

VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES IN MANDERA COUNTY, KENYA

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ABSTRACT

Violent extremism and terror activities continue to be experienced across many countries; they have caused government operations to be disrupted, reduced trade and commercial activity because of fear of attacks, and increased the number of fatalities in the impacted nations. To make sure that countries social and economic activities are not disrupted, countries are resorting to ubiquitous features of national strategies in combating terrorism, addressing radicalization and violent extremism. Thus, this study aimed to assess the effect of violent extremism and administration of government services in Lafey Sub- County, Mandera County, Kenya. The specific objectives were: to evaluate how planting of Improved Explosive Devices (IED) and abduction of government officers affect services delivery in Mandera County. The Constructivist Model of Radicalization and the 3N theory of radicalization served as the foundation for the investigation. Descriptive cross-sectional research was used in the study to determine how variables relate to one another. Stratified random sampling and to choose the respondents from the different categories who have the necessary data that is pertinent to this study, the purposeful sampling method was also employed to choose a sample of 104 participants from a target demographic of 140 respondents that included Government officers working in the area Local

administration (Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs), Officer Commanding Station, Council of elders drawn from all the 15 Locations (Chairman) and Religious Leaders drawn from Lafey Sub- County, Mandera County. Key interviews and semi-structured questionnaires were used to gather data. Statistical analysis that was both descriptive and inferential was used. Mean and standard deviation were included in descriptive statistical analysis, while Pearson's correlation and multiple regression analysis at the 95% interval level were used in inferential statistics. The study established that all the violent extremism factors IED and abduction of government officers, had a significant effect services delivery in Lafey Sub-county. The study recommended that there is need of a multifaceted approach that includes both police and army, there is need for specialized security units focused on security and crisis management, there is need for arresting all the financiers of violent extremist groups that have continued to be blamed on insecurity in the area; and that there is also need of collaborating with religious leaders and faith-based organizations to combat violent extremists' misuse of religion.

Keywords: Planting of Improved Explosive Devices (IED), Abduction of Government Officers and Government Services Delivery

INTRODUCTION

A rise in recruitment and radicalization to violent extremist organizations has been blamed for the peace and security challenges that nations around the world are facing. Terrorism and other types of communal violence with political motivations are examples of violent extremism, which is the belief and behavior of those who advocate or employ violence to accomplish political, religious, or ideological objectives (Thornhill, 2019). Furthermore, individuals and organizations that are prepared to employ violence to further their political, religious, or ideological objectives are considered to be engaging in violent extremism (Tshishonga, 2019).

Extremism in violence and terror activities continue to be experienced across many countries; they have caused trade and commercial activities to decline due to fear of attacks, disrupted government operations, and contributed to the loss of life in the affected countries. In order to ensure that countries social and economic activities are not disrupted, countries are resorting to ubiquitous features of national strategies in fighting terrorism and dealing with violent extremism and radicalization. These strategies continue to contribute to appearance of a number of policies and practices all aimed at violent extremism prevention and counteraction (Stephens, Sieckelinck, & Boutellier, 2021).

In the UK, until recently, Muslim youths were seen as different, dangerous, having ties to violent extremist organizations, and a threat to the security of the country in addition to the United Kingdom government. Going by history and events in other parts of the world, they were viewed as dangerous to normal government operations (Abdulahi, 2020). From my experience, denying entry to individuals suspected of being terrorists is part of the United States' counter-radicalization efforts. Following the US terrorist attacks of 9/11, a number of counterterrorism and deradicalization programs have been implemented so as to ensure that activities by the government and businesses in all the states are not disrupted by violent extremism and terrorist attacks (Ramadhan, 2020).

In Malaysia, the increase in terrorism events and fatalities negatively impacted international arrivals, government activities, and clearances of arrival. Noticeably, the uptick in terrorism activity in Thailand generated by spillover from Malaysia affected a number of government operations along the border with the country as extremist groups sought to gain control of these borders. These violent extremist activities and the internal terrorist activities in Thailand have rendered the provision of essential government services impossible as some areas have become totally under the control of terrorist groups (Buigut and Kapar, 2019). Terrorist attacks continue to occur despite the apparent effectiveness of anti-terrorism organizations in various nations (Manning, 2015). These attacks have been blamed on extremist and terrorist' formations like the al-Nusrah Front in Syria and ISIS in Iraq (Crawford & Evans, 2017).

On the other hand, in Africa, the reasons behind and consequences of violence and insurgency on the continent's nations vary a great deal. One of the effects has been the delivery of government services. Druetz, Browne, Bicaba, and Mitchell (2013) acknowledged that acts of terrorism represent a fresh obstacle to accessing Burkina Faso's maternal healthcare system and that terrorist activity has increased. In West Africa, exponential growth is anticipated to have adverse consequences on the provision of regional maternal health as the terrorist attacks target generating a generalized sense of insecurity among people. Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for nearly half of all cases involving terrorist fatalities in 2021, with excess of a third taking place in only four nations: Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Somalia. Other regions of the continent, including Mozambique, have also seen the spread of violent extremism (VE), which is having a disastrous effect on people's lives, livelihoods, the provision of government services, and opportunities for peace and development (UNDP, 2023).

While violent extremism occurs when acts are driven primarily by extreme political, religious, or ideological views, the outspoken or current resistance to core principles like democracy, the rule of law, personal liberty, and the tolerance and respect for other religions and beliefs is known as extremism. It has been explicitly noted that radical viewpoints are not inherently problematic; rather, they pose a threat to national security when they are implemented through violent means (Vines and Wallace, 2022). Globally, while extremist groups exist in different regions of the world in many countries that have faced or continue to face violent extremism, such violence has been fueled by Islamic Terrorist organizations that propagate hate and violence along with messages of religious, cultural, and social intolerance include Boko Haram, Al Qaeda, and the State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Reddy (2016) noticed that groups engaging in order to recruit and retain followers, violent extremists frequently misrepresent and take advantage of political ideologies, religious convictions, and ethnic distinctions.

The perceived victimization of fellow Muslims, as highlighted by Allan, Glazzard, Jespersen, and Reddy-Tumu (2017), has been utilized as an excuse for extremist violence by the leaders of violent Islamist extremist organizations. However, studies in Africa link violence, extremism, and youth radicalization with youths' frustration with their governments' foreign policy, their lives, or society. Evidence from a number of countries, including Uganda, Gabon, and Niger, among others, shows that while only a few become terrorists with the possibility of promoting, executing, or committing violent extremist actions, it is common for these individuals to come into contact with like-minded individuals, and together they experience a sequence of events and stages that may culminate in violent extremism and terrorism (UNODC, 2018).

Kenya has faced a series of violent extremisms with acts by the terrorist organization Alshabab since the US Embassy in Nairobi was attacked in 1997. Kenya was placed on security caution ever since, fearing attacks on foreign investments and interests, with a particular emphasis on US and Israeli interests in the nation. An Israeli jet was the target of a missile assault in 2002 after it inherited from an airport in Mombasa. Fortunately,

the attack just missed the plane and never reached it. More than 60 guests had just made reservations at the Paradise Hotel in Mombasa when a car carrying explosives broke through the barrier. Three Israelis and ten Kenyans were killed in the attack. The attacks were attributed to the terrorist organization Al Qaida (Momanyi, 2015).

The attacks in Kenya have significantly decreased since 2011, and it appears that Al-Shabaab has control over terrorist activities directed at Kenya. Other more recent attacks that claimed many lives include the Westgate Mall and the Dusit hotels in Nairobi, which were attributed to a terrorist organization (Muketha, 2021). While community policing is a very effective way of countering violent extremism in Kenya, Ramadhan (2020) pointed out that though In Kwale County, community policing has not proven to be a successful security measure in combating radicalization. When there are no local complains that particularly affect Muslims in these unconventional VE radicalization hotspots and recruitment, radicalization strategies often focus on affiliation with Muslims in other regions of Kenya and the Muslim world, as part of a broader story of global Muslim persecution.

Regarding government services, the provision of activities is known as service delivery, benefits, products, and pleasures that are considered public in an effort to raise living standards in particular jurisdictions (Booyesen, 2018). The provision of municipal government public transportation, water, sanitation, and road systems, and examples include public housing services that are believed to be visible to the general public, is specifically mentioned in this framework. Other examples include the registration of government documents like birth and death certificates, the registration of marriages, and others (Cameron, 2016). Other services that are considered necessary but may not be readily apparent, like public safety regulations and sewage and drainage systems,

In West Africa, increased coups and unfunctional systems have been blamed for poor service delivery (Ndudula, 2018). On the other hand, poor service delivery has been blamed on ineffective leaders that ascent to power through rigged elections and an unfair electoral process that has sought such leaders to assume leadership (Powell, 2018). Others have been blamed on poor governance, corruption, and misappropriation of funds that are meant for service delivery. Regionally, although Uganda, Tanzania, and Rwanda have registered remarkable economic growth, public service delivery remains a challenge in these countries (Tshishonga, 2019).

In Kenya, the national and county governments are in charge of providing government services. The services provided at the county government level can only be provided in an atmosphere of peace and security (Ingriis, 2022). Noticeably, the vast coverage of counties in the North Eastern region, inadequate security, and frequency of attacks by the terrorist group Alshabab have had an effect on the service provision in the counties of Wajir, Mandera, and Garissa, among others (Abdulahi, 2022). According to Borum (2018), the insecurity, the possible attacks from Alshabab, and the abduction of government officials in the areas have further exacerbated the already complicated

situation. The violent extremist activities therefore further present a challenge to service delivery in an area where government services are not accessible to all.

Disruption of government activities by violent extremist groups is not only being responded to and addressed by the security forces to guarantee that people move freely in a secure environment but also to ensure that the government can accomplish its tasks, which include service delivery, without disruption (Allan et al., 2017). Violent attacks by the terror groups and related acts of terrorism are not only addressed In the fight against violent extremism that affect government operation and service delivery in Kenya but are further worsened by the government's overzealous security measures in an attempt to combat the danger presented by organizations like Al-Shabaab (UNESCO, 2017).

The time just following 9/11 was characterized through punitive international actions created by the United States and associated to engage all UN signatories when fighting terrorism effort in a bid to ensure that the world is safe and all civic services and trade are not disrupted across the world (UN OHCHR, 2016). India, among other Asian countries, has faced terrorist attacks from extremist groups that operate in the region, affecting service delivery in certain areas that are dominated by such groups. In most West African countries, which include Niger, Gabon, and Liberia, among others, civil society is carrying out sensitization against financiers and promoters of terrorism and terrorist activities that have been associated with violent activities in these countries (Hayes, 2022).

Extremist violent attacks pose a greater threat to countries that have contributed soldiers to Somalia. The Somali government has been receiving assistance from troops to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in its anti-terror efforts focusing on al-Shabaab and the restoration of government operations and services by the federal government. These countries include Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. To avoid and combat violent extremism, the Tanzanian government views community policing as the main parts comprising its response which may threaten its stability and cause a disruption of government operations and business operations in the country. Fears of possible attacks have been heightened by Al-Shabaab's growing influence in neighboring Kenya, which poses a significant risk of recruitment and radicalization in Tanzania (Dang, 2019).

Even though there isn't a single region or zone that Al-Shabaab completely controls, their activities have not only contributed to a number of deaths when the groups carry out attacks but also affected service delivery in areas where the groups are active and continue to carry out extremist attacks. However, In Kenya, there are numerous covert active and passive networks and recruitments, and the North East and Lamu are likely the most affected areas where violent extremists still interfere with government services and operations (Stian Lid and Okwany, 2019).

In northeastern Kenya, attacks by the terrorist organization Alshabab remain a serious regional threat and a problem for the provision of government services. The group has

not only hampered regional development but also hindered service delivery in all border counties with Somalia. The frequent attacks by the Alshaba may further hinder the government's realization of its development agenda. The study therefore seeks to assess how improved explosive devices (IED), abduction of government officers, religious messaging, financial incentives, and radicalization affect service delivery in Mandera County. This helped in establishing the how violent extremism has impacted the administration of government services in Mandera County.

Statement of the Problem

Increasing gap exist in literature that attempts to establish the linkage between violent extremism and administration of government services. Terrorist attacks have happened on a number of occasions throughout the world, and they can be seen in both developed and developing nations (Dunham & Alpert, 2015). There have been recent terrorist attacks in 72 countries, with about 50,000 people killed, 13,200 of whom died from severe trauma. Adeto (2021) pointed out that ethnic violent extremism in Ethiopia has had serious consequences for the Horn of Africa's stability and the provision of government services in Ethiopia.

The main issue facing Kenya is that it is a soft target or a source of terrorism in the Horn of Africa, given the porous border and the instability in Somalia and parts of Ethiopia. Additionally, the northern counties of Wajir, Mandera, and Garisa have been among the most affected in Kenya as they border Somalia to the east. One of the most affected areas is service delivery by the government. A study by Abdullahi (2022) on the effect of Al-Shabaab terrorism in Kenya and the Somali border, in the case of Wajir County, established that the terror group actions that impede the management of government and disrupt government operations across the Kenya-Somalia border.

Another study by Muketha (2021) on the transnational terrorism's effects on Kenya's human security also established that since the 1990s, Islamist organizations have established unofficial governments and authorities across the border, where both the Government authorities cannot provide services as the areas remain under the control of the terrorist group.

Lafey sub-county like most of the counties in the north eastern continues to facing cases of violent extremism. These cases to a large extent affect government services delivery with the people in the area unable to access government critical services that includes migration, registration of persons, land registration services, judiciary services, administration services offered by the chiefs and sub-chiefs among others. While several studies have been done with regards to violent extremism, there are scanty findings on the effects of violent extremism on the administration of government services. Additionally, none of these studies have focused on Mandera County. Considering the inconsistent results and the limited number of studies on Lafey Sub- County, Mandera County, the research seeks on establishing consequences of extreme violence on the administration of government services in Lafey Sub- County, Mandera County, Kenya.

Research Objectives

- a) Evaluate how planting of Improved Explosive Devices (IED) affects government services delivery within Mandera County's Lafey Sub County.
- b) To determine how abduction of government officers affects government services delivery within Mandera County's Lafey Sub-County.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This section examined various theoretical foundations together with the empirical literature and a conceptual framework.

Theoretical Framework

The Constructivist Model of Radicalization

Winter and Feixas (2019) developed the Constructivist Model of Radicalization. According to the theory, processes of identity change like radicalization and deradicalization are especially related to the notions of invalidation and validation are personal constructs. As a result, they contended that radicalization happens when a person's thinking is significantly invalidated and then a new, radicalized perspective on the world emerges, which marks a shift in the person's sense of self and gives them a more organized and certain perspective on the world. According to Coolsaet (2019), The reason for the spread of radicalization was a group of Muslims were allegedly growing more due to a wide range of "root causes." Coolsaet explained that using the constructivist paradigm of radicalization, critical perspectives on security and violence were introduced by radicalization in Belgium and the Netherlands. According to the theory, people who identify with these groups are likely to extort evidence for their radical constructions or seek validation for their beliefs from others who hold similar views. In contrast to members of that group, extremely negative opinions about that group are probably present in these constructions. Taking drastic measures against this group could further define the person's new self-construction. The theory has implications for the creation of de-radicalization programs since it is also applicable to the deradicalization process. The theory was applied by Abdullahi (2023) to explain the influence of Al-shabab terror activities of Kenya-Somalia boarder security in Wajir County.

This theory is critical to the study since it provided clarification on how violent extremist acts are used by extremist organizations like the Al-Shabaab, which in turn impacts the management of government services in Mandera County. Additionally, the theory explained how these violent extremist groups further radicalize their potential recruits by planting IEDs, using religious doctination to entice young people to join, kidnapping government officials, and providing financial incentives for their violent extremist actions. The study explained how construction of idea which then leads to change of identity and thereafter distorts their view of the world.

3n Theory of Radicalization

According to Webber & Kruglanski's (2017) 3N theory of radicalization, the pursuit of significance is the primary individual motivation behind radical action. Once this quest is sparked, a number of mechanisms, including extremism is more likely when uncertainty is reduced, collectivism is shifted, and sacred values are upheld. We also situate this incentive within the intricate social reality of culture and group dynamics. The theory's proponents, Bélanger and Gunaratna (2019), also underlined that the core psychosocial elements that can lead to radicalization are the individual's needs or motivations, cultural narratives, and the interplay between social influence and group pressure within the individual's social network. According to the theory, the 3N hypothesis of radicalization occurs when three factors come together: the needs of the individual, the narrative they are exposed to, and the networks they are a part of.

The first N is the need element, which is related to people's desire to matter and be respected, which is their search for personal significance. The narrative that people are introduced to, which basically provides insights the means to the end of significance, is the second N. Those believed to be the group's ideologies face violent consequences, elevating those who joined the battle to the status of heroes and martyrs. On the other hand, the social network is the third N aspect that people are a part of, which validates the aforementioned relationships between violence and significance and bestows status and veneration on those who carry out the necessary acts of violence and adhere to the ideological directives. This theory was applied in other related studies, including Muketha (2021) and Abdullahi (2023), to explain how transnational terrorism affects Kenyan human security and how Al-Shabab terror activities affect border security between Kenya and Somalia. The theory is therefore relevant to this research and helped in explaining the effect of violent extremism and administration of government services in Mandera County, Kenya a place that is vulnerable to terrorist activity due to its shared boarder with Somalia. A country that has experienced security challenges and is home to one of the major terrorist groups in the world, the Al-Shabaab. The theory explains the quest for significance by the groups that then turn to radicalization of their members.

Empirical Review

Planting Improved Explosive Devices (IED) planting

Martin, Manacapilli, Crowley, Adams *et al* (2022) conducted an assessment of Joint Improvised Organization for Explosive Device Defeat (JIEDDO) Training Activity and their ability to counter the effect of improvised explosive device (IED). The study involved direct interviews and discussions that targeted security agencies in the USA. The study established that while there was great progressing in countering terrorism, there was need to ensure that there is reduced improvised explosive device (IED) in major business areas and that the government and business operations are not disrupted, there is need for rapid synchronization of capabilities and activities of the counterthreat network among federal agencies, including joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and international agencies. Therefore, as advised by Garkeer (2022) that there is need for

cooperative capability development, information exchange, and planning to lessen the threat to the homeland and the effect of IEDs on operational forces.

Government security forces providing security services even in advanced countries have also been targeted by improvised explosives and attacks, leading to the deaths of these officers and their inability to optimally deliver their service (Krieger & Meierrieks, 2019). A study by NATO (2018) assessed the improvised explosive devices targeting the operations of NATO forces and security operations and services in Europe. The study, by reviewing relevant literature of related information and data, proved that in response to terrorist planting of Improved Explosive Devices (IED), NATO has created a plan of action to identify and neutralize IEDs, to recognize and interfere with the networks that facilitate this danger, and to get forces ready and secure. In addition to individual country effort, there is need for collective approach to dealing with IED from extremist groups in government operations globally is to be maintained.

In Bulgaria and India, fear of explosive attacks remains a major threat even as the two countries heighten security to ensure that the government operations and trade are not disrupted (Winter and Feixas, 2019). A study by Khan and Yu (2020) evaluated the effect of Terrorism on Economics and Logistics Performance. The study through an Empirical Study From The Perspective Of SAARC Member States established that due to a higher level of explosives and frequent bombing of infrastructure in the SAARC states specifically in Pakistan, The quality of government support for services for logistics and transportation- associated infrastructure has been compromised or damaged in Afghanistan and India, which directly causes disruption and protracted delays in both their domestic and international logistics operations.

In Mali, Rjj, Bryce, Wilkinson, and Vining (2019) assessed the effects of improvised explosive devices on government and humanitarian aid services. The study covered a number of countries that have experienced security and peace challenges, including Mali. The study through case studies established that in Mali, increased attacks on aid workers using improvised explosive devices (IED) In 2015, there were more than 60 instances of directly limiting access to individuals in need, which is three times more than the previous year. Similarly, Gaibulloev and Sandler (2018) observed that the government and humanitarian aid organizations were unable to offer essential services to the thousands of people in need of these services, fearing explosive attacks as terrorist activities continue to increase across a number of West African countries. This indicates the extent to which these improvised devises by the extremist groups may interfere with critical services even when the government needs to deliver urgent humanitarian services.

Locally, there have been many instances where violent extremist groups have interrupted government operations ranging from security to administration (Bashir, 2021). Mwinga and Ichani (2021) assessed the frequency of improvised explosive gadgets and associated terrorist attacks in the county of Garissa. Local community members, national government administrative officers (NGAOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and

the National Police Service (NPS) are the study's target audience. Using mixed sampling techniques, including stratified sampling and purposive sampling, the investigator employed a study design for a descriptive survey. The study established that past IED attacks killed many, caused severe psychological harm, inflicted severe physical harm, incited intense fear, and interfered with government services and communal economic activities. A study by Abdulahi (2023) also established that frequent cases of explosive attacks by terrorist groups hindered the provision of government services, especially in remote areas.

Abduction of government officers

Abduction of government officers is one of the techniques used by violent extremist groups to advance their objectives. This is meant to intimidate and scare away the government present to gain more control (Center for Preventive Action, 2023). A study by Jones, Doxsee, Hwanga, and Thompson (2021) assessed the US military, police, and the emergence of terrorism. The goal of the research sought to establish the extent, character, and direction of the domestic terrorism threat in the US. The CSIS Transnational Threats Project (TNT) collected a dataset of 980 terrorist attacks and schemes that took place in the US between January 1, 1994, and January 31, 2021, in order to analyze this. There is an increasing number of law enforcement personnel, both past and present, who have participated in domestic terrorism in recent years. The extremists are increasingly targeting the military, law enforcement, and critical government personnel and actors', thereby threatening security and overall government service delivery as staff fear a possible attack (The US Department of the Treasury, 2023).

The abduction of government officers by terrorist groups is not isolated to selected countries but is being experienced across the world (Zakaria, Jun and Ahmed, 2019). Another study by Hamm (2015) evaluated the Crimes Committed by Terrorist Groups in the United States of America. Using a case study methodology, the study included six crimes committed by domestic right-wing and international jihadi groups that were chosen from the ATS based on the frequency distributions of criminal counts against the groups. The study's conclusions demonstrated that kidnapping government officials, Sub-county Directors, and humanitarian support workers was one of the primary strategies used by extremist organizations to deter the delivery of essential services. This demonstrated that extremist organizations target government service providers even in the most secure nations.

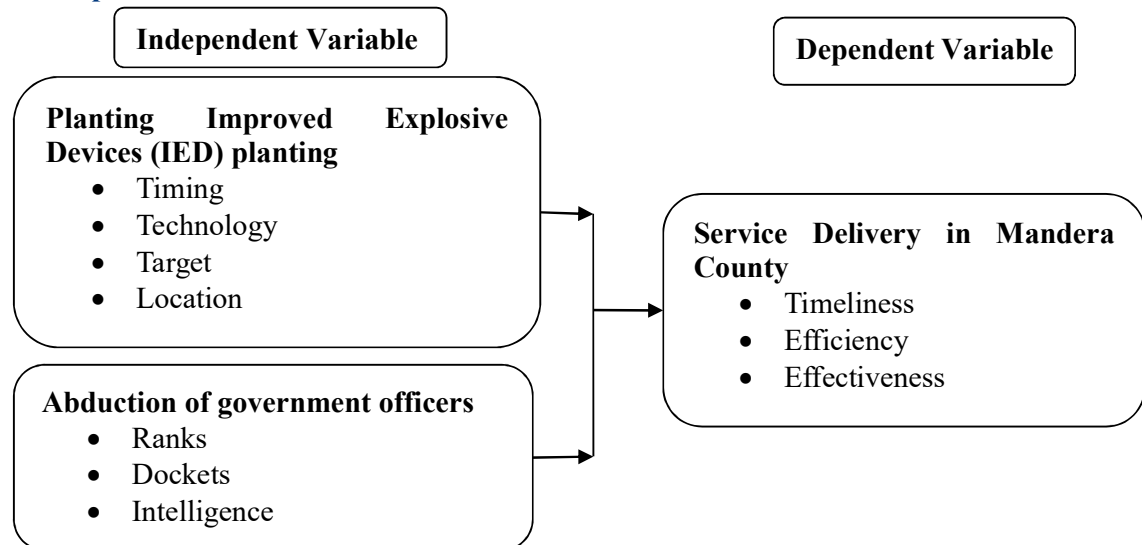
In Africa, a study by the Center for Preventive Action (2023) evaluated violent extremism in the Sahel. The study used Preventive Priority Surveys (PPS) to assess the likelihood of abduction of government officials, foreign workers, and academics in ongoing and potential conflicts. The consequent collapse of state institutions and the abduction of government officers have literally blocked government operations in the north. The terrorists have taken control of Timbuktu, Gao, and Kidal, the regional capitals, declared the independence of some of the states, and mounted their own administration, deterring the delivery of essential government services. There are areas that the government has

lost to terrorist groups, as these areas are not accessible to government officers to offer their services (Basire, 2021). Gaining these areas in order to restore government services in the cases of Somalia, Nigeria, Mali, and others continues to be a challenge.

Lattimer and Mackey (2022), on the other hand, evaluated different cases of terrorist group assault in Somalia and Nigeria. The study was a case study that evaluated kidnapping incidences that occurred in the two countries and involved the terrorist groups in Alshabab. The study results indicated that in Nigeria, an oil baron was kidnapped by the terrorist group, while in Somalia, Somali government officials favor the Villa Rose Hotel, which was overrun by an undetermined number of al-Shabaab militants. Al-Shabaab keeps attacking public spaces that are known to house Somali government representatives. The groups are taking officials hostage, which, according to Noor (2021), is very likely to destabilize the Somali government and hamper service delivery.

While the abductions were being conducted in Somalia, the disruption of their bases in the country has seen the groups further their activities in neighboring countries such as Kenya (Lattimer & Mackey, 2022). North-eastern counties have been the most affected. Otsialo (2023) evaluated the Al Shabaab militants' activities in northern Kenya after being squeezed in Somalia. Though a report review of related literature evaluated the Al Shabaab militants' activities in northern Kenya, the results indicated that in the past, local government officials, including chiefs, have been kidnapped by militants in order to obtain information. Many government officers are not able to deliver government services, fearing these abductions. Mwinga and Ichani (2021) pointed out that these abductions have been attributed to the increasing number of raids and the high concentration of militants in the county as a result of Somalia's ongoing crackdown

Conceptual Framework



RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A descriptive survey design was employed in the investigation because some variables can only be described by descriptive statistics and cannot be quantified. The study used descriptive statistic. The target population comprised respondents drawn from the Government officers working in the area Local administration (Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs), Officer Commanding Station, Council of elders drawn from all the 15 Locations (Chairman) and Religious Leaders from the five Divisions from Lafey Sub- County.

The sample size of 104 respondents was derived from the target population through Slovin's (2006) formula. The sample was adequate to accurately represents the population that the research is attempting to generalize. The respondents from the different categories who had the data needed for this investigation were chosen using a deliberate sampling technique. Primary origin of information was gathered. The sample of respondents was surveyed using closed-ended surveys to collect primary data. The principal tool that was employed to collect data from the sampled respondents was semi-structured questionnaire. Conversely, interview schedules was used to gather qualitative data. The interview targeted Council of elders drawn from all the 15 Locations (Chairman) Religious Leaders in Lafey Sub- County, Mandera County. This study used both descriptive and inferential statistics to analyze quantitative data. Using percentages, means, and standard deviations, descriptive statistical analysis was used to determine the extent to which independent variables affected the dependent variable. The research employed inferential statistics to determine the nature of the relationship between the variables under investigation and included regression analysis and Pearson correlation. Based on a 95% confidence level, this aided in inferring the nature of the link and the relationships between the variables.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND FINDINGS

The research sampled 102 respondents that included Government officers working in the area Local administration (Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs), Officer Commanding Station, Council of elders drawn from all the 15 Locations (Chairman) and Religious Leaders from the five Divisions from Lafey Sub- County. The study indicated that 93.2% of the sample size responded while 6.8% of the sample size did not respond. The 83.9% response rate was deemed to be more than sufficient. Arora (2003) said that a survey-based study is considered well-participated if it receives more than 65% of the responses. Data on demographic background indicated that on gender distribution, 28.8% of respondents were women and 71.2% of respondents were men which showed that there were more male staff compared to female. Response in terms of the age of the participants indicated that 19.2% of the participants were aged between 18-30 years old, 29.5% aged between 31-41 years old, 38.4% aged between 41-50 years old and 12.9% aged above 50 years old. The results also showed that 3.8% had Primary Certificate and Below, 6.4% had Secondary Certificate, 10.3% of the respondents had certificates levels of education in areas that were not specified, 19.2% had a Diploma Certificate in different areas while 33.3% had a Bachelor's Degree, 24.3% of the participants had Master's Degree while 2.7% had PhD. This indicated that most of the participants had a Bachelor's degree or a

Masters Degree. Lastly, out of the study, 20.5% of the participants had worked or lived in the sub-county for less than 2 years, 52.5% of the participants had worked or lived in the sub-county for 2-5 years while another 27.0% worked or lived in the sub-county for over five years. This indicated that most of the participants had had worked or lived in the sub-county for 2-5 years and therefore understood the issues under investigation.

Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and service Delivery

Addressing the impact of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) is vital for efficient service delivery, particularly in Lafey, where there have been ongoing incidents involving Improvised Explosive Devices. IEDs obstruct access to critical services, disrupt infrastructure, and foster an atmosphere of fear and insecurity, thereby hindering development and recovery (Gaibullov and Sandler, 2018). IEDs disrupt governance, hinder development, and can undermine public trust in institutions. Therefore, it is important to understanding these effects is vital for developing effective mitigation strategies and ensuring the continuity of government functions, particularly in conflict-affected areas. Therefore, the initial goal was to establish the effect of Planting of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) on services delivery in Lafey Sub-county and the response was as follows.

Table 1: Planting of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED)

Planting of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED)	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Planting of Improved Explosive Devices (IED) affect services delivery in Lafey Sub-county	78	4.40	.972
Planting of Improved Explosive Devices (IED) is one of the techniques used by violent extremist groups to disrupt services delivery in Lafey Sub-county	78	4.59	.673
The security agencies have not been able to deal with Improved Explosive Devices (IED) that are planted by violent extremist groups	78	4.34	1.001
There is need for eradicating Improved Explosive Devices (IED) planted by violent extremist groups that make the government service delivery impossible	78	4.42	.933

The results indicated a strong feeling that Planting of Improved Explosive Devices (IED) is one of the techniques used by violent extremist groups to disrupt services delivery in Mandera East Sub- County (Mean=4.59; Std. Deviation=.673) and that Planting of Improved Explosive Devices (IED) affect services delivery in sub-county (Mean=4.40; Std. Deviation=.972). Additionally, there was a strong feeling that the security agencies have not been able to deal with Improved Explosive Devices (IED) that are planted by violent extremist groups (Mean=4.34; Std. Deviation=1.001). The respondents advised that there is need for eradicating Improved Explosive Devices (IED) planted by violent extremist groups that make the government service delivery impossible (Mean=4.42; Std. Deviation=.933).

These results indicated that Planting of Improved Explosive Devices (IED) is still a technique employed by violent extremist groups to attack government officers and establishments that disrupt services delivery in Lafey Sub-county with the security agencies not having done adequately to deal with cases of IED that are planted by violent extremist groups. Therefore, there is need of eradicating Improved Explosive Devices (IED) planted by violent extremist groups that make the government service delivery impossible in the sub-county. These findings concurs suggestion by Adams et al (2022) that there was need to ensure that there is reduced improvised explosive device (IED) in major business areas and that the government and business operations are not disrupted, there is need for rapid synchronization of counter-threat network capabilities and actions (Abdulahi ,2023). also established that frequent cases of explosive attacks by terrorist groups hindered the provision of government services, especially in remote areas. The Government and the security agencies should ensure that more bomb technicians that have the capabilities to deal with IED are employed for continued government service delivery (Homeland Security, 2022).

Abduction of government officers and services delivery

The abduction of government officers significantly disrupts public service delivery, impacting citizens' access to essential services, eroding public trust, and potentially leading to increased costs for security measures. The abduction of government officers can severely disrupt government service delivery by causing fear, reducing capacity, and diverting resources. This can lead to a decline in the efficiency and effectiveness of public services, potentially impacting citizens' access to essential needs and overall development. Therefore, understanding how abduction of government officers affects the delivery of government services can help in addressing abduction of government officer by violent extremist is critical and help ensure effective service delivery in areas that are prone to insecurity as a result of violent extremism (Zakaria, Jun and Ahmed, 2019). The study's second goal, will therefore seek to establish the effect of abduction of government officers on services delivery in Lafey Sub- County and the reaction was as follows.

Table 2: Abduction of government officers

Abduction of government officers	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Abduction of government officers affect services delivery in Mandera East Sub- County	78	3.46	1.015
Abduction of government officers remain one of the techniques widely used by violent extremist groups to disrupt services delivery in Mandera East Sub- County	78	4.31	1.073
The security agencies have not been able to deal with Abduction of government officers that are committed by violent extremist groups	78	4.42	.933
There is need for eradicating of abduction of government officers by violent extremist groups that make the government service delivery impossible	78	3.72	1.031

The findings showed that the participants were highly felt that security agencies have not been able to deal with Abduction of government officers that are committed by violent extremist groups (Mean=4.42; Std. Deviation=.933), abduction of government officers remain one of the techniques widely used by violent extremist groups to disrupt services delivery in Lafey Sub-county (Mean=4.31; Std. Deviation=1.073) and that there is need for eradicating of abduction of government officers by violent extremist groups that make the government service delivery impossible (Mean=3.72; Std. Deviation=1.031). However, there was a moderate feeling that abduction of government officers affects services delivery in Mandera East Sub- County (Mean=3.46; Std. Deviation=1.015).

This meant that although, abduction of government officers somehow affected services delivery in Mandera East Sub- County as abduction of government officers is still a technique widely used by violent extremist groups to disrupt services delivery. The continued abduction of government officers as highlighted by the study, supports findings by Hamm (2015) who pointed out that one of the main tactics of extremist groups was the abduction of government officers with the US Department of the Treasury (2023) also pointing out that the military, law enforcement, and critical government personnel and actors are targets for the violent extremist thereby negatively affecting government service delivery. The importance of dealing with abduction of government officers was stressed by Opene and Opene (2023) who suggested that for kidnapping of government officers to be reduced, there is need of significantly enhancing security. Additionally, security agencies are yet to deal with abduction of government officers that are committed by violent extremist groups and therefore there is need for eradicating of abduction of government officers by violent extremist groups that make the government service delivery impossible.

Radicalization and services delivery

Radicalization of the youths and the community at large can hinder services delivery in area where there are cases of violent extremism. Hence, addressing the effects of radicalization by violent extremism is crucial for effective service delivery because it disrupts social cohesion, weakens community resilience, and diverts resources from delivering essential government services in highly insecure areas resulting from violent extremism activities (Krieger and Meierriecks ,2019). The radicalization efforts of Al-Shabaab severely compromise the delivery of government services in the regions they affect, mainly through direct assaults, disruption of infrastructure, and the establishment of alternative governance systems. As a result, access to vital services such as healthcare, education, and humanitarian assistance diminishes, which in turn obstructs development projects. Additionally, the existence of Al-Shabaab can redirect government resources to focus on security and counter-terrorism measures, further diminishing the capacity for service delivery. Therefore, understanding how violent extremist use radicalization to disrupt govern service delivery will help in ensuring that there the government is able to deliver its services to the people. The fifth objective sought to establish the effect of radicalization on services delivery in Lafey Sub- County and the response was as follows.

Table 3: Radicalization

Radicalization	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Radicalization affect services delivery in Lafey Sub-county	78	3.77	1.150
Radicalization by violent extremist groups remains one of the techniques widely used by violent extremist to incite their member to violence direct at disrupting services delivery in Lafey Sub-county	78	4.03	1.338
Insecurity matters have not been able to deal with radicalization even as the attacks are targeted at government services in Lafey Sub-county	78	4.07	1.082
There is need to counter the radicalization among the youths in order to minimize the violent extremist activities that disrupting services delivery in Lafey Sub-county	78	3.97	1.269

The results indicated that the respondents strongly felt that radicalization by violent extremist groups remains one of the techniques widely used by violent extremist to insight their member to violence direct at disrupting services delivery in Lafey Sub-county (Mean=4.03; Std. Deviation=1.338), there is need to counter the radicalization among the youths in order to minimize the violent extremist activities that disrupting services delivery in Lafey Sub-county (Mean=3.97; Std. Deviation=.1.269) and that radicalization affect services delivery in Lafey Sub-county (Mean=3.77; Std. Deviation=1.150). However, there was a strong feeling that insecurity matters have not been able to deal with radicalization even as the attacks are targeted at government services Lafey Sub-county (Mean=4.07; Std. Deviation=1.082).

Radicalization of the youth is a widely used technique by violent extremist groups and their accomplices to incite their members to violence, sometimes directing them towards the disruption of government services delivery in the Sub- County. Noticeably, the insecurity remains a critical area that requires attention as it has not been adequately dealt as radicalized youth in some instances attack and target government staff delivering services in the Sub-county. This therefore calls for intensive measures counter the radicalization among the youths and anti-radicalize the already radicalized youth in order to eradicate the violent extremist activities that disrupt government services delivery in Lafey Sub-county. Effective addressing of the effect of terrorism will help in ensuring that the government is able to deliver its services to the citizens as highlighted Barise (2021) that terrorism has been seen to impact on the logistical services as government infrastructure is destroyed by frequent terrorist attacks in SAARC countries. Interborder strategies can be effective as advised by Campbell (2020) that effective counter terrorism and enhancement of government service delivery that calls for countries sharing borders to heighten their security in order to ensure that the government operations are not disrupted on either side.

Table 4: Service delivery in Mandera County

Service delivery in Mandera County	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Violent extremist activities affect the service delivery in Lafey Sub-county	78	3.81	1.106
Abduction of government officers have been blamed for disruption of service delivery in Lafey Sub-county	78	4.12	1.248
Religious messaging contributes to disruption of service delivery in Sub- County	78	3.45	1.052
Financial incentives given to youths by violent extremist groups in the area continue to sustain attacks targeting the delivery of government services in the Sub- county	78	4.08	1.193
Radicalized youths have sustained attacks on government staff in the sub-county.	78	4.05	1.226

The results indicated that the respondents strongly felt that abduction of government officers have been blamed for disruption of service delivery in Lafey Sub-county (Mean=4.12; Std. Deviation=1.248), financial incentives given to youths by violent extremist groups in the area continue to sustain attacks targeting the delivery of government services in the Sub- county (Mean=4.08; Std. Deviation=.1.193) , radicalized youths have sustained attacks on government staff in the sub-county (Mean=4.05; Std. Deviation=1.226) and violent extremist activities affect the service delivery in Mandera East Sub-county((Mean=3.81; Std. Deviation=1.106). However, there was a moderate feeling that comparably, religious messaging moderately contributed to disruption of service delivery in Sub- County (Mean=3.45; Std. Deviation=1.052).

Violent extremist activities continue to hinder service delivery in Lafey Sub-county with frequent abduction of government officers being blamed for scaring away government officers and disrupting of service delivery in Lafey Sub-county. Religious leaders that are sympathizers of violent extremist and terrorist groups craft messages that lead to radicalization of the youth they target. These messages are sometimes crafted in a way that pity the non-natives that live in the county forcing them to leave thereby disrupting service delivery in Sub- County. Financial incentives given to youths by violent extremist groups in the area is also not only a contributing factor to terrorism and growth of extremist groups but also is used to sustain violent extremism and attacks targeting the delivery of government services in the Sub- county. Finally, radicalized youths have sustained attacks on government staff thereby leading disruption of government service delivery in the sub-county.

The findings are consistent with the findings by Mortelmans, Ciottone & Somville (2023) that established that the high risk of terrorism has led to too high probability of terrorism disrupting government operations and halting government security services calling for heightened collaboration and collective approach to anti-terrorism measures across all EU countries .. The results also support findings by Zakaria et al 2019) that terrorism

results in shrinkage to the trade and investment activities as government is not able to facilitate the necessary operations and is seen as not able to protect foreign and domestic investment.

Inferential Analysis

Estimates were derived and hypotheses tested utilizing inferential statistical analysis. The study made the assumption that a sample of the population under examination was used to create the observed data set. As a parametric statistical test, inferential statistics was employed to help make assumptions about the distributions and population characteristics from which the data originated. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), Model Summary, and Regression Coefficient were among the regression and correlation analyses that were part of the methodology (Mwiti, 2022).

Correlation Analysis

Table 5: Correlation Analysis

		Service Delivery	Improved Explosive Devices (IED)	Abduction of government Officers
Service Delivery at the County Government	Pearson Correlation	1		
	Sig. (2-tailed)			
	N	78		
Improved Explosive Devices (IED)	Pearson Correlation	.471**	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		
	N	78	78	
Abduction of government Officers	Pearson Correlation	.611**	.600**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	
	N	78	78	78
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.043	.090	.237
	N	78	78	78

The outcomes of the correlation analysis revealed a moderate positive association between Improved Explosive Devices (IED) and service delivery at the Lafey Sub-County Government ($r=.471$); Improved Explosive Devices (IED) also indicated a significant relationship with service delivery at the Lafey Sub-County Government ($\text{Sig}=.000<.05$). The correlation analysis's findings also indicate a moderate positive association between abduction of government officers and service delivery at the Lafey Sub-County Government ($r=.611$); abduction of government officers also indicated a significant relationship with service delivery at the Lafey Sub-County Government ($\text{Sig}=.000<.05$).

Regression Analysis

One of the statistical techniques for demonstrating the link between two or more variables is regression analysis. Regression analysis tries to determine which factors are most important to that change, as changes in the independent variable or variables affect changes in the dependent variable or variables (Sarstedt and Mooi, 2014). The following were the outcomes of the analysis of linear regression:

Table 6: Effect of Improved Explosive Devices (IED) on services delivery in Lafey Sub-county.

Model		R	R Square		Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1		.671 ^a	.422		.412	.78765
ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	13.470	1	13.470	21.712	.000 ^b
	Residual	47.150	76	.620		
	Total	60.620	77			
a. Dependent Variable: Service Delivery at the County Government						
b. Predictors: (Constant), Improved Explosive Devices (IED)						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.817	.668		1.224	.225
	Improved Explosive Devices (IED)	.732	.157	.471	4.660	.000

The coefficient determination (R Squared) of .327 indicates that Improved Explosive Devices (IED) account for 42.2% of differences in how services are provided at the Lafey Sub-County Government, Mandera County. The remaining 57.8% is attributed to other factors other than Improved Explosive Devices (IED).

The study also employed the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) test to ascertain the statistical significance of the regression model. ANOVA test results reveal a p-value of less than 0.05 (Sig=.000<.05), suggesting that the aforementioned model is statistically significant in elucidating the association between Improved Explosive Devices (IED) and variations in service delivery at the Lafey Sub-County Government, Mandera County. Additionally, the model was statistically fit to test the link between Improved Explosive Devices (IED) and variations in service delivery at Lafey Sub-County Government, Mandera County (F=21.712; 1, 76).

Based on the coefficients in Table 6 above, the regression equation that is produced is:

$$Y = .817 + .732X_1$$

The following is an interpretation of the equation above:

A unit change in Improved Explosive Devices (IED) will result into change of .732 in service delivery at Lafey Sub-County Government, Mandera County. Regression model ($\beta = .817$) is also significant in terms of statistics (sig=.000<.05), according to the results. Additionally, the results demonstrate the statistical significance of Explosive Devices (IED) (Sig=.000<.05).

Therefore, the results indicated that Improved Explosive Devices (IED) significantly affects the service delivery at Lafey Sub-County Government, Mandera County. Additionally, Improved Explosive Devices (IED) account for 42.2% of differences in how services are provided at the Lafey Sub-County Government, Mandera County. The high negative impact of Improved Explosive Devices (IED) have also been highlighted by Abdulahi (2023) that also established that frequent cases of explosive attacks by

terrorist groups significantly hindered the delivery of public services, especially in remote areas.

Table 7: Effect of Abduction of government officers on services delivery in Lafey Sub-county.

Model		R	R Square	Adjusted R Square		Std. Error of the Estimate
1		.711 ^a	.505	.499		.62808
ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	30.639	1	30.639	77.668	.000 ^b
	Residual	29.981	76	.394		
	Total	60.620	77			
a. Dependent Variable: Service Delivery at the County Government						
b. Predictors: (Constant), Abduction of government Officers						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.652	.521		-1.250	.215
	Abduction of government Officers	1.144	.130	.711	8.813	.000

The of coefficient determination (R Squared) of .505 indicates that abduction of government officers account for 50.5% of variations in service delivery at the Lafey Sub-County Government, Mandera County. The remaining 49.5% is attributed to other factors other than abduction of government officers.

The study also employed the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) test to ascertain the regression model's statistical significance. ANOVA test results reveal a p-value of less than 0.05 (Sig=.000<.05), suggesting that the aforementioned model is statistically significant in elucidating the association between abduction of government officers and variations in service delivery at the Lafey Sub-County Government, Mandera County. Additionally, the model fit the data statistically to test the link between abduction of government officers and variations in service delivery at Lafey Sub-County Government, Mandera County (F=77.668; 1, 76).

Based on the coefficients in Table 7 above, the regression equation that is produced is:

$$Y = .652 + 1.144X_1$$

The following is an interpretation of the equation above:

A unit change in abduction of government officers will result into change of .652 in service delivery at Lafey Sub-County Government, Mandera County. Regression model ($\beta=1.144$) is also statistically significant (sig=.000<.05), according to the results. Additionally, the results demonstrate the statistical significance of abduction of government officers (Sig=.000<.05).

Therefore, the results indicated that abduction of government officers) significantly affects the service delivery at Lafey Sub-County Government, Mandera County. Additionally, abduction of government officers accounts for 50.5% of variations in service delivery at the Lafey Sub-County Government, Mandera County. The significance of government staff abduction in disrupting of government services support earlier study findings by Center for Preventive Action (2023) that terrorists hindered

government operations in Gao, Kidal, and Timbuktu and continue to abduct government officers as many abandon their duties. The results also supported findings by Basire (2021) that indicated that established that government has lost some areas to terrorist groups, some areas are not accessible to government officers to offer their services.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

Results indicated that all the violent extremism factors (Improved Explosive Devices (IED) and Abduction of government Officers had a positive and a significant relationship with Service Delivery at the County Government in Lafey Sub-county, Mandera County. Violent extremism factors (IED, abduction of officers, religious doctination, financial incentive and radicalization) account for 79.9% of variations in service delivery at the Lafey Sub-County Government, Mandera County. Additionally, A unit change in climate resilient agriculture practices will result into a change of .105 units in IED,.301 unit in abduction of officers will influence a unit change in service delivery at the Lafey Sub-County Government, Mandera County. Regression model ($\beta=1.070$) is also statistically significant ($\text{sig}=.000<.05$), according to the results. Additionally, the results demonstrate the statistical significance of Violent extremism factors (IED and abduction of government officers ($\text{Sig}=.000<.05$).

Recommendation

Because IEDs affect security, safety, stability, humanitarian and peace operations, and sustainable development in communities worldwide, the threat of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) is a major concern. A multifaceted approach that includes both police and army should be constituted to deal with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).The community in Lafey sub-county must play their role in reporting suspicious activities that may be associated with planting of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in the sub-county.

Eradicating of abduction of government officers by violent extremist groups that make the government service delivery impossible is very critical. Armed security should be enhanced in order to secure the facilities that house the government offices that provide government services in the county, in addition to specialized security units focused on security and crisis management. Lastly, the special unit need to be equipped to conduct hostage negotiation in cases where the officers may have abducted or held hostage in order to minimize fatalities.

Boldness by security agencies is required in order to apprehend suspected violent extremist, their accomplices and some of the Imams that use religious platforms to propagate wrong doctination that promote radicalization and violent extremism and perpetuate violence against government workers in the sub-county that have negatively affected government service delivery in the area. Deliberate exposure of radicalized individuals to positive ideologies is necessary in order enlighten them on the dangers of radicalization.

Increased tackling of violent extremism in the county and should include destruction of the possible income streams used to support extremist groups activities which have disrupted government service delivery in the area. Arresting all the financiers of violent extremist groups that have continued to be blamed on insecurity in the area. This should also include going after their property and investments that help them in financing violent extremist groups.

Strengthening the capacity of local government and security personnel who provide service delivery and security and supporting and promoting local communities where the radicalized youth are from should be encouraged. Additionally, dialogue with alienated groups and reintegration of former extremists must be done and should include working with faith-based religious leaders and groups should combat violent extremists' misuse of religion. Finally, anti-radicalization approach needs to include proper religious doctrination that can counter radicalizing messages in the sub-county.

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