

A close-up photograph of two hands, one from a darker-skinned person and one from a lighter-skinned person, shaking in a firm grip. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue. The image is partially overlaid by a green triangle in the top right and a yellow triangle in the bottom left.

UKWELI CABLE

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2022



**IGAD CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR PREVENTING AND COUNTERING
VIOLENT EXTREMISM**

FOREWORD



Our Esteemed Stakeholder,

Peace is a conscious effort, the IGAD Centre of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE) endears to see a peaceful and secure society which cannot be possible without your passion to push the P/CVE agenda in your respective fronts.

This third quarter newsletter highlights the activities the Centre engaged in with various stakeholders in the period between July and September 2022 to advance the P/CVE agenda in the Horn of Africa.

The Centre's core units are; civil society and community outreach, strategic communications, capacity building, research and innovation. It is under these outlined areas that we implement our P/CVE activities.

In the quarter we were able to bring together youths/CSOs, religious leaders and influencers to enhance their capacities to develop and disseminate counter and alternative narratives, there was capacity building for Centre staff to augment their skills in results based reporting and resource mobilization, we also released a research publication which is an output of the first research conference held in 2019.

The Centre sees value in closely working together with other IGAD departments to advance the peace and security agenda in the region as well as with other organisations with like minded objectives. In this quarterly newsletter you will read how we achieved that.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this issue. Thank you!

Dr. Simon Nyambura
Director, ICEPCVE



Dismantling the Meta-narratives

To nullify violent extremist ideologies and narratives, the meta-narratives must be well understood. The violent extremists narratives are based on meta-narratives which are carefully organized and compelling religious texts twisted to effectively achieve their aim of radicalizing. It is against this backdrop that the Centre organized a strategic communications workshop to enhance capacity of religious leaders, youth and influencers to develop and disseminate counter and alternative narratives to undermine the violent extremists' ideologies. Seven counter and alternative messages were developed.



Participants developing the counter/alternative video messages

This three-day workshop held on 6-8 September, 2022 in Djibouti was supported by the European Union Trust Fund through the Austrian Development Agency under the IPPSHAR Program. See the workshop photos.

To Strength and Sustainability

The strength and sustainability of an institution is as good as its employees. Capacity building for employees is a critical exercise that contributes to an organisations effectiveness. It is in this spirit that the Centre's 5 year strategic plan recommends deliberate enhancement of the capacity of staff to mobilize resources to enable continued P/CVE efforts in the IGAD region and beyond. This year the Centre organised a Capacity Building Workshop for its staff on 14-16 September, 2022 in Nairobi. This workshop contributed towards strengthening the capacity of the staff to adopt results based reporting, engage in varied resource mobilization activities and get familiar with the new EU Development Funding Framework.



A section of Centre staff during the workshop

This capacity building workshop for staff was actualized through the support of the European Union Trust Fund (EUTF) through the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) under the IPPSHAR Program

Impact Assessment

Assessing the journey towards preventing and countering violent extremism in the region is critical towards measuring progress and impact. One of our key partner enabling the implementation of P/CVE initiatives in the Horn of Africa is the Government of Denmark under the Peace and Stabilization Programme. On 31st August, 2022 the Centre team led by the Director held discussions with Government of Denmark officials on the implementation of the specified programmes targeting state and non-state actors to prevent and counter the threat of violent extremism. Out of the discussions it emerged necessary that efforts towards peace and stability in the Horn of Africa needs to be prioritized.



The Government of Denmark Officials and Centre staff

The Centre remains grateful to the Government of Denmark for the support towards peace and security efforts in the Horn on Africa and for its commitment in preventing and countering violent extremism.

Media 4 PCVE

The Centre took part in a training workshop organised by National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) on 1-3 August, 2022 themed; **'Triple Nexus of Safe Journalism, Preventing Violent Extremism and Effective Reporting by the Media'** The Head of Strategic Communications, Dr. Martha Njiiri made a presentation on **'Overview of Regional P/CVE Initiatives and Strategic Communications: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities.'** You can read more about the workshop held [here](#).



The NUSOJ workshop ongoing

Did you know...

Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is the first Regional Economic Community (REC) in Africa to develop and validate a Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) Strategy

International Engagements

The Executive Secretary, Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu led an IGAD delegation to the seventy seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA77) from 21-23 September, 2022 which provided a platform for world leaders to unite and engage in high level deliberations on how to navigate through development challenges towards attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



The ES accompanied by a section of the IGAD delegation



The ES, Dr. Workneh and the Centre Director, Dr. Simon

The IGAD Centre of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE) Director, Dr. Simon Nyambura was part of the delegation that accompanied the Executive Secretary, Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu to UNGA77. Peace and security situation in the IGAD region was among the key issues discussed with existing and potential partners.

The Executive Secretary and the IGAD delegation met with President of Kenya, Dr. William Ruto and President of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh who reaffirmed their commitment to support IGAD regional peace and stabilisation efforts. Additionally, he met with Amb. Molly Phee, Assistant Secretary for African Affairs of the United States and Ms. Monde Muyangwa, Assistant Administrator of the U.S Agency for International Development among other dignitaries.



The ES with Hon. Dr. William Ruto



The ES with Amb. Molly Phee



The ES with Hon. Hassan Sheikh



The ES with Ms. Monde Muyangwa

Inter-Engagements

In the third quarter, the Centre engaged with other IGAD departments to effectively deliver its mandate towards a peaceful and secure region.

14-16 July 2022

The Director, Dr. Simon Nyambura oversaw the organisation of an MoU Finalization Workshop held in Mombasa which brought together select IGAD officials, Kenya Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials and Kenya School of Government officials to fine-tune the IGAD Leadership Academy MoU with Kenya School of Government. The IGAD Leadership Academy (ILA) has a vision to see young leaders from the Greater Horn of Africa moulded to deliver Vision #2050



20-22 July 2022

The Centre represented by the Head of Programmes, Ms. Rachael Mpiriirwe and Head of Strategic Communications, Dr. Martha Njiiri took part in Regional Experts Round-table Dialogue organized by Office of the IGAD Special Envoy for the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Somalia (RESGAS) to explore collective opportunities and challenges in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea Region. Part of P/CVE efforts include strengthened maritime security measures thus this was a crucial activity for the Centre to take part in.



An Expert Panel Discussion at the RESGAS meeting

26-28 July 2022

The Centre represented by the Deputy Director, Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim took part in the IGAD Consultative Workshop on Integrating Climate Risk Management into the Security Sector. This meeting was held by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) in conjunction with the United Nations office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa. The discussions around the nexus of climate security and violent extremism are core to P/CVE efforts in the region.



Research Publication

The Centre in the quarter released the publication '**Preventing Violent Extremism: Case Studies on Early Warning Systems in Eastern Africa**' which is an output of the 1st Annual Regional Conference on P/CVE held in 2019.



The Centre Head of Strategic Communications, Dr. Martha Njiiri presents copies of the book to the authors [L-R: Dr. Ali Migane, Dr. Assefa and Dr. Abdinur]

The Centre...

Officially inaugurated in April 2018, the IGAD Centre of Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE) was established to promote the sharing of good practices and lessons learnt from initiatives to prevent and counter violent extremism in the East and Horn of Africa region, and to bring together state and non-state actors involved in P/CVE work to ensure an inclusive and holistic approach



Towards the 3rd Annual Research Conference

In the quarter, the Centre called for abstracts in preparation for the 3rd Annual Regional Research Conference themed '**Two decades of Counter-terrorism and Violent Extremism: Assessing the Impacts of National and Regional Efforts.**' The research conference with support from the Government of Denmark will bring together researchers from East and Horn of Africa in the last quarter of the year from 30th November–2nd December 2022.



Analysis of VE Attacks in the Quarter

The threat of violent extremism has been a major obstacle in the Horn of Africa undermining its peace and security. In the quarter, there were violent extremist attacks recorded in Somalia, Kenya and at the Somalia/Ethiopia and Somalia/Kenya border by the Al-Shabaab

July: There were at least forty five reported VE attacks majorly in Somalia and at the border of Somalia and Ethiopia linked to Al-Shabaab. The insurgency group largely used improvised explosive devices (VBIEDs) and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to execute the VE incidences in addition to ambush raids and targeted suicide bombings.

August: There were repeated attacks mainly in Central and Southern Somalia; at least fifty VE attacks were reported. Targeted attacks, assassinations and executions scaled up in addition to the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIEDs) and road side bombings

September: The attacks increased as the quarter came to a close with at least sixty five recorded VE attacks. Roadside bombs, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and suicide vehicle borne improvised explosive devices (SVBIEDs) were largely utilised to carry out the attacks directed to government officials, military troops and civilians.

A persistent upward trajectory in the number of violent extremism incidences and change of tactics characterizes the third quarter. Compared to the second quarter, the third quarter has had four times more of terror attacks with over 160 recorded attacks meted on senior government officials, politicians, civilians and military troops. It is likely that Al Shabaab will continue intensifying the terror attacks in Somalia to retaliate and undermine the efforts of President Hassan Sheikh. With the border attacks recorded in the third quarter of the year, Member States in East and Horn of Africa need to be on high alert as the terror groups are working overtime to radicalize, recruit and mete coordinated attacks.

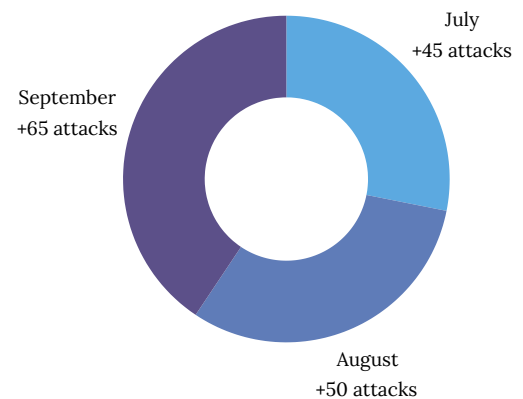


Figure 1: Reported VE attacks in the Quarter

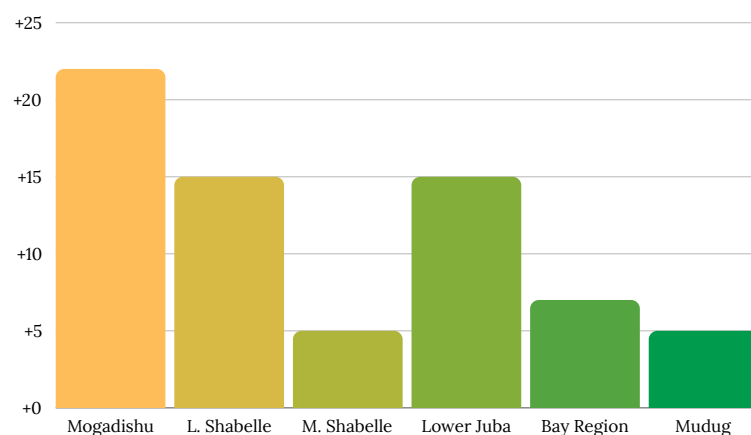


Figure 2: Select regions in Somalia recording multiple attacks in the 3rd quarter

Our Partners

We are grateful to our partners for the support which has enabled implementation of different projects towards building regional capacity to prevent and counter violent extremism



IGAD Member States



Government of Sweden



Government of Denmark



European Union



United States Department of State



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

United States Agency for International Development



Austrian Embassy Development Cooperation



African Union



Government of Italy



United Nations Development Programme

IGAD CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

cve.igad.int