

Ukweli CABLE



JANUARY-MARCH 2022



IGAD CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR PREVENTING AND COUNTERING
VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Women 4 Peace

Including meaningful perspectives and participation of women in preventing and countering violent extremism is crucial. It is against this backdrop that the Centre hosted women engaged in peace-building activities in the IGAD region to enhance their capacity to develop counter and alternative narratives to prevent violent extremism. Three women focused video messages to counter violent extremists narratives in the region were developed and dissemination plans were designed to ensure that the messages effectively reach the targeted audiences. This three-day workshop held at Djibouti Palace Kempinski 15-17 March, 2022 was supported by the Government of Denmark.



- Check the hashtag **#Women4PCVE** to follow the conversations from the workshop and beyond on Twitter platform.
- Watch the videos developed on our YouTube channel.

The IGAD Executive Secretary



H.E. Workneh Gebeyehu, Ph.D

"Failure to include women in peace processes has contributed to the stalemate experienced in effectively preventing and countering peace and security threats around the globe, including VE. The participation of women in formal peace processes increases chances of success by 64% according to research done in the region."

Efficient Criminal Justice System for PCVE

Effective PCVE initiatives are complemented by efficient criminal justice systems. A three day workshop held 16-18 February, 2022 in Entebbe, Uganda at the Best Western Premier Hotel bringing together investigators, prosecutors and judges from the IGAD region explored how to enhance the criminal justice system in PCVE. This workshop enabled identification of practical mechanisms that will inform framework that will help the criminal judicial officers coordinate and collaborate in investigations, prosecutions and trials of violent extremists and terrorists. This workshop was supported by the Government of Denmark.



The Criminal Judicial Officers at the Workshop

The Centre Director



Dr. Simon Nyambura, Director, ICEPCVE

"...we need to reflect on where we are coming from, where we are, where we need to be and most importantly how we can get there...lots of work has been done but there continues to be a myriad of challenges.... as such we need coordinated and harmonized efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism in the region."

Did you know...

ICEPVE is the only Centre of Excellence in Africa dedicated to development and dissemination of counter and alternative narratives.

Media 4 Peace

The media is a key actor in PCVE; regular reviews however are important to ensure high professionalism levels are maintained. With support from the Government of Denmark, a three day regional media forum which brought together media practitioners from the IGAD region to discuss and share experiences in covering violent extremism stories and agree on the basic principles that need to be adopted to ensure professionalism is upheld was held at the Djibouti Palace Kempinski from 22-24 March, 2022. A checklist of best practices agreed upon is soon to be released by the Centre which will be a useful guide for journalists covering violent extremism incidences in the IGAD region and beyond. Check the hashtag **#Media4PCVE** to follow the workshop conversations on twitter platform.



Hon. Justice Duncan Gaswaga presents certificate of participation at the Media Forum

External Engagements



Dr. Simon Nyambura and Amb. Hans Lundquist

28 February- 3 March 2022

The Director attended the peace and security retreat in Mombasa organised by the IGAD Peace and Security Division which sought to explore how to effectively and efficiently respond to regional peace and security

9 March 2022

The Director represented the IGAD Executive Secretary and gave official opening remarks at the launch of the UNOCT office in Nairobi, Kenya

23 March 2022

The Director took part in the Annual Partnership Meeting of IGAD and the Government of Sweden at the Djibouti Palace Kempinski

Enhancing Capacity of Centre Team

The Centre prides itself in having a competent team to oversee the different operations required to successfully implement PCVE activities in the region. Continuous enhancement of the capacity of the team members is necessary to keep up with the versatile environment that characterises PCVE work.

Developing Local Strategies to Counter Violent Extremism in Africa



The Centre participated in a virtual academic program hosted by the Africa Centre for Strategic Studies at National Defence University in Washington, DC from 25 January to 16 February 2022 which was on 'Developing Local Strategies to Counter Violent Extremism in Africa'. Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim, Deputy Director and Dr. Martha Njiiri, Head of Strategic Communications took part in this training.

EU PCVE Training



The Centre took part in the training organised by European Commission and the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) from 8-10 March 2022. This training was useful in deepening understanding on international strategies and approaches to PCVE, developing and implementing successful PCVE interventions and measuring success in PCVE interventions. Ms. Hamdi Hassan, Program Officer, represented the Centre in this training.

Did you know...

Djibouti is the only country in the IGAD region that has experienced least violent extremists activity.

Visits to the Centre

In the first quarter of the year, we had the pleasure of hosting friends, partners and potential partners of the Centre

Visit by US Embassy Team

Jane Denham, Political Officer and Raymond Welch, Public Affairs Officer from the US Embassy in Djibouti visited the Centre on 10th February 2022. The US Embassy is a great friend of the Centre from its inception and has supported various PCVE initiatives implemented by the Centre across the IGAD region.



Visit by the Czech Republic Embassy

Jaroslav Zukerstein, Deputy Head of Mission and Lucie Stepankova, Consular Officer from the Embassy of Czech Republic in Addis Ababa visited the Centre on 7th March 2022. This exciting visit laid a foundation towards further conversations on potential collaboration in PCVE initiatives across the IGAD region

Visit by the IPSTC Delegation

A delegation from the Kenya based International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) led by Colonel Guiled visited the Centre for experience sharing and learning on 14th March 2022. IPSTC is a friend of the Centre and we look forward to continued meaningful collaboration towards peace and security in the IGAD region.



Visit by Swedish Embassy Team

Amb. Hans Lundquist, ambassador of Sweden to Ethiopia and Djibouti, Ulla Andren, Head of Development Cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa and Bjorn Dahlin, Second Secretary from the Embassy of Sweden in Addis Ababa visited the Centre on 23rd March 2022 and had discussions on strategic key priority areas. The Centre looks forward to partner with the Swedish Government in PCVE initiatives across the IGAD region.



Visit by the ADA Team Leader

Mr. John Auma, Team Leader at the Austrian Development Agency, visited the Centre on 29th March 2022 to discuss on the implementation of the IPPSHAR grant. The Centre is grateful to the European Union through the Austrian Development Agency for support towards implementation of PCVE initiatives in the IGAD region.



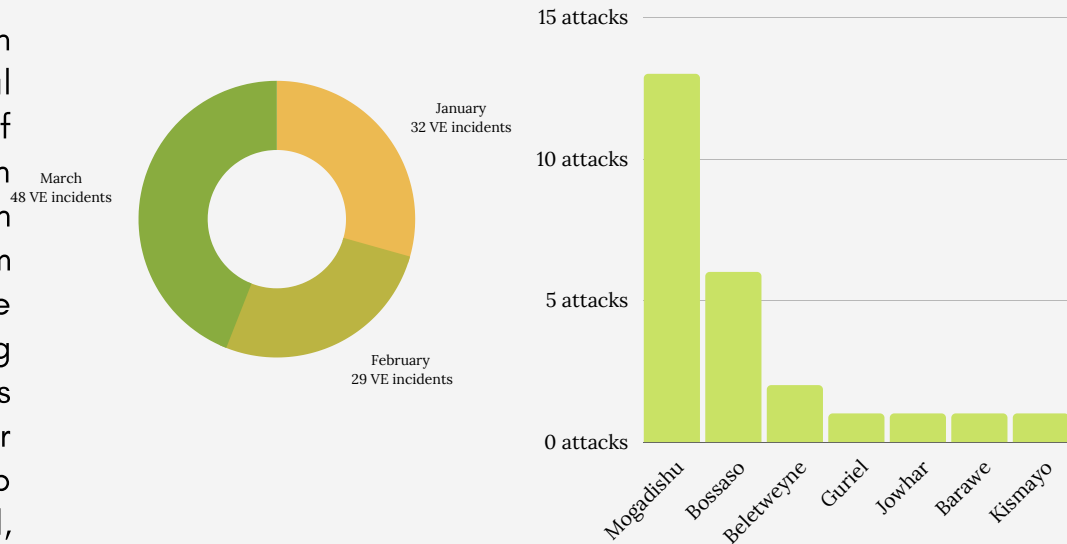
In Other News...

- The Centre participated in the UNOCT/UNCCT workshop on mobilizing South-South Cooperation in support of Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism in Eastern and Southern Africa on 10-11 March 2022 at the UN offices in Nairobi, Kenya.
- The Centre participated in the Annual C-IED Steering Committee meeting on 29-31 March 2022 held at the International Humanitarian Peace Support School at Embakasi, Nairobi-Kenya.

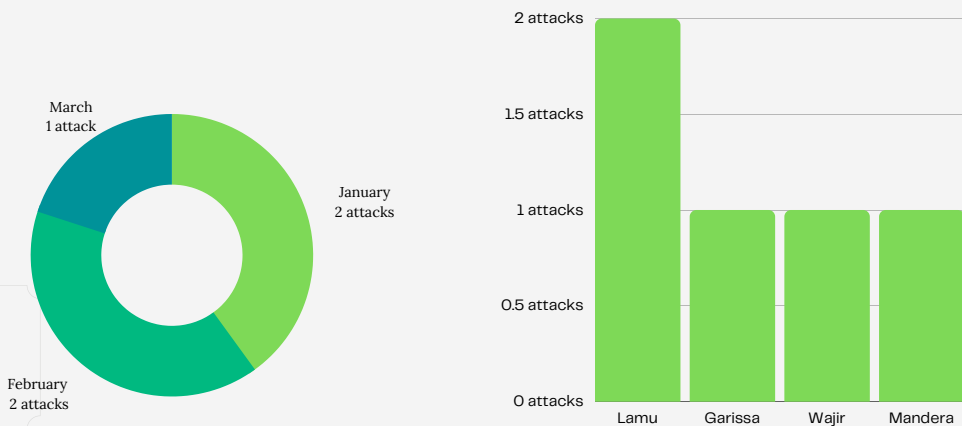
Analysis of VE Attacks in the Quarter

The threat of violent extremism has been a major obstacle in the IGAD region undermining its peace and security. This fragile region has encountered various violent extremist attacks mainly happening in Somalia, Kenya and most recently Uganda by the Al-Shabaab and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) insurgency groups.

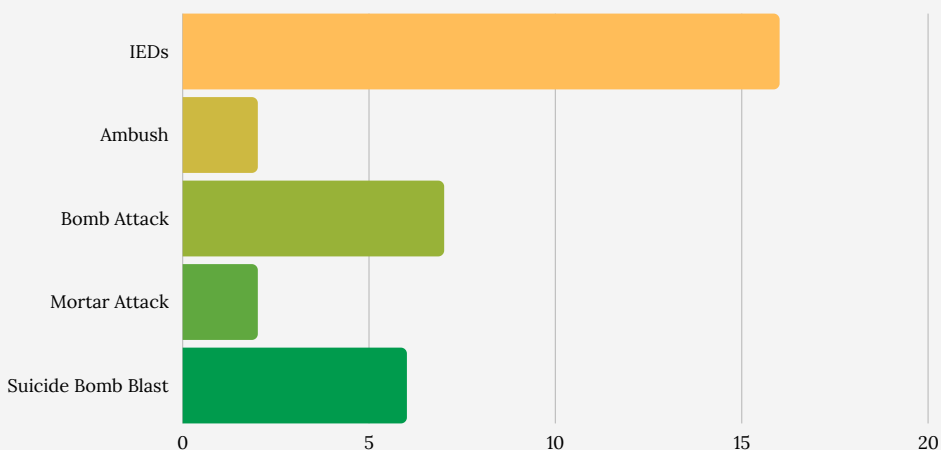
Somalia: The year started with Al-shabaab conducting lethal attacks resulting in a number of deaths and serious injuries. In the first quarter there was an average of 36 violent extremism incidences reported with the most deadly attacks happening in March. Majority of the attacks were in Mogadishu. Other regions that Al-Shabaab targeted were Bossaso, Guriel, Jowhar, Beletweyne, Barawe and Kismayo.



Kenya: In the first quarter of the year, Kenya experienced five violent extremism related incidents executed by the Al-Shabaab. The areas where they launched their attacks during the course of this reporting period was in Lamu, Garissa, Wajir and Mandera.



Tactics Used: The tactics adopted by Al-Shabaab in conducting their deadly attacks in both Somalia and Kenya between January– March 2022 include: use of Improvised Explosive Devices, ambushes, mortar attacks and suicide bomb attacks. There is tendency for the Al-shabaab to switch the complexity of their tactics depending on their target.



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



African Union



Government of Denmark



European Union



United States Agency for International Development



Government of Sweden



Government of Italy



United States Department of State



United Nations Development Programme

IGAD CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

cve.igad.int