of systematic humanitarian exemptions and provisions to protect civil society and humanitarian actors that operates in a challenging CVE environment.

One respondent note argued that despite the fact that CVE mainly focuses on policymakers, there is no consensus on the accepted definition of the concept and the ideal practice. The absence of a comprehensive definition leads to policy and framework issues as different actors try to conceptualize, implement and allocate funds to target programs meant to mitigate violent extremism.¹⁴⁴ Another respondent stated that NCTC has opted to create a distinction between measures that are CSOs and CVE-specific or CVE-relevant.¹⁴⁵ This subsection further notes that recognizing that one approach alone is not a long-term solution to eliminating the threat of violent extremism leading to terrorism, attention within the CSOs community has shifted towards promoting whole-of-society strategies, policies and framework aimed at addressing the underlying conditions that create breeding grounds for terrorism recruitment by promoting plus empowering local partners to prevent and counter violent extremism.¹⁴⁶

The findings in this section are in agreement with an increase in the development of multilateral policy frameworks aimed at advancing CSOs inclusion and integrating them into CVE and counterterrorism efforts.¹⁴⁷ However, within the county-level, debates and strategies are ripe on the inclusion of CSOs and recognition of the broad spectrum of roles they play in violent extremism continues to be undervalued. The CSOs in the Coastal region show that NCTC

¹⁴³ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 15: From Civil Society Organizations, (2023).

¹⁴⁴ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 2: From Civil Society Organizations, (2023).

¹⁴⁵ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 1: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

¹⁴⁶ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 5: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

¹⁴⁷ Sikoyo, Leah and Kobia, Simon. “*Enhancing the Role of Civil Society Organizations in Public Education Sector Monitoring and Accountability*.” Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, (2021), pp. 90-95.

encourages and promotes CSOs contribution to CVE by helping to design frameworks through the creation of inclusive structures such as working groups that can help to expedite non-governmental input on the analysis of the domestic threat and the context and drivers of VE, through which a needs assessment can be formed.

Koehler opines that, “the national frameworks should be developed with an evidence-based approach, underpinned by a comprehensive understanding of the problem and a valid rationale for how such initiatives are expected to address identified drivers of violent extremism in the domestic context.”¹⁴⁸ According to Trybull and Sirko, “given the sensitive nature of efforts to address violent extremism and the recognized challenges of establishing evidence of effectiveness in the P/CVE field, it is perhaps even more critical that the evidence on which frameworks are based is independently generated.”¹⁴⁹ The CSOs actors, including universities, think tanks, researchers, and advocacy organizations, play an essential role.

According to Sikoyo and Kobia, “just as the central government is responsible for developing national policies and coordinating programs at the national level, CSOs are crucial for providing services to citizens, serving as the interface between the state and citizens.”¹⁵⁰ Subsequently, “among the many services citizens require from local officials, security-related activities are of primary importance.”¹⁵¹ It is worth noting that the locally-driven (County action plan) framework that has been developed promotes collaboration of non-governmental, governmental and CSOs from the Coastal region. Contribution are made through in-person

¹⁴⁸ Koehler, Daniel. “*Violence and Terrorism from the Far-Right: Policy Options to Counter an Elusive Threat.*” ICCT Policy Brief, (2019), pp. 1-3.

¹⁴⁹ Trybull, Marzena and Sirko, Stanislaw. “*Military units as Elements of Development Potential of Small and Medium-Sized Cities.*” European Research Studies Journal, (2020), pp. 200-219.

¹⁵⁰ Sikoyo, Leah and Kobia, Simon. “*Enhancing the Role of Civil Society Organizations in Public Education Sector Monitoring and Accountability.*” Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, (2021), pp. 90-95.

¹⁵¹ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 5: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

meetings regularly to work through issues and craft an approach that could be customized based on the community needs of those implementing the CSOs framework and policies for CVE.

4.2.2. Teamwork and Strong Corporation

This sub-section aimed to know how best to enhance the role of the CSOs through strengthening various form of corporations and collaborations aimed at reviewing several measures that are taken to enhance the contributions of various non-governmental organizations in mitigating rising cases of violent extremism at the Coastal regions of Kenya.

Research acknowledges that CVE initiatives through CSOs tackle conditions that are considered favorable in promoting radicalization among youths and thus deny terrorist groups an opportunity to recruit and spread their ideologies to new supporters.¹⁵² Interviewed respondents noted that there is a need for full collaboration, corporation and synergy with all the stakeholders and shareholders to ensure that the implemented strategies are effective. State governments and CSOs use varying tools and techniques to counter violent extremism and thus there is a need for reflecting on the applicability and effectiveness of differing conditions and settings to implement practical solutions to identified security gaps.¹⁵³

It is said that, *“the Republic of Kenya is advancing measures on CVE. Therefore over the period of time CSOs have been able to contribute to a reduction in VE and terrorism, this has led to collaborations and corporation such as increased sharing intelligence information that contribute to a reduction in attacks within the Coastal region.”*¹⁵⁴ Additionally, *“the collaborations and teamwork has enabled the National Counter Terrorism Strategy and the government to roll out the County Action Plan and CVE in all the 47 counties, therefore harmonizing national and county action to prevent and counter violent extremism (PCVE).”*¹⁵⁵

Almost half of the respondents asserted that NCTC encourage CSOs to enhance corporation amongst CVE stakeholder to join forces and synergize with the Kenya prison

¹⁵² The Research Field Data. Participant Number 7: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

¹⁵³ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 13: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

¹⁵⁴ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 9: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

¹⁵⁵ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 15: From Civil Society Organizations, (2023).

services, victims of terrorism, government institutions, private sector, civil society, social media, the military, diplomatic community and the media.¹⁵⁶

This section found that, “about (22%) point-out that “*community engagement requires building trust between officials and community members in order to establish a relationship of collaboration.*”¹⁵⁷ Adding that, “*experience proves that such relationships cannot be built overnight and should be cultivated and maintained over time in order to have effect.*”¹⁵⁸ This finding are differ with Ramdeen, who observed that, “*CSOs officials should approach communities with basic knowledge of their local dynamics and the issues they face in order to demonstrate to the community that they are not engaging the community solely because of potential security threats arising within the community.*”¹⁵⁹

It is worth noting that, “the CSOs officials and community leaders emphasize that a securitized relationship, one in which the security concerns of officials crowd out community concerns in other areas of government responsibility, is counterproductive to genuine community engagement and ultimately leads to distrust and bad relations.”¹⁶⁰ This study found that the CSOs are a critical part of community engagement and there is a need for maintaining trust and partnership that ensures cohesion and promote community based policing to meet the set objectives of CVE.

The community members across the Coastal region found that CSOs and government agencies should be transparent and honest in their operations to ensure that community members have trust in their ability to resolve security issues and can actively participate in different missions.¹⁶¹ This section notes that CSOs will be effective in CVE, which is best achieved through strengthening community corporation and community engagement. Although many communities in the Coastal region are represented by formally elected leaders, there is a need for

¹⁵⁶ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 8, 9 & 10: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

¹⁵⁷ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 2, 4, 5 & 9: From Civil Society Organizations, (2023).

¹⁵⁸ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 11: From Civil Society Organizations, (2023).

¹⁵⁹ Ramdeen, Marisha. “*Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa.*” Djibouti, (2017), pp. 6-8.

¹⁶⁰ Mesok, Elisabeth. “*Counterinsurgency, Community Participation, and the Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism Agenda in Kenya.*” Taylor and Francis Online, (2022), pp. 9-13.

¹⁶¹ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 3: From Civil Society Organizations, (2023).

understanding the needs and issues within communities through effective and all-inclusive community engagement initiatives to ensure that multiple sectors within a community are involved in formulating practical CVE strategies and solutions. Community cooperation is critical, and it requires involving community influencers who are not formal leaders into the CVE plans.

4.2.3. Community Engagement and Acceptance

This section found that 98 percent of respondents agreed that total and absolute community engagement is the only way that CSOs can be effective in CVE. Community-based support is what will ensure that CSOs engagement will lead to the best chance of addressing CVE.

It is was further found that, “providing local-level engagement officials with a broad range of potential partners, such as private sector businesses, national and local government agencies, academia, local health care providers, teachers and the media, could give them more tools to respond to community needs. Practitioners of community-oriented policing should have access to the breadth of local law enforcement and should not be isolated from senior law enforcement leadership by excessive levels of hierarchy.”¹⁶² The findings aligned with Hoyt, “who argues that community support is critical, as it helps to maintain the trust and respect, which is integral to community engagement in the fight against violent extremism and radicalization.”¹⁶³

This section further found that few respondents (2%) were unsure of the community based support, therefore, holds true that CSOs will be effective in CVE, since community-oriented policing is what makes the CVE possible. This is because given that VE recruiters

¹⁶² The Research Field Data. Participant Number 9, 11, 14 & 15: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

¹⁶³ Hoyt, Timothy. “*Pakistan, an Ally by Any Other Name.*” U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings 137 (2011), pp. 44-50.

usually target youths, therefore it is important to develop youth oriented projects and messages that can resonate with the adverse effects of violent extremism and the need to avoid criminal behaviors that threaten the wellbeing of a community. Sometimes it is dangerous for the community to be involved in CVE programs; some respondents were of the view that it is dangerous and risky for educators and community members to directly engage with violent offenders and at risk youths and thus there is a need for assuring their security and safety since they can be vulnerable targets and victims of violence.

Schanzer argues that community policing towards VE can be impeded if the community is under threat of attack or there are conflicting policies that can significantly affect desired community partnership in CVE efforts.¹⁶⁴ Therefore CSOs should be sensitive to the fact that the perceptions and actions of various law enforcement agencies can impact the community both positively and negatively.

4.3. Strategic Tactics Strengthening Role of CSOs in CVE in the Coast Region

The strategic measures are some of the problem-solving strategies for CVE management, which thrives on partnerships and collaborations with the public to address issues of terrorism and VE that might adversely affect the Coastal communities and the public in general. This subsection probed for details and dug to know the strategic measures strengthening role of CSOs in CVE in the Coast Region.

i) Community Policing

It was established that (89%) of the interviewed people supported community-policy approach as a strategic measure to strengthening role of CSOs in CVE the CSOs, about (10%) of

¹⁶⁴ Schanzer, David. “*Community Policing Strategies for Countering Violent Extremism.*” University of North California, United States, (2013), pp. 21-23.

the respondents seemed undecided and indifferent and (1%) of the participants disagreed that community-policy is ineffective in complementing the CSOs efforts in CVE.

The majority of the respondents (89%) firmly believed in community-policing because community policing efforts in Kenya have largely been successful in mitigating both criminal and terror related activities, and thus this approach is effective in complementing the CSO efforts because it is dependent on groups or individual efforts within the community.¹⁶⁵ Most of those involved in community policing strategies in the Coastal region have been groups and influential individuals dealing with CVE, the CVE management and control in a given locality. Silke opines that due to the easy domestication of community policy strategies in CVE, the practice has been successful in many parts of the County.¹⁶⁶

This section further found that the (10%) of the respondents, in as much as they saw the value of the community policing, the community policing and CVE management at the local household level is not always effective and therefore it is not always complimentary to the efforts of the CSOs in their CVE activities.¹⁶⁷ This is because community policing usually has a lot of pitfalls and unforeseen threats, and in addition the community policing also sometimes require a lot of resources. For example outreach activities, such as visits to schools or sports and music events are not as easy to undertake as it may seem.^{168 169}

Tonra and Thomas opine that, “some people still think that both county policing and homeland security are compatible especially in intelligence gathering. Both might be a challenge where the police and the community have low cooperation as well as during political activities

¹⁶⁵ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 1, 2, 5, & 9: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

¹⁶⁶ Silke, Alfred. “*Terrorists, Victims and Society: Psychological Perspectives on Terrorism and its Consequences.*” England: John Wiley and Sons Ltd, (2013), p. 23.

¹⁶⁷ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 3, 4, 9, & 10: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

¹⁶⁸ Silke, Alfred. “*Terrorists, Victims and Society: Psychological Perspectives on Terrorism and its Consequences.*” England: John Wiley and Sons Ltd, (2013), p. 23.

¹⁶⁹ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 15: From Civil Society Organizations, (2023).

in which communities take sides or differ with the state on matters such as election results.”¹⁷⁰ This sub-section deduced that there is still a limited awareness with regards to the role of community policing perhaps due to the nature, complexity and dynamics of counter terrorism approaches.

ii) The Value-Based Initiative

This sub-section found from (67%) of the respondents strongly agreed that the value-based initiative is effective and therefore complimentary to the efforts of the CSOs in CVE activities that include programs designed to enhance trust and confidence between multi-agency organizations that collaborate in resolving identified problems for example, Operation *Linda Inchi* and Operation *Linda Boni initiatives*.¹⁷¹ This sub-section deduces that most CSOs in the locality are, by and large policy driven when it comes to CVE activities.¹⁷² These CSOs have policies and guidelines that tell them what to do to address VE, when to do it and how to deal with CVE.¹⁷³

According to the United Nations, there are accepted organizational values that demonstrate the exemplary behaviors that should be adopted by CSOs to support their mission in CVE.¹⁷⁴ In as much as they have all the policies to cover major events and procedures that tell the members how to handle the community in CVE, and specific policies are necessary due to the dynamic nature of the work that the CSOs do in the community. As a result, many CSOs are migrating from policy-driven organizational to a being value-based agency in which behaviors

¹⁷⁰ Tonra, Ben and Thomas, Christiansen. “*Rethinking Social Policy*.” Manchester: Manchester University Press, (2004), p. 97.

¹⁷¹ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 3, 10: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

¹⁷² The Research Field Data. Participant Number 2, 4 & 9: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

¹⁷³ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 1 & 9: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

¹⁷⁴ United Nations. “On November 30th, 2021 UNODC held a consultation round table meeting with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) and Prison Reform in Uganda.” The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes, (2021).

and actions are expected to comply with the organizations stated mission and values in their quest to CVE in the community.

This study found that (11%) of the respondents were undecided if the value-based initiatives were effective and therefore complimentary to the efforts of the CSOs in CVE efforts. Some respondents from this sub-set were of the view that from a purely leadership perspective, the value-based approaches does not always cover every conceivable situation or issues that CSOs might encounter in CVE. This is because sometimes the true motivation of the terror groups could be hidden, and even their messaging could be hard to decipher due to the secretive modes of terrorist operations that hinders the application of value-based messaging by CSOs.¹⁷⁵ The same observations were made by Nunlist, who stated that, rarely, or if ever, does value based approach encourage the CSO members go above and even beyond to be innovative in dealing with VE, as some are afraid or unsure of taking risks.¹⁷⁶ Therefore the members, especially the youths are not always insured or motivated to strive to achieve more than the minimum that the CVE process requires of them, owing to the convoluted and demanding nature of CVE exercise.

The (22%) of the respondents disagreed on the importance of value- based approach to enhance CSO in CVE. These respondents were of the view that ultimately CVE by CSOs eventually requires effective accountability, more that value based approaches, especially bearing in mind that in the end, it involves very many actors, each representing their own organization or multi-agency from a different layer of values, some of them include government representatives, the legislature, the military, the media, the NCTC, the police and other

¹⁷⁵ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 2: From Civil Society Organizations, (2023).

¹⁷⁶ Nunlist, Christian. “*Analyses in Security Policy: The Concept of Countering Violent Extremism.*” Center for Strategic Studies, (2015), pp. 9-12.

independent oversight bodies that practice their own unique values, some of which may be different from that of the CSOs.

iii) Youth Friendly Programmes

The CSOs under the study noted that terrorism as a vice brutally robbed young persons of their opportunities and means of livelihoods. A total of (85%) of all the CSOs interviewed stated that youths are major targets for recruitment and enrolment to extremist gangs and execution of violent attacks. About (15%) of CSOs recognize that the prevention of VE is a significant priority and therefore requires youth friendly initiatives to mitigate the effects of VE, promote tolerance and build resilience in their local communities and societies.

The United Nations asserts that, “youth programs, which often focus on providing children with alternatives to gang and other illegal activity by providing them with life skills, education about law enforcement, sports activities (example, football matches, volleyball, community athletic league) and opportunities to talk about their challenges.”¹⁷⁷ Nunlist opines that, “While there is a range of programs that could be included as case studies in this section, many of them are anti-gang initiatives.”¹⁷⁸ The youth friendly curriculum will be well focused on developing tailored programs for the young people that align with CVE efforts.

One respondent said that, “youth need youth friendly CSOs owing to the fact that the youth demography are generally much better positioned to spread a culture of tolerance and peace amongst their peers, as they are better communicators and effective mobilizers.”¹⁷⁹ Hence,

¹⁷⁷ United Nations. On November 30th, 2021 UNODC held a consultation round table meeting with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) and Prison Reform in Uganda. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes, (2021).

¹⁷⁸ Nunlist, Christian. “Analyses in Security Policy: The Concept of Countering Violent Extremism.” Center for Strategic Studies, (2015), pp. 9-12.

¹⁷⁹ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 2: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

the CSOs need to actively engage and work together with these youths as an effective and positive partner in enhancing the beneficial roles of CSOs in CVE in Kenya.

This sub-section deduces that the CSOs role and strategies in CVE can be enhanced by being youth friendly, and thus study further deduces that young people have a positive contribution to the efforts geared towards preventing terrorism and countering identified risks that can escalate to violent extremism.

It is worth noting that another respondent was of the view that, *“few people who turn to VE and those who commit acts of terrorism and mostly found in the youthful generation, and therefore the CSOs should be designed to the needs of these youth members, these CSOs will take the youth friendly approaches to simplify and breakdown the comprehensive legal, political, cultural and socio-economic approaches in place, with a strong emphasis on the disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration process, whenever the conditions are right to champion the contribution of CSOs in CVE in the Coast region of Kenya.”*¹⁸⁰

This section deduces that the programs birthed by CSO members need to seriously consider implementing deliberate measures that involve youths in promoting peace, tranquility, tolerance, cohesion, diversity and all-inclusive dialogue on social issues. This section was supported by Mesok who stated that, CSO members should involve youths when making decisions and implement practical initiatives to empower youths and deliberate on the effective ways that can guarantee their participation towards preventing VE.¹⁸¹ The CSOs in the Kenyan Coast are no exception.

¹⁸⁰ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 15: From Civil Society Organizations, (2023).

¹⁸¹ Mesok, Elisabeth. *“Counterinsurgency, Community Participation, and the Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism Agenda in Kenya.”* Taylor and Francis Online, (2022), pp. 9-13.

iv) The Weed and Seed Strategy

This section sought to establish additional strategies that complement the measures strengthening the role of CSOs in CVE. The majority of the respondents, although initially a very sensitive subject, agreed that the strategy for weed and seed was very promising in enhancing their CVE efforts.^{182 183184} This is because the weed and seed strategy denote a two-pronged approach that usually involves the local CSOs and multi-agency teams in weeding out the criminals or persons suspected in engaging in potentially violent and extreme activities, and the seed approach that denotes enhancing human services that generally encompass prevention, intervention, treatment, enhancement and neighborhood (community) revitalization. According to UN, “the Weed and Seed Strategies, which involve two major stages, mainly in the first, violent criminals violent extremist and drug abusers are *weeded* out of a community through arrest and other measures.”¹⁸⁵ Subsequently, “in the second stage, community-based organizations and public agencies collaboratively *seed* the area with social services such as neighborhood restoration programs that improve the overall quality of life of residents.”¹⁸⁶ This section infers that the CSOs overtly utilizes the weed and seed approaches in CVE as a discreet way to target the hot spots for potential VE activities, with the help of sustained and intensive enforcement and community restoration resources. The impact of weed and seed model is somehow similar to the community-oriented policing.

¹⁸² The Research Field Data. Participant Number 6: From Civil Society Organizations, (2023).

¹⁸³ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 2: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

¹⁸⁴ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 10: From Government of Kenya, (2023).

¹⁸⁵ United Nations. “On November 30th, 2021 UNODC held a consultation round table meeting with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) and Prison Reform in Uganda.” The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes, (2021).

¹⁸⁶ Schanzer, David. “*Community Policing Strategies for Countering Violent Extremism*.” University of North California, United States, (2013), pp. 21-23.

v) Other Strategies

It is worth mentioning that in exploring the role of CSOs, this sub-section found that, “the role of CSOs in CVE is a rapidly expanding field of practice.”¹⁸⁷ But all the same, despite its impressive growth potential of CSOs in fighting extremism, the subject of CVE sometimes requires some form of innovation and discretion, and this has been occasioned by the struggles that CVE experiences in developing a clear and coherent definition of what it entails.

The process of CVE has in some ways evolved, depending on the areas, targets, locality, population and even surroundings; CVE undertaken by CSOs morphed into a broader category that is ambiguous and lacks a precise focus.¹⁸⁸ There are no explicit boundaries to distinguish CVE programs from other clearly defined community fields, such as poverty reduction, development, education, community empower, democratization and education, However, it is ironical that all these still borrow from the same inter-strategies (education, poverty, awareness) to tackle CVE. Therefore, CSOs sometimes have a challenge, especially reframing works of CVE that are not necessarily an extension of NCTC approaches.

According to Kimutai, “successfully addressing violent extremism and terrorism problems through CSOs will not be easy and may require a reassessment of whether CVE is a useful or effective framework for field-based interventions.”¹⁸⁹ Sikoyo and Kobia strongly reiterate that, “developing a sharper, narrower, and more focused definition of CVE, tightening the boundaries between CVE as a field of practice and its related fields of development, governance, and conflict mitigation and a stronger commitment to testing the causal assumptions

¹⁸⁷ The Research Field Data. Participant Number 2: From Civil Society Organizations, (2023).

¹⁸⁸ Mesok, Elisabeth. “Counterinsurgency, Community Participation, and the Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism Agenda in Kenya.” Taylor and Francis Online, (2022), pp. 9-13.

¹⁸⁹ Kimutai, Gilbert. “Civil Society Organizations and Regional Integration in the East African Community.” Maseno University, Kisumu County, Kenya, (2022), pp. 9-11.

underlying CVE work are initial steps that would improve the design, implementation, and evaluation of CVE programming.”¹⁹⁰ Therefore, the use of CSOs in CVE requires careful identification of CVE as a complex and deep social rooted problem that requires time to meticulously unpack its dynamic components and determine the specific interventions that can resolve identified problems and risks.

4.4. Mechanism that Strengthen the Functions of Civil Society in CVE in the Coastal Region

Lawrence states that, “CVE for many, is more about preventing violent extremism from taking root in the first place.”¹⁹¹ Because of this, the supporters of CVE may fail to achieve the desired success if they do not collaborate towards formulating effective strategies that would mitigate potential risks and root causes of extremist ideals. There may be disagreements between different organizations on the successful mitigation plans that can meet the desired objectives and thus the need for cooperation in gauging the implications of different measures.

According to Wenas, “violent extremism poses tremendous challenges for explanation and, thus, response.”¹⁹² There are multiple forms of violence that have overlapping causes and prompts different actors to join hands in protecting diverse victims from specific social groups. However, it is ironic that there are dueling metaphors and arguments by different actors that have challenged the efforts to understand what really constitutes to radicalization. Okongo asserts that there are diverse initiatives such as the use of media in challenging extremism, the rule of law and building of financial incentives to strengthen cooperation and community engagements in CVE. There is also a need for changing the extremist narratives and training of security

¹⁹⁰ Sikoyo, Leah and Kobia, Simon. “*Enhancing the Role of Civil Society Organizations in Public Education Sector Monitoring and Accountability*.” Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, (2021), p. 19.

¹⁹¹ Lawrence, Mmaitisi. “Revitalizing Civil Society Organizations in Kenya: An Assessment of their Contribution to Archive Sustainable Development Goals in Narok County.” Maasai Mara University, Kenya, (2021), p. 11.

¹⁹² Wenas, Frega. “*Recalibrating Indonesia’s Defense Diplomacy for the New Normal*.” Emerging Voices on the New Normal in Asia, South Korea, (2021), pp. 15-17.

personnel and volunteers groups about CVE to strengthen engagement and cooperation towards preventing violence and resolving existing developmental issues in a society.¹⁹³

4.5. Future of Strengthening the Contributions of Civil Society in CVE at the Coastal Region of Kenya.

The CSOs in their fight against CVE have applied several innovative activities to create employment, enhance youth engagement and create educational programs that would change the extremist narrative and provide alternative solutions to social problems. Wenas points out that although progress has been made, there are many challenges faced by policymakers in the security sector and CVE practitioners.¹⁹⁴ Hence, “despite the proliferation of CVE activities, there remains a lack of clarity or shared understanding among different governments and experts regarding the definition of the term and its implications for programming.”¹⁹⁵ Some security actors focus on conducting community outreach and exchange programs to gather critical intelligence and information of security concern that would be provided to relevant authorities for appropriate action.

There are numerous prevention initiatives that are taken by social workers, development actors and educational institutions to achieve CVE goals that are different from the traditional methods that were previously used by security agencies to counter terrorism. There are significant challenges in funding ambiguous projects that are not coherent in different government entities and thus it is difficult to evaluate the success of a specific CVE project. Lack of a consensus on the appropriate working premise makes it difficult to determine the ideal

¹⁹³ Okongo, Charles. “*Evaluating the Challenges and Opportunities of the Use of Military Diplomacy in Intrastate Conflict Management in the Horn of Africa.*” International Journal of Scientific Research Management, (2021), pp. 9-11.

¹⁹⁴ Wenas, Frega. “*Recalibrating Indonesia’s Defense Diplomacy for the New Normal.*” Emerging Voices on the New Normal in Asia, South Korea, (2021), pp. 15-17.

¹⁹⁵ Lawrence, Mmaitsi. Revitalizing Civil Society Organizations in Kenya: An Assessment of their Contribution to Archive Sustainable Development Goals in Narok County. Maasai Mara University, Kenya, (2021), p. 11.

projects that specifically address the CVE goals. Moreover, it is also difficult to evaluate the impact of programs when the objectives are vague or theories of operations change for different organizations.

Okongo points out that there is a need for understanding the meaning of CVE and implement accurate programs that can achieve the desired objectives.¹⁹⁶ CSOs counterterrorism programs are affected by adverse sociopolitical ideologies that restrict funding of grassroots organizations that do not conform to their aspirations. Political sensitivities and orientations within a society compromise the relationship between different actors within a constituency and may affect the operations and functioning of different organizations.¹⁹⁷ Moreover, there is a growing concern on the securitization of development partners and using them as tools against each to meet individual interests at the expense of enhancing safety and promoting counterterrorism efforts. There is a positive global security change however; unfavorable working environments have constrained engagement between different security practitioners and development actors.

According to CSOs, there is a need for adopting strategic approaches to scale up the effectiveness of CVE projects in future however there is a significant challenge in changing the traditional tactical measures used to enhance security and global peace¹⁹⁸ There are complex funding mechanisms that are unfair and limit the available resources to support long term CVE projects that focuses on addressing structural prevention mechanisms, capacity building activities

¹⁹⁶ Okongo, Charles. *"Evaluating the Challenges and Opportunities of the Use of Military Diplomacy in Intrastate Conflict Management in the Horn of Africa."* International Journal of Scientific Research Management, (2021), pp. 9-11.

¹⁹⁷ El-Said, Hammed. *New Approaches to Countering Terrorism: Designing and Evaluating Counter Radicalization and De-Radicalization Programs*, Palgrave Macmillan, (2015), p. 9.

¹⁹⁸ Bunyan, Paul. *"The Role of Civil Society in Reducing Poverty and Inequality: A Case Study of the Living Wage Campaign in the United Kingdom."* Ormskirk, Lancashire, United Kingdom, (2016), p. 9.

and personal development of key security institutions.¹⁹⁹ Traditionally, counterterrorism efforts by security and law enforcement agencies focus on establishing responsive interventions to identified security threats and risks. On the other side, CVE focuses on long term prevention and mitigation approaches which may not be sustainable because of adverse financial and political issues. The government is also biased and focuses on funding already established projects while sidelining needy localized groups that would meet the interests of the local and marginalized populations.

4.6. Chapter Summary

This section found that CSOs all around the Coastal region have been experiencing challenges in CVE due to the restriction of civic freedom and the need to adopt specific countermeasures in the unified fight against terrorism. The CSOs are critical players in CVE however, the County Governments have highlighted only a few roles due to lack of a comprehensive framework to govern the operations of CSOs. This section notes that there should be effective national frameworks that ensures a whole-of-society approach to tackle VE and outlines clear roles, strategies and frameworks that should be adopted by different organizations to ensure the success of CSOs in their noble contributions in countering VE.

This section notes that the role of CSOs in CVE in future requires unity between different national and international multilateral actors to formulate, multidimensional preventive approaches that encompass practical policies and programs that can meet the desired objectives. The UN's Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force focuses on promoting dialogue and interactive relationships between various actors to counter terrorism and prevent adverse incitement that would increase the risk of violence. Finally over the last decade, global states

¹⁹⁹ United Nations. On November 30th, 2021 UNODC held a consultation round table meeting with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) and Prison Reform in Uganda. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes, (2021).

have invested heavily in devising advanced security measures and strategies to counter violent extremism. Proper implementation of CVE programs can prevent radicalization of youths and provide alternative problem solving techniques to avert violent action.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Introduction

Over the past decade, counter-terrorism has been a key issue in international relations due to the frequent global security threats and the porous borders that are potential avenues of transnational crimes. Many states have relied on the military to combat security threats but there has been a sharp criticism on the effectiveness of hard power to counter terrorism that have prompted the need for adopting soft measures that are preventive and enhance effective interactions between different stakeholders to formulate effective policies that can deal with VE.

5.2. Summary of Research

This section found that CSOs play critical role in CVE in the coastal region however the state agencies limit their contributions and are not willing to collaborate with them in mitigating extremist threats and radicalization. It is also evident that CSOs use soft power initiatives unlike the state security agents who focus on military power and coercion as the main tool to prevent terrorism. This section also found that there are many measures that can be used to increase the capacity of CSOs and enhance their commitment to adhere to the set objectives. One of the measures that can increase social accountability is through effective training and increasing the community awareness on the existing social injustices. Many state officers suggested that members of various CSOs need to be trained on their expected social responsibilities, importance of maintaining social accountability and practical skills that can enhance accountability and responsiveness of different organizations in implementing programs that can solve identified challenges in a target population. A significant percentage of the respondents asserted that there is a need for implementing a good legal framework to ensure that fraudulent CSOs face strict legal action to keep away organizations that do not adhere to the fundamental goals of

humanitarian actors in promoting CVE. There is a need for proper guidance and imposition of effective monitoring systems that can be used to evaluate the success and setbacks affecting different CSO programs.

It was also established that civil societies should be actively involved in developing the resolutions of the UN Security Council on countering terrorism and provide insights on the effectiveness and effects of different proposed measures since they already understand the needs and problems facing local populations. CSOs facilitates interactive forums and peer-to-peer support programs to ensure that the vulnerable groups and at risk individuals are enlightened on the risks of radicalization and the adverse effects of violence. There is a need for conceptualizing what constitutes to humanitarian protection and the typical assistance that can be provided to victims and at risk population that are likely to involve in terrorism. Human rights activists must strike a good balance between the international laws and obligations that govern the conduct of states in international relations and the fundamental human right principles.

It is also evident that CSOs in the Kenyan Coast are effective in addressing the issues of the marginalized and vulnerable peoples in the rural coastal regions that are not represented by the elected state officials. Humanitarian institutions and civic organizations educate the local people on how to redress their challenges and raise their grievances against oppression and unaccountability of the elected government leaders. CSOs also raise awareness on the rule of law and various strategies that can uphold counterterrorism objectives and reduce crime rates within their localities. CSOs contribute towards the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by involving in direct or indirect activities that are in line the missions of maintaining global peace. There is a need to involve in diverse activities and

strategies to successfully attain the objectives of CVE and sustain long term developmental goals of various state and non-state organizations.

5.3. Conclusion

This section concludes that the role of CSOs in CVE can be considered to be effective if there is a sustained effort to support the United Nations strategies and missions and there is interactive cooperation with other stakeholders to boost equality and national security. Over the past decade, there have been increasing tensions between states and civil society in determining the legitimacy of each party in involving in activities that are meant to combat terror threats. States and CSOs are working as independent actors instead of cooperating towards combatting terrorism because of strained relationships between different actors. Many state officials and departments view CSOs as potential undefined risks because they are not sustainable and thus are reluctant in making strong partnership in a spirited fight against global threats. This section concludes that many CSOs operating at the coastal region of Kenya are taking precautionary measures to protect their legitimacy and avoid manipulation by the state that would derail their missions and aspirations.

This section found that there have been a higher prevalence of violent extremism in a global scope due to an endless wave of conflict and international organized crimes in the recent past that have led to a humanitarian crisis and loss of property. Global security crisis and threats have prompted the need for rethinking on the effective strategies and measures that can mitigate and prevent escapades of violence and extremist ideals against particular social group. In African countries like Kenya and Nigeria, there have been instances of marginalization and inequalities that have prompted the need for establishing CSOs to establish comprehensive framework and preventive strategies that would promote peace and counter violent extremism since they bridge

the gap between the local community and international security organizations. CSOs have also focused on protecting human rights and providing fundamental needs to ensure that all people can access quality services and treatment despite their social class, wealth or ethnic classification. This section therefore concludes that CSOs use diverse peace building approaches and have integrated practical problem solving techniques to caution low income earners in local remote areas and mitigate the root causes of crimes especially in the northern and coastal regions of Kenya. CSOs operating in the coastal region identify the causes of violence and calls for dialogue between different sectors to find ultimate solutions and course of action to resolve internal and external disputes. This section concludes that CSOs provides a good framework for incorporating multifaceted approaches that shift from using militaristic strategies to adopt peaceful negotiations and persuasion in preventing violence in the first place rather than respond only when it has occurred.

5.4. Recommendations

This section recommends that “traditional” hard power strategies are insufficient in achieving long-term peace and security and thus prevention oriented mechanisms need to be adopted in the fight against VE. There is a need for employing multidimensional measures to identify and deal with the root causes of violent extremism by partnering with CSOs that considers the actual needs and social issues affecting a particular social group drawing authority and ownership from the local government and the community members.

This section recommends that CVE must offer an opportunity for interaction between all stakeholders including the government agencies to shift the focus of CT and conceptualize on the characteristics and security implications of VE. Additionally, experts should discourage the dominance of specific actors to improve the outcomes of diverse strategies and promote peace

and international cooperation for global stability. There is a need for broader and open discussion about CVE to restrain from derivative assumptions relating to the causes and solutions to conflicts and violence. VE should be understood as a social phenomenon that requires open discussions on the effective strategies and social actors that can mitigate the identified social problems without adverse marginalization and discrimination of specific people. The previous successful strategies adopted by various organizations can offer good insight on the practical solutions to gang activities and youth radicalization. Traditional crime prevention strategies are not successful in addressing youth violence and thus there is a need for formulation of tailored initiatives to deal with unemployment, marginalization and depression that triggers drug and substance abuse, violence and deviance among younger generations.

This section further recommends the strengthening of the state-civil society consultations, where there is an urgent need to deepen consultations between the government and the CSOs involved in CVE at the Coast region to capitalize on synergy in a deliberate effort to enhance the fight against VE and terrorism. The government needs to appreciate the contribution of CSOs in the war. This can be achieved through escalating regular joint forums between NCTC/County government officials and CSOs. This section further recommends the bolstering financial capacities of the CSOs, and the government may consider directly financing the operations of some of the CSOs in CVE in the country particularly in the Coast region. The soft approach by these organizations has been appealing to the locals as opposed to the hard approach by the state agencies. This may be achieved through establishing a liaison office within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure the external donors adequately support the CSOs.

5.5. Areas for Further Studies

- There is a need for conducting in-depth research and literature review on the practical strategies that can promote resilience and preparedness to deal with violent extremism and other alternative programs that can mitigate deviancy and gang activities among the youth.
- There is a need for researching on the effective measures that can utilize the elements soft power and whole community approach to effectively deal with the current global terrorism organizations in the contemporary context.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Data Collection Research Permission - NDC

RESTRICTED

Telephone: 254-2-884036
Fax: 254-2-884036
E-mail: ndc@ndc.go.ke

When replying please quote:

Ref: NDC/A/141



National Defence College
Warai North Road
P.O Box 24381
Karen - Nairobi
Kenya

10 November 2022

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**FACILITATION FOR MR JOHN KILONZI MUSYIMI ADMN No.
ND601/0032/2022**

The above Senior Officer is a course participant at the National Defence College and has been admitted for Masters of Arts in National Security and Strategy, under the National Defence University- Kenya Programme.

As part of academic requirements, Mr John Kilonzi MUSYIMI is required to undertake a research project in partial fulfillment of MA degree programme he is enrolled in. His approved research topic is **“Contribution of Civil Society Organization in Countering Violent Extremism in the Coast Region, Kenya”**.

The purpose of this letter is to kindly request your office to facilitate the Officer as he conducts his research project.

Submitted for your kind consideration and facilitation.

Mr F M MABEYA
Head of Programme
for Commandant

Appendix 2: Data Collection Research Permit - NACOSTI

 REPUBLIC OF KENYA	 NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION
Ref No: 875485	Date of Issue: 06/December/2022
RESEARCH LICENSE	
	
This is to Certify that Mr.. JOHN MUSYIMI KILONZI of National Defence University, has been licensed to conduct research as per the provision of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev.2014) in Mombasa on the topic: CONTRIBUTION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM: CASE OF COAST REGION, KENYA for the period ending : 06/December/2023.	
License No: NACOSTI/P/22/22246	
875485	
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	NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION
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See overleaf for conditions	

Appendix 3: Research Consent Form

I am *John Kilonzi Musyimi*, a Masters student at the National Defence College (NDC), a Prime College of the National Defense University of Kenya. I am collecting data as part of the fulfillment of my academic research. Kindly, assist in filling fill this questionnaire to facilitate me in collecting data for this study. The information collected is for academic purposes only. The study aims to assess the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) in the Coast region of Kenya.

It is my request that you please give a written or verbal consent to be a participant in this study. I wish to thank you for taking time to participate in this research. Please fill the questionnaire as applicable as possible and the responses shall be treated in confidence. In addition, the information collected is purely for academic purpose and will be coded to protect each subject's names and details. It is critical to inform that no names or other identifying information will be used when discussing or reporting the final data. Further, the responses are completely anonymous and the respondents are free to withdraw or decline from filling the questionnaire.

Participants' Signed Consent.....

Date.....

Appendix 4: Research Questionnaire

Introduction

The general objective of this study is to assess the role of CSOs in CVE in the Coast region of Kenya. It is my request that you humbly support me in this study by agreeing to be one of the participants and filling in the questionnaire. Clarification on each question can be made where necessarily to your satisfaction. This study is purely for academic purposes only. Thank you for taking time to participant in this research, please fill in the questions appropriately.

Section One: Personal Information

1. What is your age range?

☐Below 30 years ☐30-39 years ☐40-49years ☐50-59 years ☐60-69 years

2. What is your occupation?

3. What is your level of education?

☐Secondary ☐Tertiary College ☐Undergraduate ☐Postgraduate ☐Other (specify)

4. What is your gender?

☐Male ☐Female

5. What is your designation?

☐Supervisor ☐Manager ☐Director ☐Chair-person

6. How long have you worked in this organization?

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☐6 months ☐1 year ☐5 years ☐10 years ☐15 years ☐20 years ☐25 years ☐30 years

7. What long has the CSO been in operation?

8. What is the type of your organization?

☐CSOs ☐NGO ☐CBO ☐Religious ☐others (specify)

9. Does your CSO operate at Coast region alone?

☐Yes ☐No

Section Two: The role of CSOs in CVE at the Coast region of Kenya

10. Which are the types of initiatives or programmes does your CSO undertake?

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11. Who are the target population in your area of coverage?

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12. How many people have benefited from your initiatives or programmes so far?

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13. What is the extent of your area of coverage?

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14. Is the engagement or use of CSO in CVE the best approach in the Coast region of Kenya?

Please give reasons.

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15. How do you rate the success of CSOs in CVE in the Coast region of Kenya?

☐1 = Highly Successful, ☐2 = Successful, ☐3 = Not Successful ☐4 Reasons

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16. The use of CSOs represents the future in CVE in Kenya and the Coast region?

☐1 = strongly agree, ☐2 = Agree, ☐3 = Un-decided, ☐4 = Disagree and ☐5 Reasons

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Section Three: Challenges undermining the role of CSOs in CVE in the Coast Region

17. What are the challenges undermining the role of CSOs in CVE in Coast region? (Please list)

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18. Is the lack of government support is a key challenge undermining your role in CVE in the Coast Region?

☐1 = strongly agree, ☐2 = Agree, ☐3 = Un-decided, ☐4 = Disagree and ☐5 Reasons

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19. Is the level of education of the target population undermining your role in CVE in the Coast Region?

☐1 = strongly agree, ☐2 = Agree, ☐3 = Un-decided, ☐4 = Disagree and ☐5 Reasons

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20. Are inadequate resources undermining your role in CVE in the Coast Region?

☐1 = strongly agree, ☐2 = Agree, ☐3 = Un-decided, ☐4 = Disagree and ☐5 Reasons

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21. Is the lack of cooperation among the various CSOs undermining your success in CVE in the Coast Region?

☐1 = strongly agree, ☐2 = Agree, ☐3 = Un-decided, ☐4 = Disagree and ☐5 Reasons

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22. Are existing government policies and legal frameworks undermining your performance in CVE at the Coast region?

☐1 = strongly agree, ☐2 = Agree, ☐3 = Un-decided, ☐4 = Disagree and ☐5 Reasons

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Section Four: The appropriate measures which may enhance the role of CSOs in CVE in the Coast Region

23. Will enhanced government support strengthen your contribution in CVE in the Coast Region?

☐1 = strongly agree, ☐2 = Agree, ☐3 = Un-decided, ☐4 = Disagree and ☐5 Reasons

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24. Will adequate resources boost your role in CVE in the Coast Region?

☐1 = strongly agree, ☐2 = Agree, ☐3 = Un-decided, ☐4 = Disagree and ☐5 Reasons

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25. Will supportive government policies and legal frameworks enhance your contribution in CVE in the Coast Region?

☐1 = strongly agree, ☐2 = Agree, ☐3 = Un-decided, ☐4 = Disagree and ☐5 Reasons

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26. Will strengthened cooperation among the various CSOs bolster your work in CVE in the Coast Region?

☐1 = strongly agree, ☐2 = Agree, ☐3 = Un-decided, ☐4 = Disagree and ☐5 Reasons

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27. Final remarks?

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Thank you very much.

Appendix 5: Research Key Interview Guide

Introduction

The general objective of this study is to assess the role of CSOs in CVE in the Coast region of Kenya. It is my request that you humbly support me in this study by agreeing to be one of the participants and discussing the key interview guide. Clarification on each question can be made where necessarily to your satisfaction. This study is purely for academic purposes only. Thank you for taking time to participant in this research, elaborate interview questions appropriately.

1. What role is the State playing to facilitate CSOs in CVE at the Coast region of Kenya?
2. Who are the stakeholders in CVE at the Coast region of Kenya?
3. Has the contribution of CSOs in CVE at the Coast region of Kenya been effective?
4. What are the key challenges facing CSOs in CVE in the Coast Region?
5. What are the appropriate measures required to enhance the contribution of CSOs in CVE in the Coast Region?
6. Are the existing policies and strategies adequate enough to support CSOs in CVE at the Coast region of Kenya?
7. How frequent do you engage the CSOs involved in CVE at the Coast region?

8. Do you the CSOs have forums for the exchange of ideas amongst themselves?
9. Who are financiers of the various CSOs in CVE in the Coast region of Kenya and do think they getting enough resources from their financiers?
10. What are some the programmers or initiatives are the CSOs engaged in the Coast region of Kenya?
11. Any other additional information on the subject matter?

Thank you for participation.

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Critical Role of Civil Society Organization (CSO) in Combating Terrorism

Mohd Mizan Aslam

Introduction

Globalization in new millennium has changed the whole world's socio, politic and economic landscape. Humans live in countries without geographical borders through access to the world wide web. Humans are no longer bound to time and physical barriers that can block the development aimed at. The world becomes a village or referred to as 'global village' whereby everything that happens in an area in the world will easily be spread to other areas without delay (Aslam 2005). In this era of globalization, positive and negative information will also spread quickly and fast, including matters concerning terrorism and extremism.

It is difficult to predict the effects and consequences of an issue which happens today. Extremist and terrorist movements are hard to foresee, especially when they optimize the use of science and technology in this globalized era. Methods of making bombs, tactics using guerilla and indoctrination processes are carried out very cunningly and effectively through internet facilities. The easier one can access the internet, the easier the extremism influence and ideology can be spread (Gordon 2007). Thus it is not surprising that '*lone-wolf*' or solo terrorists can be found anywhere in the world. Without the need to physical recruitment, one can be indoctrinated through social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Telegram and others Putra & Sukabdi 2013).

There are many different objectives of terrorism today. The motive behind every movement and activity related to terrorism is driven by political and personal ideologies (Aslam 2019a). Various political parties use tactical terrorism to meet their targeted objectives (Hamid 20017). Observing the modus operandi used by

End.