

# **ROLE OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IN COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN MANDERA COUNTY, KENYA**

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**International Academic Journal of Arts and Humanities (IAJAH) | ISSN 2520-4688**

**Received:** 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**Published:** 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Full Length Research

**Available Online at:** [https://iajournals.org/articles/iajah\\_v1\\_i3\\_478\\_508.pdf](https://iajournals.org/articles/iajah_v1_i3_478_508.pdf)

**Citation:** Waswa, W. B., Muna, W. (2023). Role of national government in countering violent extremism in Mandera County, Kenya. *International Academic Journal of Arts and Humanities*, 1(3), 479-508.

## **ABSTRACT**

Violent extremism has negative consequences to both the country and the citizens. A number of researches have been conducted on the subject but none has focused specifically on the role of national Government in countering violent extremism. This study aims at establishing the role of National Government in countering violent extremism in Mandera County; Banisa Sub County. The independent variables for this study are: awareness creation, coordination of internal security and information sharing. The dependent variable for this study is countering violent extremism. The study reviewed available literature and the theories related to this study. This formed the basis of the conceptual framework. The study adopted descriptive case design as it research design. The target population consisted of internal security team members, chiefs and assistant chiefs, sub county terrorism unit and

village elders from which a sample of 165 respondents were randomly selected. The study used both primary data collected by open and closed ended questionnaires and secondary data collected from existing reports and literature. The study results and findings may be useful to both security teams in counties as well as the national government. Other scholars may also use the findings for further research while the citizens may be aware of how to contribute to countering violent extremism. The study found the existence of relationship creation of awareness, coordination and information sharing with countering violent extremism. The study concludes that national government played a significant role in countering violent extremism.

**Keywords:** Role; National Government; countering violent extremism.

## **INTRODUCTION**

In defining aspects of violent extremism various things need to be considered including the person committing the act, the instruments used to commit the acts, the level of destruction committed and the intention behind the attacks. Normally these acts are driven by people dissatisfied with the government of the day, their beliefs, and religious affiliation. No exact official definition exists for these types of heinous acts (Frazer, 2015). USAID described CVE as "executing activities to rebuff endeavors by radical extremists to galvanize, employ, and galvanize adherents to abuse, as well as to target existing enablers radical extremist enrollment and militancy to violent action" in their 2016 Partnership Tactic on Rebutting Extremism (CVE). This definition emphasizes the pre-emptive character of CVE, implying that it occurs before radicalization. There is widespread

agreement that there is no "silver bullet" for dealing with the plethora of issues that lead to extremism, just like there's no single road that leads there. The multiple "nudge" and "draw" circumstances that drive people to terrorist acts, on the other hand, have received much interest (USAID, 2016).

There is a certain increasing type of extremism that is frequently becoming common in the world. This form of extremism has led to the loss of lives, property and displacement of people. This new form of acts of violence has affected people from all nationalities and different ethnic affiliations. Due to this increased terrorism the number of victims of this violence has increased more than nine fold since the turn of the century, from 3,329 in 2000 to 32,685 in 2014 (Smith, 2010). Although 2015 saw a decrease, it's still the second worst year on record, with 29,376 deaths. Terrorist-related deaths in OECD countries, on the other hand, increased from 77 in 2014 to 577 in 2015. In Afghanistan, 2015 was also the Taliban's worst year (USAID, 2016). The current status of the world is confronted in one of the most heinous episodes in humanity's civilization. Multinational terrorist activity seeks to rewrite the world political order and the sovereign rights of independent regions in order to protect their populations from the United States of America to Australia, Kenya to France, and Indonesia to Turkey (Smith, 2010).

The US, as the GWOT's advocate, has backed the creation of a variety of counterterrorism (CT) projects throughout Africa aimed at addressing and responding to transnational terrorism threats. The formation of both the Consolidated Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) in Djibouti under US Central Command in October 2002 was one of many US-backed antiterrorism initiatives (CENTCOM). In 2003, the East Africa Counter-Terrorism Initiative (EACTI) was established, followed by the formation of a devoted African military command, the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM), which takes a comprehensive approach to African security challenges, such as the threat of transnational terrorism. US policymakers launched the Collaboration for Regional East Africa Counterterrorism program in 2009. (PRACT). The question then becomes how effective these initiatives have been in combating violent extremism, and more specifically, what role has the national government played in combating this violent extremism.

Multinational terrorism in Africa necessitates a counter-terrorism (CT) policy which includes both specialized and procedural cooperation, as well as a strategic plan to promote prosperity, enhance democratic accountability, and freedom while also promoting human social assistance and liberty incorporation. Such a focus will assist policymakers in dealing with issues such as disaffection, disempowerment, rampant poverty, lack of development, open borders, unfairness, and quarrels, all of which are enticing to terrorist groups in terms of building a base of support and hiring accomplices (Smith, 2010).

Predicated on this global approach, the study seeks to evaluate the role of national governments in combating violent extremism, given the launch of a new strategy in 2016. Outside of the UN

framework, a number of regional and sub-regional organizations have led the way in refute efforts. In 1992, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) passed Resolution 213 with the stated goal of increasing the efficacy of its acts against the threat of international terrorism by increasing cooperation and integration among African governments (Ewi, 2006).

Later, in 1999, the OAU (AU) founded the Convention for the Protection and Tackling of Terrorist activity, which condemned all forms of extremism and violence and required all groups to the protocol to explicitly forbid terrorist operations under their existing regulations. Following the conference, the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) was founded as an institution for the African Union Commission to enhance the continent's capacity of counterterrorism and countermeasures (Adekanye, 2007).

In September 2002, African Union (AU) participant countries enacted the Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Multinational Terrorist activity, which established a constitutional mechanism and a blueprint for African countries to implement international antiterrorism initiatives in full compliance with the OAU Convention and UN Security Council Resolution 1373 of 2001. Resolution 1373 of 2001 required each UN member state to embrace a specified legislative framework in its domestic laws, create vital establishments for preventing and controlling terrorist attacks, and completely cooperate with other countries on a worldwide scale. In 2004, AU members ratified the AU Guidelines to the Organization of African Unity Convention. Despite many of these attempts, it is clear that much has been done to combat radicalisation, but heinous acts continue to occur, begging the issue of how effective national governments have been in combating terrorism.

Between 2011 and 2015, Al Shabaab was linked to over 200 attacks/incidents in Kenya involving explosive devices or automatic weapons; the attackers targeted nightclubs, markets, bus stops, and religious sites, murdering innocent civilians, ingraining fear and uncertainty, and aggravating inter-religious conflicts are all examples of terrorism. The movement has created a secretive network of support that stretches from the country's northeast to Nairobi, the Indian Ocean coast, and beyond, allowing them to easily recruit susceptible populations. The massive increase in security screening and regulations in public spaces is also affecting daily living, with severe psychological consequences for people all over the region. Unless efforts are taken now to combat the promoters and facilitators of violent extremism, the situation is just going to get worse (USAID, 2016).

Kenya's predominantly militarized and security-oriented approach to counter-terrorism has generated concerns about the country's adherence to human rights and fundamental freedoms of law. Terror attacks have been committed by the terrorist organizations based in the neighboring Somalia (Al-Shabaab), which is an Al-Qaeda affiliate. The September 2013 Westgate Shopping Mall strike in Nairobi, that also killed nearly 69 people and injuring 200 others; the 2014

Mpeketoni attack, which killed nearly 50 people; and the 2015 attack on Garissa University College in Garissa County, which killed 147 people, mostly students.

In September 2016, the Government of Kenya revamped its tactics for fighting terrorism by establishing a national Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism (NSCVE), which calls for a significant shift in strategy, including the incorporation of non-state actors. To reduce youth recruitment to violent extremism, the NSCVE emphasizes "soft measures" such as providing job opportunities, business opportunities, and practical skills (NSCVE, 2016; Ogada, 2017). The strategy focuses on improving cooperation and collaboration among individuals and organizations working to combat violent extremism (CVE), including semi-players, as well as bolstering national and community cohesion, constitutionalism, and the rule of law (Ogada, 2017). Despite the fact that this strategy is in conformity with UN Resolution 1456, which requires nations to follow universal human rights, asylum, and refugee law in the counterterrorism efforts, the government has yet to realign its activities and primary legislation to comply with the NSCVE. Instances of terrorist acts continue to rise four years later, and the government has yet to show any concrete success in implementing these tactics in the region's most affected by CVE, such as Mandera County. For these reasons, the study evaluated the involvement of the national government in combating violent extremism in Mandera County.

### **Statement of the Problem**

It is clear that there is a gap in knowledge on the role of the national government in combating extremism in Mandera County, which this study tries to solve. Kenya continues to see an increase in cases of terrorism acts despite the implementation of the National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism (NSCVE) that requires a substantial change in strategy, involving the inclusion of nongovernmental participants and entities. Kenya takes an active part in a number of global and regional counter-terrorism projects aimed at using both tough and "gentle" measures to minimize youth recruitment to violent extremism, such as providing job chances, business prospects, and life skills. All these efforts are geared at making Kenya maintain its place as the beacon of stability in Africa region. However this is not the case as there is an increase in terrorist related activities as experienced in Kenya since the year 2011. This has ranged from small scale operations such as the recent attack on a public service vehicle in Mandera to the large scale incidents as reported during the 2015 attack on Garissa University and Westgate Mall in 2013. This then begs the question then on the role Government plays in countering violent extremism? This study aims to answer this question and provide possible suggestions how the National Government can effectively combat violent extremism in Mandera and the rest of the country.

Further many scholars have delved into the area of terrorism and countering violence extremism but gaps exist in their studies that this study aims to fill. Coafee (2016) conducted a research on the various strategies for countering violent extremism globally but did not review the roles of the

national Government. Pollard (2007), researched on impact of globalization on violent extremism with a focus on activities of Al Qaeda but did not touch on role of the Government. Kokoda Foundation (2008) assessed how the private sector contributes in this fight against acts of extreme violence and identified a gap which pointed a need to review the role of national government in countering violent extremism. Ngala (2016) researched on relationship between violent extremism and clan dynamics but he also fell short of touching on the roles of national government further pointing out the need for this study. It is clear that there is a deficit in knowledge on the role of the national government in combating terrorist activity in Mandera County; this study provided answers to this identified knowledge and practice gap.

### **Objectives of the study**

- i. To evaluate National Governments role in raising awareness about violent extremism in Mandera county.
- ii. Determine the role of national government security cooperation in Mandera County's counter-violent extremism programs.
- iii. To establish the role of information sharing by the national government in countering violent extremism in Mandera county.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Theoretical Review**

The study is guided by transformative learning theory and the identity theory which are explained in detail below:

#### **Transformative Learning Theory**

This is a potential framework for analyzing radicalisation-related human development processes. This understanding is critical since conversion is essentially a transformational process in which nonviolent people come to embrace and advocate violent behavior (Mezirow, 1991). This is especially true in the prison setting, as freshly arrived inmates must learn to adapt to a harsh new environment. This theoretical framework explains how personal factors from Sinai's (2014) model of inmate extremism are activated as starters in the radicalisation process, and how the development to phase 3 – self-identification – is likely to unfold.

The trigger phase, the activity of transformation phase, in which meaning viewpoints and identity are deconstructed and rebuilt, and the consequence phase, in which new definition perspectives lead to new behavior, are the three primary phases of the transformative learning process. "While the radicalisation process is driven by significant social, political, and environmental pressures, personal radicalization happens during the shifting phase, in which a mix of human reflection, knowledge acquisition, and identification revision occurs," Wilner and Dubouloz (2010) write.

Violent behavior occurs at the end of the process and is a reflection of the individual's new persona, beliefs, and religious doctrine."

This theoretical framework is used by Mulcahy, Merrington, and Bell (2013) to describe the changes that prisoners go through while confined and how this cognitive metamorphosis makes them more prone to radical extremists. When inmates face a crisis of imprisonment, which is a trigger in principles of transformative learning theory, Mulcahy and colleagues explain that they try to make sense of the circumstance using their habitual patterns of thinking. When they fail to control the situation, however, they realize that they can no longer rely on their usual methods of assistance. This indicates a distorted sense of meaning to which the inmates respond through critical thought and experience new things, such as resorting to faith for direction.

As a result, individuals establish new behaviors, roles, and connections that help them cope with the challenges of the new surroundings and learn how to overcome the crisis. According to Mulcahy et al. (2013), transformative learning theory "may assist throw light on the issue and antecedents of prison radicalization." Individual radicalisation is a combination of contemplation, knowledge acquisition, and identity revision, and is linked to certain socio-political situations (e.g. prison) and personal traits. Individuals who acquire self-doubt, identity uncertainty, or strong inner conflict eventually come to the realization that their previous character no longer includes and that a new one must be developed. As a result, when politicized individuals socialize and are recognized by other 'likeminded' persons, their change and quest for identity are reinforced. In the end, those who become violent, politicized convicts not only explain their conduct, but they are also anticipated among some of the larger group of extremists."

## **Identity Theory**

Identity Theory (Erikson, 1968) asserts that identity formation is critical to a person's psychological development and is defined by a series of crises that must be resolved in order for the person's personality to fully integrate. Failure to overcome these crises leads to maladaptive behaviors later in life. "In the initial development phase, the target recruited will be struggling to create an identity, a concept that Erikson... terms 'fidelity. Crenshaw (1986) wrote about Erikson's theory in relation to terrorism. Ideologies serve as identity protectors. Erikson goes on to say that political undergrounds take advantage of young people's demand for fidelity, as well as the 'store of rage' carried by individuals who have lost confidence in something.

Some adolescents are prone to 'totalism,' or totalistic communal identities that offer certainty, as a result of an identity crisis (when the person who finds personality challenging is suffering from uncertainty, disintegration, and inconsistency). Troubled youth find not just an identity, but also an understanding for their problems and hope for the future in such communities. Crosset and Spitaletta (2010) suggest in a similar vein that "one application of Erickson's theory claims that

prospects for radicalization are young individuals who perhaps lack self-esteem or have a need to consolidate." If a person lacks ego, establishing a rebel group can serve as a strong personality stabilizer, giving the person the coveted individuality. Those who are confused about their identities may be plagued by feelings of loneliness, and hence see association (even with a poor identity) as a desirable social act. Individuals who are lacking in identity are also said to be driven by a desire to be under the close supervision of a strong figure – akin to selecting a loving object that mimics a parent." This theory is relevant to this study since it explains one of the drivers that trigger acts of extreme violence by the youth.

## **Empirical Review of Related Literature**

### **Countering Violent Extremism**

Countering violent extremism is rarely defined, much less even conceived or hypothesized in the scholarship, because it is based on public policy instead of academia. Rather, it is regarded as a self-evident and unquestionable fact. The research on combating terrorism focuses on measures that are aimed at dealing with incidences of violent actions by illegal groups, addressing existing gaps in the policy statements as opposed to answering the key question of how extreme violence can be identified and addressed.

Even though many authors have researched on this topic, there exists limited knowledge especially with regards on how Governments can be more effective in dealing with extreme violence by illegal groups with negative ideologies. The aspect of extreme violence and tactics of handling the same reflect socially constructed concepts. This implies that how aggressive radicalism is perceived influences how counter-terrorism policies are created and implemented (Goldsmith, 2008).

Furthermore, the manner wherein radicalisation is perceived supports and perpetuates global terrorism conceptions. Recognizing the link would be critical since it highlights the manner in which the conception of aggression allows for specific reactions while simultaneously limiting and excluding alternative options. "What people speak on challenges, interpret issues, and conceive things often impacts what they're doing with them," writes Crelinsten (2009), "trying to restrict their inventiveness and confining their possibilities."

In today's literature, the prevailing paradigm for comprehending the threat of attack extremism and violence is that of a web of Islamic affiliated groups. De Graaff (2010) postulates that the continued increase in terrorist violent acts is as a result of the consequences of 911 led by the United States of America. Their continued fight against these Islamic affiliated illegal groups has led to the proliferation of these violent acts against other countries viewed to be working with the United States. Such framework was expressly directed by most in the research evaluated pointing towards increase in violent acts to other countries perceived to be allies of the United States in the fight



against violent terrorism groups. Kundnani (2009) points out that is continued focus on 'extreme fundamentalist Islam' is reductionist, excluding analyses "which concentrate very little on religious doctrine philosophy and more about terrorist activity as an embodiment of a struggle over dictatorship by allied western forces and an aggression of youth driven activities."

Crelinsten (2007) posits that what appears to be universally accepted method of dealing extreme violence is duplicating efforts by both local and international groups tin forging a common approach to deal with this vice. He concludes that this approach leads to a conflict of interest between various groups. Furthermore, the 'networked' aspect of today's extremism is seen as necessitating a networked response. The literature highlights the establishment of alliances and multilateral methods to challenge networks with networks (Ranstorp, 2006). This includes collaboration between administrations of allies on army, enforcement agencies, intelligence, and continental compliance and security issues (Ross, 2007). Such alliances, as Crelinsten (2007) points out, require a "foundation of regional and international cooperation and global governance." However, discrepancies in anti-terrorist legislation, national defense processes and laws, political and social ideals, and other internal limits may exist (Schmid, 2010).

### **Awareness Creation by National Government and Countering of Violent Extremism**

The government's promotion of awareness as a means of combating violent extremism (VE) reflects a larger international movement toward terrorism prevention and measures to overcome the environment that allows these illegal groups to attract idle youths and corrupt their minds with the fake messages. Most Governments have now purposed to deal with these illegal groups by engaging the youths and adopting a combined approach with both government and nongovernmental organizations dealing with these worrying trends of extreme violence. However, the word "violent extremism" lacks a precise meaning, making research, policy discourse, and/or programming difficult. Furthermore, because the core reasons of extremism are poorly understood, it has become impossible to build a strong case for actions to curb extreme violence across all countries (World Bank, 2018).

Over the last decade, the emphasis on counter-terrorist awareness strategies has evolved away from utilizing harsh military steps to deal with cases of extreme violence and toward a more joint multipronged strategy. Previous research tended to push for a notion that created a relationship between poverty and acts of terrorism. These was rejected by several actors because doing this would lead to global superpowers tying aid to developing countries to acts of terrorism a situation which was not tenable.

The major reasons that generate VE, according to researchers, appear to be founded in beliefs of unfairness and exclusion, which can be mitigated through increased knowledge. Mercy Corps (2015) in their studies concluded that understanding the drivers for groups resorting to acts of

violence were more important than generalization of the real causes of these actions. Many extreme groups have origins in identity politics, and they rally support around imagined injustices.

It's important to distinguish between two types of awareness-raising interventions: 1) provision of affordable and quality education to all and 2) addressing specific locations that have been targeted by these militant groups. These suggested actions need to be researched and understood so that any bias policy is not implemented leading to a further delineation of communities or groups based on adoption of policies not fully investigated and understood. This study will explore whether awareness creation by National Government in Mandera County can help counter violent extremism.

### **Coordination of Internal Security and Countering of Violent Extremism**

Several nations have created and implemented anti-violent extremism policies. These tactics can help a broad range of governmental and nonprofit stakeholders achieve stronger consistency, coordination, and common aims in their efforts to minimize support for and participation with extremist groups, movements, and ideas. To achieve strategic objectives, these strategies enable the formulation of priorities and targets, the distribution of economic, human, and technological resources, and the assignment of roles and duties among stakeholders. Countries announce their determination to effectively address the core reasons and promoters of violent extremism in their home context by creating and implementing a national strategy (UNDP, 2019).

According to the literature, 'conventional' military tactics built for state conflict are ineffective in combating asymmetrical, stateless, and growing digital network of violent extremists (Arquilla, 2007). "In internet backbone combat, knowledge, velocity, personality, and adaptability are considered to be at a price, much because they are in the world economy," Dillon (2002) explains. As per Dillon (2002), this different invention of armed conflict has four attributes: using the military to communicate on the need to coexist peacefully, involving the military in community building activities, adopting combined dialogue driven discourse with the military and only adopting use of force in extreme circumstances only.

The Ministry of Internal Security in Kenya is responsible for the entire policy and implementation of counter-violent extremism. This is accomplished through coordinating intelligence assets and security personnel such as the armed services, police, and anti-terrorism police unit. This study will look at the National Government's internal security coordination efforts in the fight against extremism.

### **Information Sharing by National Government and Countering Violent Extremism**

"From a defensive approach, intelligence and data exchange is the most potent method needed in the fight against cases of extreme violence" writes Lazarus (2005). Information gathering and

usage has a proactive and preventative role in fighting violent extremism by identifying and assessing "threats" (Omand, 2006). Jenkins (2005) contends that information gathering services "must be adaptable, easily replicable and creating its own chain of networks" in order to combat contemporary violent extremist networks. Rudner (2006), for example, promotes "engagement, connection, and information sharing".

Local and non local collaborations have been used to form center and market relationships which are viewed as critical platforms for improving multilateral sharing and integration (Aldrich, 2009). The technological development to improve assessment and cooperation in organizational learning (Numrych, 2004). Areas identified for attention include: international societies, languages, and cultures, the internal culture of intelligence organizations, security consultant technical training and ongoing development, and the transcription of investigation into practice (Ranstorp, 2006). Through public diplomacy strategies, relevant systematic to combating terrorism aim to disrupt terrorists' narratives and representations while promoting neutralize and depictions of the 'west' in order to win over the intellect of existing and continuing list of followers. Governments and violent extremists compete for legitimacy and credibility on a communication battlefield in this 'war of ideas' (Chowdhury & Krebs, 2010).

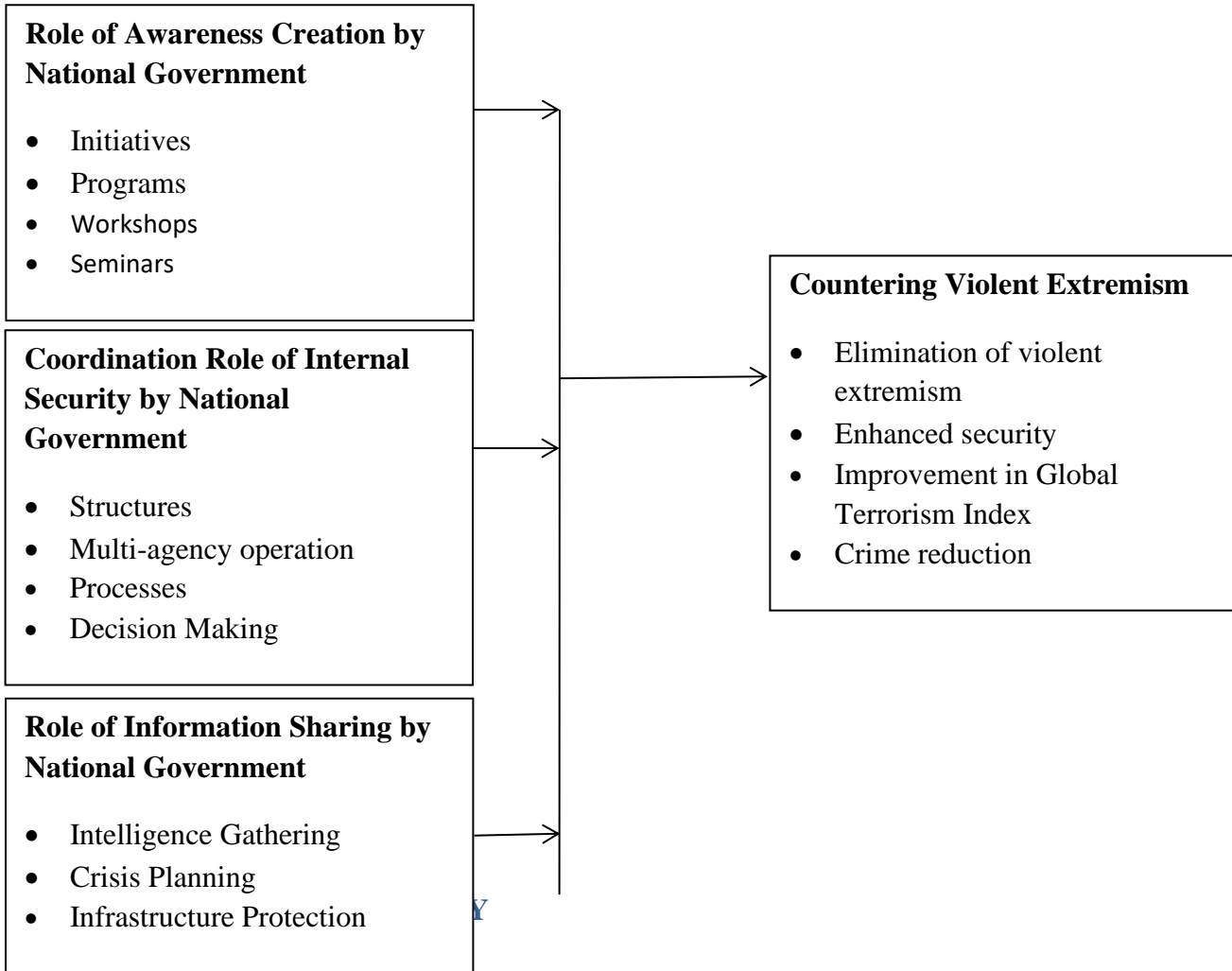
This communication landscape exists within the framework of an 'information society,' which is defined by global information infrastructure and digital information. Given this state of understanding most countries are beginning to adopt new technologies in combating terrorist activities, this will include use of internet and advanced communication mediums (T. Stevens, 2010). One of the countries in the gulf have an 'Activism and Guidance Policy' which has included mainstream press approaches, such as television programs and films containing criminal admissions and Islamic scholars, as well as conversations with academics who have disavowed terrorist-supporting fatwas (Ansary, 2008). In addition, its 'Social Unity' campaign involves anti-terrorism phrases and statements on posters and banners, as well as art displays that advocate tolerance (Ansary, 2008).

In order to tackle extremism, Kenya's government should increase global cooperation and information sharing. The unit will examine airline information, such as reservation statistics, and collaborate with similar groups in other nations. The data can be utilized in the fight against severe extremism and violence.

### Conceptual Framework

#### Independent Variables

#### Dependent Variables



The study adopted a descriptive research design. This design is deemed more appropriate because the researcher wants to establish the existing situation in terms of the role of national Government in countering violent extremism. This study employed use of both evaluative method and finite methods. Survey questions were used to gather quantifiable data while interviews and structured questions were used to obtain qualitative data. This research was conducted in Mandera County's Banisa Sub-County. Mandera County is a county in Kenya's former North Eastern Province. Individuals who are directly or indirectly involved in combating violent extremism constitute the target population. These are the Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs, the Internal Security, Sub County anti-terrorism unit as well as senior village elders in Banisa Sub-county. A representative sample of 219 respondents were selected through Krejcie & Morgan formula.

The researcher used a combination of both secondary data and primary data. For the primary data the research instruments that were used were questionnaires which were answered by National Police Service team, KDF, Anti-Terrorism team and Chiefs. Interviews involved asking questions

and getting answers from the senior village elders who in most cases have a one on one interaction with the local community in a study. Interviews take different forms such as individual, face-to-face interviews and face to face group interviewing. Face to face interviews was used as a version of in-depth interview. It gave the researcher an opportunity to even interpret the body language and facial expressions of the respondent (Marshall, 2016).

This study employed both qualitative and quantitative data analysis and interpretation methods. This data was analyzed in light of the study's objectives and research questions. The questionnaire data was edited, and errors and omissions were corrected, coded, classified, and tabulated. The quantitative data was analyzed and presented in the form of frequencies and percentages using descriptive statistics. The qualitative method entailed the study's use and collection of a variety of empirical materials, as well as personal experience and observations (Kothari, 2004). The descriptive data generated by open-ended queries were classified in accordance with the research objectives and presented in themes in addition to quantitative presentations.

## **RESULTS AND FINDINGS**

The sample size of this study was of 165 participants in Mandera County, Kenya. The study received 165 among the returned questionnaires were considered complete to be included in the analysis. This represents a response rate of 100% which was considered sufficient for analysis. According to Kothari (2004), a success rate of 50% or above is sufficient for analysis, so the replies collected were a good starting point for making conclusions.

In terms of age distribution, the study found that the largest portion of respondents fell within the 26-35 age groups, accounting for 40.5% of the surveyed population. The second-largest group was the 36-45 age categories, making up 32.0% of the participants. Meanwhile, the 18-25 age groups represented 12.4%, and those above 45 years old constituted 15.0% of the respondents.

Regarding educational backgrounds, the study revealed a diverse distribution. Most respondents, at 31.1%, held a university or degree qualification. Those with a college education represented 29.3%, while individuals with a secondary education background made up 26.2% of the participants. Smaller percentages were observed in primary education (6.1%); no school attended (5.5%), and any other qualification (1.8%) categories.

In terms of professions, the study found that the largest proportion of respondents, at 63.9%, identified themselves as administrative officers, indicating a significant presence of individuals in administrative roles within the surveyed group. Other professions had comparatively smaller representations, with security officers at 8.3%, community leaders at 16.0%, and anti-terrorism experts at 5.6%. Additionally, 6.3% of respondents fell into the "any other profession" category.

On involvement of individuals in countering violent extremism and the various strategies they employ to address this pressing issue. The study reported that 75.8% of the surveyed individuals or entities were actively involved in countering extreme violence, while 24.2% were not involved in such efforts. It suggests a significant commitment to addressing extreme violence within the surveyed group. This understanding can inform strategies, resource allocation, and collaboration

efforts to enhance and optimize countering violence initiatives. Various strategies are employed by individuals to counter violent extremism. These strategies include awareness creation (37.1%), security meetings (24.0%), coordination of internal security (20.4%), and information sharing (18.6%).

**Role of National Government creation of awareness in Countering Violent Extremism**

National government administrators and officers are actively engaged in fostering awareness and countering violent extremism (CVE) through a multifaceted approach. They prioritize community mobilization, relying on effective training manuals to ensure a comprehensive understanding of CVE. Frontline officers are well-versed in the dangers of extremism and are trained to recognize and respond to early signs of radicalization to violence. Enhanced education equips administrators with specialized knowledge in CVE, while officers are proficient in raising awareness, communicating credible counter-narratives, and understanding the factors that make individuals vulnerable to extremism. They also conduct regular awareness-building events, maintain a heightened awareness of relevant laws, and collectively contribute to a coordinated effort to prevent the spread of extremist ideologies and promote community resilience against violent extremism.

*Table 1: Role of National Government creation of awareness in Countering Violent Extremism*

	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly Agree	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
National government administrators are actively involved in community mobilization	5	3.0	13	7.9	19	11.5	75	45.5	53	32.1
National government officers rely on effective Training manuals on CVE	8	4.9	23	14.0	38	23.2	65	39.6	30	18.3
Frontline officers are aware of the dangers and risks of extremism	3	1.9	9	5.6	29	17.9	69	42.6	52	32.1
National government administrators have received enhanced education on Countering Violent Extremism	3	1.8	20	12.1	36	21.8	70	42.4	36	21.8
National government officers are adequately aware on how to recognize to early signs of radicalization to violence.	4	2.4	16	9.8	41	25.0	71	43.3	32	19.5
National government officers are adequately aware on how to respond to early signs of radicalization to violence.	5	3.1	23	14.1	36	22.1	65	39.9	34	20.9
National government officers organize regular awareness-building events against violent extremism.	7	4.2	28	17.0	41	24.8	57	34.5	32	19.4
National government officers have heightened awareness of the laws	6	3.6	29	17.6	26	15.8	62	37.6	42	25.5

around the sensitive subject of violent extremism											
National government officers are well trained in raising awareness and communicating credible counter-narratives to violent extremism	7	4.3	23	14.2	40	24.7	54	33.3	38	23.5	
National government officers are aware of the factors that make individuals vulnerable to violent extremism	3	1.9	15	9.3	30	18.5	62	38.3	52	32.1	

The majority of respondents, with 45.5% agreeing and 32.1% strongly agreeing, believe that national government administrators are actively engaged in mobilizing the community against extremism. This suggests that respondents perceive a strong level of involvement by government administrators in CVE efforts. The findings were consistent with Abwaku, (2017) who found that national government had involved citizen in countering violent extremism. The findings also support the work of Van Metre and Scherer (2023) on national government involvement of its citizens in countering violent extremism.

A significant proportion of respondents, comprising 39.6% who agreed and 18.3% who strongly agreed, believe that national government officers rely on effective training manuals on CVE. This indicates a perceived reliance on proper training materials, which is seen as a positive factor in their ability to address extremism. This finding aligns with the notion that well-designed training manuals and resources are valuable tools for government officers involved in CVE efforts (Bjelopera, 2014)

Respondents show a high level of confidence in the awareness of frontline officers, with 42.6% agreeing and 32.1% strongly agreeing that they are aware of the dangers and risks of extremism. This suggests that respondents believe that these officers have a strong understanding of the threat posed by extremism. This consistency in findings across different regions strengthens the notion that respondents often perceive frontline officers as well-informed about extremism threats (Nguyen, 2019).

A significant percentage, including 42.4% who agreed and 21.8% who strongly agreed, believe that national government officers have received enhanced education on CVE. This implies that respondents perceive that government officers have been adequately educated in the field of CVE. This aligns with the broader understanding that well-informed and educated government officers are better equipped to tackle the complexities of CVE effectively (Giacinti, Reuge, van der Vet, Rios, Bisoffi, Raven & Sahar, 2020).

A substantial number of respondents, comprising 43.3% who agreed and 19.5% who strongly agreed, believe that national government officers are adequately aware of how to recognize early signs of radicalization to violence. This indicates a positive perception of their ability to identify potential signs of radicalization. This positive perception indicates confidence in their ability to identify potential signs of radicalization. These findings align with the idea that government officers are well-prepared to identify and address early warning signs, which is crucial in CVE efforts (Van de Weert & Eijkman, 2020).

Similar to the previous point, a significant proportion of respondents, including 39.9% who agreed and 20.9% who strongly agreed, believe that national government officers are adequately aware of how to respond to early signs of radicalization. This highlights confidence in their capacity to effectively address such situations. This high level of confidence suggests that respondents believe in the officers' capacity to effectively handle such situations. These findings are in line with the view that government officers possess the necessary skills and knowledge to respond proactively to signs of radicalization (Heath-Kelly, & Strausz, 2019).

Respondents generally see positive efforts in this regard, with 34.5% agreeing and 19.4% strongly agreeing that national government officers organize regular awareness-building events against violent extremism. This suggests that respondents perceive active engagement in raising awareness. This perception suggests that respondents see active engagement by government officers in raising awareness, which support the argument of Prislán, Borovec, & Cajner Mavic, (2020) that government-led initiatives in this regard are impactful.

A substantial percentage of respondents, comprising 37.6% who agreed and 25.5% who strongly agreed, believe that national government officers have a heightened awareness of the laws related to violent extremism. This indicates a perceived legal competence among these officers. These findings align with the view that government officers are well-versed in the legal aspects of CVE, which is essential for effective enforcement and prevention (Powers, 2015).

Respondents express confidence in the training of government officers in this area, with 33.3% agreeing and 23.5% strongly agreeing that they are well trained in raising awareness and communicating credible counter-narratives. This suggests a belief in their ability to effectively counter extremist narratives. This suggests a belief in their ability to effectively counter extremist narratives. These findings are consistent with the study by Powers, (2015) that government training programs in CVE have been successful in equipping officers with the necessary skills.

A substantial proportion of respondents, including 38.3% who agreed and 32.1% who strongly agreed, believe that national government officers are aware of the factors that make individuals vulnerable to violent extremism. This highlights a perceived understanding among these officers of the factors contributing to radicalization. This highlights a perceived understanding among these



officers of the factors contributing to radicalization which are key in CVE (Allan, H., Glazzard, Jespersen & Sneha Reddy Winterbotham, (2015).

The study delved into assessing respondents' perspectives on the impact of awareness creation initiatives led by the national government administration in countering violent extremism (CVE) using a qualitative approach. A significant consensus emerged among the respondents regarding the necessity for more frequent joint workshops involving both community and national government officers across all wards. They expressed the belief that, during the study period, the existing efforts in this regard were insufficient.

Furthermore, many respondents highlighted the positive influence of awareness creation on the early detection of signs of radicalization towards violent extremism within the community. They emphasized that these initiatives had not only improved the community's capacity to recognize these early indicators but had also strengthened their ability to construct credible counter-narratives to combat violent extremism effectively.

Another key aspect of the study was the perception that awareness creation played a crucial role in enhancing the capabilities of national government officials. It allowed them to take more effective actions against violent extremism by gaining a better understanding of the community and responding more swiftly to incidents. Moreover, respondents pointed out that these initiatives facilitated collaboration between the government and the community, motivating the public to provide vital information to the government, which is a critical component in CVE efforts.

*Table 2: Association between Awareness Creation strategy and countering Violent Extremism*

		Countering_Violent_Extremism1	Awareness Creation strategy
Countering Violent Extremism	Pearson Correlation	1	.592**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	165	165
Awareness Creation strategy	Pearson Correlation	.592**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	165	165

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The study found awareness Creation strategy had a statistical significance association with Countering Violent Extremism implied by  $r=0.592$ . The p-value associated with this correlation is .000, which is less than the commonly used significance level of 0.01 (indicated by \*\*). This means that the correlation is statistically significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). It suggests that efforts to promote and encourage awareness creation strategy may be more effective among individuals who already express a positive attitude or strong agreement with countering violent extremism measures.

### **Role of National Government Coordination on Countering Violent Extremism**

The study assessed the effectiveness of national government coordination efforts in countering violent extremism, focusing on key dimensions such as inter-governmental cooperation, intra-governmental coordination, engagement with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), administrative efficiency, involvement of local communities, and resource allocation.

**Table 3: Role of National Government Coordination on Countering Violent Extremism**

	Strongly disagree		disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly Agree	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
National government seeks effective cooperation between relevant government actors to prevent violent extremism	2	1.2	11	6.7	14	8.5	83	50.6	54	32.9
National government coordinates effectively with other government actors to prevent violent extremism	4	2.4	18	11.0	28	17.1	68	41.5	46	28.0
National government seeks effective cooperation with non-governmental organizations to prevent violent extremism	9	5.8	12	7.8	28	18.2	61	39.6	44	28.6
National government coordinates effectively with non-governmental organizations to prevent violent extremism	4	2.5	17	10.4	40	24.5	63	38.7	39	23.9
National government administrators coordinates effectively with other government actors to prevent violent extremism	5	3.0	18	11.0	29	17.7	74	45.1	38	23.2
National government administrators communicates effectively with non-governmental organizations to prevent violent extremism	6	3.7	13	8.1	37	23.0	65	40.4	40	24.8
National government administrators have effective mechanisms for coordinating the actors to prevent violent extremism	4	2.5	20	12.3	42	25.8	67	41.1	30	18.4
National government administrators have effective mechanisms for coordinating local communities to prevent violent extremism	10	6.1	22	13.5	29	17.8	65	39.9	37	22.7
National government administrators have effective mechanisms for coordinating non-governmental organizations to prevent violent extremism	8	4.9	16	9.8	43	26.2	70	42.7	27	16.5
National government administrators coordinate effective use of available resources to prevent violent extremism	11	6.7	18	11.0	42	25.6	58	35.4	35	21.3

A significant majority of respondents, comprising 83.5% (50.6% strongly agreed, and 32.9% agreed), believe that the national government seeks effective cooperation between relevant government actors to prevent violent extremism. This indicates strong support for collaborative efforts within the government. The strong agreement and agreement percentages signify that respondents have a positive perception of the government's commitment to inter-agency cooperation. This suggests that there is a foundation for collaborative efforts to prevent violent extremism in Mandera County, and it is essential for the government to continue and enhance these cooperative initiatives to maintain public trust and achieve effective results, a study which is consistent with Heydemann (2014).

Similarly, a substantial proportion of respondents, accounting for 69.5% (41.5% strongly agreed, and 28.0% agreed), perceive that the national government coordinates effectively with other government actors in preventing violent extremism. This suggests a high level of confidence in the government's ability to work harmoniously. The high level of agreement in this area indicates that respondents believe in the government's ability to coordinate effectively with other government agencies which is consistent with Subedi, & Jenkins (2016). This implies that the government has the potential to streamline its efforts and resources efficiently. However, it also suggests the need for continued coordination and communication among government entities to ensure a holistic approach.

A noteworthy 68.2% of respondents (39.6% strongly agreed, and 28.6% agreed) believe that the national government seeks effective cooperation with non-governmental organizations to prevent violent extremism. This observation aligns with the implications put forth by Sumpter, (2017), which emphasize the importance of the government actively engaging with NGOs. Such engagement allows for the utilization of their expertise and resources, ultimately enhancing the government's efficacy in preventing extremism. This highlights positive sentiments toward government-NGO partnerships. Positive sentiments regarding cooperation with non-governmental organizations suggest that partnerships with NGOs are seen as valuable in countering violent extremism. The implication here is that the government should actively engage with NGOs, leveraging their expertise and resources, to enhance its efforts in preventing extremism.

Furthermore, 62.6% of respondents (38.7% strongly agreed, and 23.9% agreed) see the national government as effectively coordinating with non-governmental organizations in their efforts to prevent violent extremism. The agreement percentages indicate that respondents view the government as an effective coordinator with non-governmental organizations. This underscores the importance of clear communication and collaboration mechanisms between government and NGOs to maximize their impact in countering violent extremism (Aall, & Helsing, 2021).

A significant percentage, totaling 59.3% (41.1% strongly agreed, and 18.4% agreed), think that national government administrators have effective mechanisms for coordinating various stakeholders, indicating confidence in their abilities. Respondents' belief in the effectiveness of coordination mechanisms within government entities implies that these mechanisms should be maintained and further developed. It's vital to ensure that all stakeholders are well-informed and aligned in their efforts to prevent violent extremism (Christensen, Læg Reid, & Rykkja, 2016).

In terms of coordinating the effective use of available resources, 56.7% of respondents (35.4% strongly agreed, and 21.3% agreed) believe that national government administrators are doing a good job in preventing violent extremism through resource management. This suggests that the government is effectively managing resources for countering violent extremism (Ellis, & Abdi, 2017).

Approximately 62.6% (39.9% strongly agreed, and 22.7% agreed) of respondents feel that national government administrators have effective mechanisms for coordinating local communities to prevent violent extremism, reflecting trust in their engagement with the grassroots. This finding supports the work of Mattsson, (2018). The positive view of government administrators' coordination with local communities indicates that community engagement is seen as strength.

A significant 76.1% (45.1% strongly agreed, and 31.0% agreed) of respondents believe that national government administrators coordinate effectively with other government actors to prevent violent extremism, underscoring the perceived efficiency in government collaboration. This findings support the Mandaville, & Nozell (2017) emphasize the importance of inter-agency collaboration within the government. It is essential for government officers to continue working together effectively to prevent violent extremism, as this forms the backbone of a comprehensive approach.

A substantial 65.2% (40.4% strongly agreed, and 24.8% agreed) see national government administrators as effective communicators with non-governmental organizations in the efforts to prevent violent extremism. This support the finding by Agastia, Perwita, & Subedi, (2020) that stress the importance of effective communication with NGOs is vital for successful partnerships. The positive perception in this regard implies that government administrators should maintain open lines of communication and collaboration with non-governmental organizations to leverage their expertise.

Finally, in terms of seeking effective cooperation between national government actors, 81.1% (32.9% strongly agreed, and 48.2% agreed) of respondents have a positive view, indicating a widespread belief in the national government's commitment to countering violent extremism. The widespread agreement in this response indicates that respondents believe in the national government's commitment to preventing violent extremism. These highlights a foundation of

public trust in the national government's role in addressing extremism (Nulhusna, Sandhyaduhita, Hidayanto, & Phusavat, 2017), and it should be capitalized on to ensure continued support for these efforts.

The responses to the question about the role of coordination by the national government in countering violent extremism in Mandera County are expected to reveal several key findings and provide a comprehensive understanding of the study. Coordination is seen as a crucial element in countering violent extremism, and respondents anticipate that it will involve active engagement and collaboration with various stakeholders. These stakeholders encompass community members and civil society organizations. The consensus is that this collaboration will play a vital role in addressing the issue of violent extremism effectively.

Regular meetings convened by the County Commissioner are anticipated as part of the coordination efforts. These meetings are expected to involve all relevant actors, including county government officials, to discuss and review matters related to countering violent extremism. This proactive approach is seen as essential for making progress in tackling the issue. One of the core objectives of the coordination efforts is the creation of awareness about the existence of violent extremism. This awareness-building is viewed as a crucial step in preventing and intervening early in potential radicalization.

Moreover, the national government is expected to actively involve various stakeholders, including religious leaders and institutions, in the fight against violent extremism. This multi-stakeholder approach is anticipated to be highly effective, as it mobilizes diverse resources and expertise. In addition to awareness creation, public engagement through public barazas and local meetings within the community is foreseen as part of the coordination strategy. These platforms will serve to educate the public and encourage community involvement in countering violent extremism.

Collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and security agencies is another vital aspect of the coordination efforts. This collaboration underscores the importance of partnerships in addressing complex issues like violent extremism. Information sharing is identified as a critical component of coordination, with respondents emphasizing the role of sharing information among different government protocols at both the national and county levels. This information exchange is considered vital for preventing violent extremism by allowing for a timely response to emerging threats.

Capacity building for stakeholders involved in countering violent extremism, including training programs for youth and administrative officers, is also expected to be a part of the coordination initiatives. While respondents recognize the importance of coordination, they also acknowledge that challenges exist, and there are areas that require improvement. However, the overall sentiment is that the multi-stakeholder approach, proactive measures, and the commitment of the national

government and other stakeholders are crucial in effectively addressing the issue of violent extremism in Mandera County.

**Table4: Association between coordination and Countering Violent Extremism**

		Countering Violent Extremism	Coordination
Countering Violent Extremism	Pearson Correlation	1	.588**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	165	165
Coordination	Pearson Correlation	.588**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	165	165

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The study found Coordination had a statistical significance association with Countering Violent Extremism implied by  $r=0.588$ . The p-value associated with this correlation is .000, which is less than the commonly used significance level of 0.01 (indicated by \*\*). This means that the correlation is statistically significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). It suggests that efforts to promote and encourage Coordination may be more effective among individuals who already express a positive attitude or strong agreement with countering violent extremism measures.

### **Role of National Government Information Sharing on Countering Violent Extremism**

The study assessed various critical dimensions of National Government Information Sharing on Countering Violent Extremism, encompassing inter-governmental and intra-governmental communication, collaboration with non-governmental organizations, dissemination of information through mainstream and social media, engagement with information and communication technologies, community outreach, safe reporting mechanisms, involvement of religious leaders, and regular forums with policy makers. These aspects collectively form a comprehensive strategy to effectively prevent violent extremism by promoting collaboration among government actors, fostering community engagement, and disseminating crucial information through diverse channels to address the multifaceted challenges of extremism.

**Table 5: Role of National Government Information Sharing on Countering Violent Extremism**

	Strongly disagree		disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
National government seeks effective channels of communication between relevant government actors to prevent violent extremism	4	2.4	8	4.8	30	18.2	80	48.5	43	26.1
National government communicates effectively with other government actors to prevent violent extremism	3	1.8	18	10.9	32	19.4	74	44.8	38	23.0
National government communicates effectively with non-governmental organizations to prevent violent extremism	2	1.2	22	13.5	41	25.2	58	35.6	40	24.5
National government has disseminates information to prevent violent extremism effectively through mainstream media	5	3.1	22	13.7	41	25.5	60	37.3	33	20.5
National government has disseminates information to prevent violent extremism effectively through social media	11	6.7	27	16.5	41	25.0	55	33.5	30	18.3
The national government administration uses relevant ICTs to engage with communities on countering violent extremism	23	13.9	36	21.8	36	21.8	41	24.8	29	17.6
National government administrators have effective mechanisms to communicate with communities on violent extremism.	10	6.1	19	11.5	31	18.8	69	41.8	36	21.8
National government administrators employ safe means that allow community leaders to volunteer information or report to authorities	14	11.6	16	13.2	22	18.2	42	34.7	27	22.3
National government administrators have created efficient channels of communication with religious leaders on prevention of violent extremism.	8	4.9	12	7.4	27	16.6	79	48.5	37	22.7
National government administrators have regular dissemination forums with policy makers to share relevant information to counter violent extremism.	11	6.7	13	8.0	34	20.9	66	40.5	39	23.9

A significant majority of respondents, comprising 48.5% who agreed and 26.1% who strongly agreed, believe that the national government is actively seeking effective channels of communication among relevant government actors to prevent violent extremism. This suggests that many respondents have confidence in the government's commitment to interagency coordination (Alava, Frau-Meigs, & Hassan, 2017).

Combining the percentages of those who agreed (44.8%) and strongly agreed (23.0%), it is evident that a substantial portion of respondents feel that the national government effectively communicates with other government actors to prevent violent extremism. This indicates a perception of collaboration and cooperation among government agencies in this regard (Ellis & Abdi, 2017).

A combined 35.6% agreement and 24.5% strong agreement from respondents implies that there is perceived effectiveness in the communication between the national government and non-governmental organizations concerning the prevention of violent extremism. This reflects a level of confidence in the government's engagement with NGOs (Weine, Eisenman, Kinsler, Glik, & Polutnik, 2017).

The data shows that 37.3% agreed and 20.5% strongly agreed that the national government effectively disseminates information through mainstream media to prevent violent extremism. This indicates a belief that the government is making effective use of this communication channel (Braddock, & Horgan, 2016).

About 33.5% strongly agreed, and 18.3% agreed that the national government effectively disseminates information through social media to prevent violent extremism. This suggests that a considerable proportion of respondents view the government's use of social media positively (Waldman & Verga, 2016).

A notable 41.8% strongly agreed, and 17.6% agreed that the national government administration uses relevant ICTs to engage with communities on countering violent extremism. This signifies support for the government's technological approach to community engagement. This is consistent with Alexander, (2019) who stressed the use of ICT in CVE in America.

A significant 41.8% strongly agreed, and 21.8% agreed that national government administrators have effective mechanisms to communicate with communities on violent extremism. This indicates trust in the government's ability to engage with local communities. In contrast, the study by Vermeulen (2014) presents a different perspective on government engagement with communities in the context of countering violent extremism.



A notable 34.7% strongly agreed, and 22.3% agreed that national government administrators employ safe means that allow community leaders to volunteer information or report to authorities. This suggests confidence in the government's methods for community involvement (Cherney, & Hartley, 2017).

An impressive 48.5% strongly agreed, and 22.7% agreed that national government administrators have created efficient channels of communication with religious leaders on the prevention of violent extremism. This indicates strong support for government-religious leader collaboration (Mustofa, 2022).

Approximately 40.5% strongly agreed, and 23.9% agreed that national government administrators have regular dissemination forums with policymakers to share relevant information to counter violent extremism. This signifies a positive view of government-policymaker interactions.

The responses to the question about the role of information sharing by the national government in countering violent extremism in Mandera County revealed valuable insights and perspectives. Collectively, these responses underscored the pivotal role that information sharing played in various aspects of countering violent extremism (CVE) while shedding light on its potential impact on community engagement, awareness, and collaboration.

Many respondents highlighted that effective information sharing had a positive influence on the morale of all involved parties and instilled confidence within the community. It provided a platform for community members to report issues related to violent extremism without fear, fostering trust and open communication channels.

Moreover, information sharing was viewed as essential for detecting and preventing violent extremism. By sharing critical information with the county government and relevant stakeholders, authorities were better equipped to identify and respond to potential threats swiftly, thereby safeguarding the community.

Collaboration and coordination emerged as recurring themes in the responses. Sharing information with various stakeholders and aligning efforts based on shared decisions were recognized as fundamental components of the fight against violent extremism. Effective coordination ensured that all parties involved could work together efficiently towards common CVE goals.

Additionally, information sharing played a crucial role in engaging communities and religious leaders. It facilitated gatherings and initiatives aimed at countering violent extremism and served as an educational tool, particularly for the youth, in understanding the risks associated with extremism. The responses also emphasized the importance of creating awareness within the community regarding potential threats and dispelling misconceptions and fears related to violent

extremism. This awareness contributed to informed decision-making and encouraged community members to actively participate in CVE initiatives.

Despite the evident benefits of information sharing, respondents acknowledged certain challenges. These included language barriers, mistrust, and the fear of retaliation by extremist groups, which occasionally hindered the effectiveness of information sharing efforts. Addressing these challenges remained essential in ensuring a more robust CVE strategy.

**Table 6: Association between information sharing and Countering Violent Extremism**

		Countering Violent Extremism	information sharing
Countering Violent Extremism	Pearson Correlation	1	.519**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	165	165
information sharing	Pearson Correlation	.519**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	165	165

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The study found information sharing had a statistical significance association with Countering Violent Extremism implied by  $r=0.519$ . The p-value associated with this correlation is .000, which is less than the commonly used significance level of 0.01 (indicated by \*\*). This means that the correlation is statistically significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). It suggests that efforts to promote and encourage information sharing may be more effective among individuals who already express a positive attitude or strong agreement with countering violent extremism measures.

### **Countering Violent Extremism**

The study further assessed key aspects of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), including the increased utilization of non-violent means to address grievances within local communities, a notable reduction in cases of violent extremism, the development of credible and constructive narratives to counter extremist ideologies, and the establishment of effective collaboration between national government administrators and various stakeholders. These crucial elements collectively form a comprehensive approach to prevent and mitigate the spread of radical ideologies and extremist violence, striving to create more resilient communities that reject violence as a means of addressing grievances and conflicts.

**Table 7: Countering Violent Extremism**

	Strongly disagree		disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly Agree	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
There is increased use non-violent means to address grievances among local communities	6	3.6	11	6.7	24	14.5	72	43.6	52	31.5
There is recorded reduction in cases of violent extremism	10	6.1	10	6.1	35	21.5	64	39.3	44	27.0
There are credible and constructive narratives on countering violent extremism	10	6.1	10	6.1	39	23.8	61	37.2	44	26.8
There is an effective collaboration between the national government administrators and other stakeholders.	6	3.7	12	7.4	32	19.6	56	34.4	57	35.0

A significant majority of respondents, with a combined percentage of 75.1%, either agreed or strongly agreed that there is increased use of non-violent means to address grievances among local communities. This indicates a widespread positive perception that non-violent approaches are being effectively employed.

A substantial proportion of respondents, totaling 66.3%, either agreed or strongly agreed that there is a recorded reduction in cases of violent extremism. This suggests that a significant number of respondents perceive positive progress in reducing violent extremism.

About 63.6% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that there are credible and constructive narratives on countering violent extremism. This highlights a prevalent belief in the existence of helpful narratives to counter extremism.

The data indicates that a substantial majority of respondents, comprising 69.4%, either agreed or strongly agreed that there is effective collaboration between national government administrators and other stakeholders in countering violent extremism in Mandera County. This demonstrates strong support for collaborative efforts in the region.

## **Conclusions and recommendations**

### **Conclusion**

The study concludes that the Role of National Government Awareness Creation plays a crucial role in countering Violent Extremism (CVE). National Government Awareness Creation emerged as a significant contributor, with respondents holding a strong perception of government involvement. This was further supported by their confidence in the awareness and capabilities of

government officers, highlighting the importance of this role. Moreover, a positive correlation between awareness creation and CVE measures suggested the potential effectiveness of promoting awareness among individuals with positive attitudes toward countering extremism.

The study concludes that the Role of National Government coordination plays a crucial role in countering Violent Extremism (CVE). the importance of effective inter-governmental cooperation and collaboration with various stakeholders. The high levels of confidence expressed by respondents in the government's commitment to coordination and collaboration emphasized their pivotal role in addressing violent extremism. These cooperative strategies played a crucial part in CVE efforts.

The study concludes that the Role of National Government information sharing plays a crucial role in countering Violent Extremism (CVE). Effective communication, media dissemination, technology utilization, community outreach, and collaboration were recognized as vital components in CVE efforts. A positive correlation between information sharing and CVE measures suggested the potential effectiveness of promoting information sharing among individuals with positive attitudes toward CVE.

### **Recommendation**

The government should continue and expand awareness creation initiatives aimed at countering violent extremism. These efforts should focus on educating the public about the dangers of extremism and promoting counter-narratives. Regular workshops and community engagement activities should be organized to ensure ongoing awareness.

The government should prioritize inter-governmental cooperation and collaboration with various stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and local communities. Developing and implementing clear coordination mechanisms will help streamline CVE efforts and maximize their impact.

The government should invest in effective communication, media dissemination, and technology utilization to facilitate information sharing. Community outreach programs should be expanded to engage directly with the public and collaborative platforms with religious leaders, policymakers, and NGOs should be established to share information and resources.

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