

2023



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LAMU COUNTY ENGAGEMENT FORUM SUCCESS STORY



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

It is with immense pride and gratitude for the incredible progress we have made in our fight against violent extremism (V.E) in Lamu County. Our journey has been marked by challenges, but it is our collective resilience and determination that have led us to this point.

In the face of security challenges, we recognized the importance of a safe community and took it upon ourselves to ensure just that. Through the relentless efforts of the Lamu County Engagement Forum, we have successfully cascaded the Lamu County Action Plan (LCAP) to our community. This plan, built on six pillars – Education, Law Enforcement, Ideological and Political, Psychosocial, Media and Internet, and Economic, has proven to be our guiding light. The success we have achieved is not a solitary victory; it is a testament to the unwavering dedication of our community members. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the heads and members of each pillar. Your commitment and hard work have been the cornerstone of our achievements, empowering our community and creating a resilient Lamu.

Noor Dahir

Executive Director
Kiunga Youth Bunge Initiative



I also want to acknowledge the pivotal role played by our partner, ACT Change Transform, and the crucial funding from GCERF under the ARIVE Program. Their support has been instrumental in turning our vision into reality. Their belief in our cause and their resources have given us the means to implement the LCAP effectively.

However, our journey is far from over. The fight against V.E requires continuous vigilance and united efforts. It is our shared responsibility to stand together, support one another, and nurture the safe and peaceful community we envision. Let us continue to work hand in hand, for it is in our collective strength that we find the power to overcome any challenge. With gratitude and determination,



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EMPOWERING DREAMS, TRANSFORMING LIVES:

LAMU COUNTY EDUCATION PILLAR'S SUCCESS STORY

In the heart of Lamu, where opportunities often struggle to find their way, a beacon of hope emerged through the unwavering determination of the Lamu County Education Pillar Team. Committed to the vision of a brighter future, this dedicated team embarked on a transformative journey, guided by their meticulously planned annual work plan conceived during the ARIVE inception engagement in late June.



One of the cornerstone initiatives of their plan was the steadfast support for the 100% transition policy in schools, especially those grappling with low Form 1 admissions. Collaborating seamlessly with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Interior, and local Civil Society Organizations, the Lamu County Education Pillar Team sprang into action. Their mission: to ensure that no aspiring young mind was left behind due to circumstances beyond their control.

In a poignant gesture that echoed their commitment, the team, alongside esteemed partners, including the indomitable Mdm Rukia Gilgil, Lamu West Sub County Education Officer, the vigilant Mohamed Bocha of OCS Lamu Police Station, the steadfast Chief Haidar and Chief Salim from Provincial Administration, as well as the compassionate Ahmed Famau and the inspiring Madam Raya Famau from Lamu Women Alliance, took a significant step. Together, they adopted the noble 'Adopt a Girl to Support a Girl' initiative.





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In a heartfelt ceremony, 24 bright souls found themselves not just equipped with essential educational tools, but also wrapped in the warmth of community support. Wiyoni Secondary School became the canvas upon which dreams were painted, as 24 students received more than just school uniforms and bags. They received a promise - a promise that their aspirations mattered, that their education was a collective responsibility, and that their journey was embraced by the entire Lamu community.

The tangible impact of this endeavor was witnessed in the smiles that spread across the faces of these students as they clutched their new school bags, the excitement in their eyes mirrored by the gleam of fresh exercise books. The Lamu County Education Pillar Team, with their unwavering dedication and the unyielding support of their partners, turned dreams into reality.



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LAMU COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT PILLAR'S MEDICAL CAMP TRIUMPH



In the heart of Lamu County, something extraordinary unfolded under the benevolent banner of the Lamu County Law Enforcement Pillar Team. In a magnificent display of compassion and community unity, a transformative medical camp was organized, leaving an indelible mark on over 2000 lives. In an unprecedented collaboration, the Lamu County Law Enforcement Pillar Team joined hands with a team of dedicated BPU medics and county government healthcare professionals. Their mission was not just to provide medical assistance but to bridge the chasm between the community and law enforcement officers, nurturing trust in the very fabric of Lamu society.

This medical camp was not just about administering care; it was a profound testament to the power of unity. Over 2000 beneficiaries, representing diverse walks of life, found solace and healing under the shade of this compassionate endeavor. From basic health check-ups to vital treatments, the camp became a sanctuary where ailments were addressed, and smiles were restored.



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However, this medical camp was more than a healthcare initiative. It was a platform for dialogue, understanding, and shared commitment. Law enforcement officers stood shoulder to shoulder with community members, dissolving barriers that often separate them. Through open conversations, the community learned that they could confide in these officers, share security information without fear, and collectively work towards a safer Lamu.



In the midst of medical consultations and treatments, a crucial narrative unfolded. Patients were not just recipients of medical care; they were also recipients of knowledge. In engaging lectures, they were enlightened about the insidious effects of extremism on social and economic development in their areas. Awareness became a shield, empowering them to recognize the signs and act as guardians of their community's well-being.



In the heart of Lamu County, the Lamu County Law Enforcement Pillar Team proved that unity, compassion, and education can heal wounds, bridge gaps, and pave the way for a future where community and law enforcement walk hand in hand, ensuring the safety and prosperity of all.



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Bridging Divides: Lamu County's Youth Engagement Success

In the vibrant heart of Mpeketoni, Lamu County, a powerful dialogue unfolded amidst the cheers and excitement of a basketball game, hosted by the Kiunga Youth Bunge Initiative. The Law Enforcement Pillar and the Ideological Pillar came together, reaching out to the youth, fostering understanding, and planting the seeds of change.

Amidst the athletic fervor, the youth of Mpeketoni found themselves engaged in a different kind of game - a game of knowledge, awareness, and empowerment. Facilitated by the collaborative efforts of the Law Enforcement and Ideological Pillars, this discussion became a transformative experience for all involved.

The youth had the invaluable opportunity to delve into the depths of PCVE - Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism. Through open conversations, they explored the intricate web of push and pull forces, understanding the factors that lead individuals towards extremism and the factors that pull them away. This knowledge became a beacon, guiding them towards informed decisions and resilient mindsets.



Crucially, the gathering also shed light on the POTA ACT, unraveling its complexities and implications. In this shared space, ignorance gave way to awareness, ensuring that the youth were not just informed but empowered. They discovered their rights, their responsibilities, and the avenues available to them within the legal framework.

This pivotal meeting was graced by esteemed representatives. The presence of officials from the IEBC office added a touch of democratic significance, emphasizing the importance of civic engagement among the youth. The Senior Resident Magistrate of Mpeketoni, Hon. Pascal Nabwana, brought the weight of the law into the conversation, underscoring the significance of legality and justice. The Ocs Mpeketoni, Mr. Ngujiri, and the Ocs Kibaoni, Mr. Meso, represented the law enforcement perspective, bridging the gap between authority and community.



EMPOWERING WOMEN, SAFEGUARDING COMMUNITIES: LAMU COUNTY'S SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS TRIUMPH



In the quiet corners of Lamu County, a powerful movement was set into motion, driven by the spirit of unity and the quest for truth. Harnessing the universal language of sports, Lamu County's Law Enforcement and Ideological Pillars orchestrated an event that not only celebrated athleticism but also became a beacon of enlightenment, especially for the women at the grassroots level.

Following an exhilarating sports event, the focus shifted from the field to a vital conversation led by the esteemed Senior Resident Magistrate, Hon. Pascal Nabwana, a guiding light from the Law Enforcement Pillar. With genuine concern etched on his face, he walked the women through the intricacies of the COMPUTER MISUSE AND CYBERCRIMES ACT 2018 and POTA. Lamu County, like many others, was grappling with the menace of hate speech and misinformation spreading like wildfire across social media platforms such as Facebook and WhatsApp groups. The need to address this issue was not just an option but an imperative for the preservation of peace and harmony in the community.



The conversation was not just a legal briefing; it was an awakening. The women, often the silent voices of communities, were now armed with knowledge. They understood the gravity of the misinformation circulating in their social spheres, and more importantly, they knew how to combat it. Empowered by the information shared, they became warriors of truth, armed not with swords but with awareness, ready to challenge the falsehoods that threatened the peace of Lamu County.



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LAMU COUNTY'S TVET MENTORSHIP PROGRAM TRIUMPH



Education emerged not just as a beacon of hope but as a formidable weapon against the shadows of extremism. The Lamu County Development Forum (CEF) recognized the pivotal role education plays in shaping the future of its youth, prompting representatives Madam Rukia and Mr. Abdallah Baragash to take action. Their journey led them to Lamu TVET, a bastion of skills and knowledge, where they were warmly received by Principal Fathi. What unfolded was not just a courtesy call but a transformative mentorship program that echoed with the voices of 50 eager young minds, hungry for knowledge, opportunity, and a chance at a brighter future.



In the hallowed halls of Lamu TVET, the mentors embarked on a journey of enlightenment. They engaged the students in conversations about the subtle forces that push and pull young individuals, sometimes towards radicalization and extremism. The discourse was not limited to identification alone; it delved deep into the heart of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), exploring strategies and approaches to combat these forces.

Crucially, the discussion didn't stop at identifying the problems; it transitioned seamlessly into solutions. With unemployment identified as a significant factor propelling youth towards extremist organizations, the mentors highlighted the power of TVETs. These institutions, brimming with practical skills and knowledge, stood as sanctuaries of economic empowerment. Learning a trade here was not just about acquiring skills; it was about gaining the ability to shape one's destiny, to transform a passion into a profession. The mentorship program became a gateway to new possibilities. For these 50 students, it was more than just a session; it was a lifeline. It was the moment when abstract dreams concretized into achievable goals. The knowledge imparted by Madam Rukia and Mr. Abdallah Baragash was not just theoretical; it was a roadmap, guiding the students towards self-reliance, economic empowerment, and a future unshackled from the chains of unemployment.



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This event was not just a mentorship program; it was an investment in Lamu County's future. It was a statement, echoing the collective belief that education is not just a privilege but a fundamental right. In the nurturing halls of Lamu TVET, these 50 students didn't just receive information; they received the tools to build their destinies. Each word spoken, each idea shared, became a building block in the construction of a future where Lamu County's youth are not just educated; they are empowered, ready to face the world with skills, confidence, and the determination to succeed.

a success story was written not just for these students but for the entire community. It was a tale of empowerment, of breaking barriers, and of creating pathways to a future where education becomes the key that unlocks every door, ensuring that no young mind is left behind, and every dream finds its wings.



The Bodhei Junction Community's Success Tale



The echoes of unity and cooperation reverberated through the Bodhei Junction Community, leaving a trail of gratitude and hope. A testament to the power of collaboration between the community and our dedicated security agencies, this success story is etched in the spirit of togetherness and shared responsibility.

Leading this remarkable initiative was the KDF group from the Military Camp at Bodhei Junction, under the able leadership of Captain Sausi. Their mission transcended the traditional boundaries of military duties; it delved deep into the heart of community welfare.

In a gesture that spoke volumes about their commitment, the KDF group extended a helping hand to the Bodhei Junction Community. Water, a lifeline, was provided, ensuring that the community's basic needs were met. Dry potatoes and maize flour, symbols of sustenance, were distributed, bringing not just food but a sense of security to the households.

Crucially, initiatives like these serve as catalysts for increased information sharing. In an environment of trust and mutual respect, the community feels empowered to share vital information, becoming active partners in maintaining peace and stability in Lamu County. The ripple effect of this trust is immeasurable; it creates a network of eyes and ears, vigilant and protective, ensuring that the community remains resilient against any threats.

This success story isn't just about food and water; it's about the sustenance of peace and the nourishment of unity. It's a tale of a community uplifted, not just by material support but by the knowledge that they are not alone; they are supported, valued, and protected.



Quenching Thirst, Nurturing Bonds: The Bargoni Community's Triumph Over Adversity

In the arid of Lamu County, where drought had cast its relentless grip and insecurities loomed like shadows, a beacon of hope emerged. The Law Enforcement Pillar, hand in hand with the dedicated souls from the Kenya National Youth Service (Hindi Command Unit), orchestrated a humanitarian feat that went far beyond quenching thirst. It became a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the power of unity.

Bargoni, a marginalized village in Hindi ward, found itself in the throes of an unforgiving drought. Water, the essence of life, had become a rare commodity, exacerbating the challenges faced by the villagers. The area was not just battling the elements; it was also marked as a hotspot for insecurity on the Lamu mainland, adding layers of complexity to the struggle for survival.

In this hour of need, the Law Enforcement Pillar, along with the Kenya National Youth Service (Hindi Command Unit), stepped forward as guardians of hope. A staggering 20,000 liters of fresh water, a lifeline amidst the parched land, was generously supplied to the residents of Bargoni. This act of benevolence was not merely a charitable endeavor; it was a manifestation of shared humanity, of one community reaching out to another in a gesture that spoke volumes about compassion and solidarity.

However, this initiative transcended the mere physical act of supplying water. It was a manifestation of a greater vision. The Law Enforcement Pillar, working tirelessly with the NYS and KDF camps in the area, embarked on a mission far-reaching in its implications. Community initiatives were rolled out, carefully crafted to strengthen the intricate fabric of relationships between the local communities and the security actors.



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These initiatives were not just about addressing the immediate needs; they were about fostering enduring bonds. The Law Enforcement Pillar team, in collaboration with the NYS and KDF, became architects of trust and understanding. By engaging directly with the community, by standing shoulder to shoulder with them in their struggles, these security actors transformed from mere enforcers to trusted allies, guardians of peace and stability.

In the heart of Bargoni, amidst the scorching sun and the challenges that life relentlessly threw their way, the residents found solace in the form of fresh water. But more importantly, they found solace in the knowledge that they were not alone in their fight. The Law Enforcement Pillar, the Kenya National Youth Service, and the KDF camps became pillars of support, reminding Bargoni that even in the harshest of times, humanity and compassion could prevail.

This is not just a story of water reaching dry throats; it's a saga of hearts connecting, of communities uniting, and of hope prevailing against all odds. It is a testament to the unyielding spirit of Lamu County, where in the face of adversity, hands reached out, and bonds were forged, ensuring that no one was left behind, and together, they emerged stronger, more resilient, and infinitely more united.



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A BEACON OF HOPE IN HINDI PRISON

- In the somber confines of Hindi Prison, a remarkable transformation took place. Led by the unwavering dedication of the Law Enforcement Pillar and the insightful perspectives of the Media Pillar, a group of leaders, including the esteemed Hon. Allan Temba, Mr. Phillip Oloo, Acc Lamu Central, and Mr. Amenya from KNA, embarked on a mission of compassion, understanding, and empowerment.



Statistics had painted a concerning picture: 60% of the incarcerated individuals in Hindi Prison were adolescents. Among the myriad factors leading them to this path, drug use stood tall. The Law Enforcement Pillar, acutely aware of the connection between drug use, mental health, and vulnerability to radicalization, took a proactive step.

Inside the prison walls, these leaders engaged in peer-to-peer discussions with the inmates. In the echo of these conversations, the inmates found not just voices of authority but allies in their struggle. The discourse expanded beyond the prison bars, delving deep into the complexities of Violent Extremism (V.E). In these shared moments, understanding blossomed, eroding the misconceptions that often lead vulnerable minds down dark paths.



Crucially, the inmates were enlightened about newfound opportunities. The Justice Center offered a ray of hope in the form of free legal aid, ensuring that justice was not a privilege for the wealthy but a right for all, regardless of their financial status. Additionally, they were made aware of the stringent new drug trafficking laws and their severe consequences. Knowledge became a shield, empowering them to make informed choices.

This event was more than just a discussion; it was a lifeline. For the inmates, it symbolized a chance at redemption, a belief that society had not given up on them. It was a beacon of hope illuminating a path towards rehabilitation and reintegration. For the community, it signified a commitment to understanding, to addressing the root causes of criminality, and to offering second chances.



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The Psycho Social Pillar's Triumph at Amu Police Station



In the stern halls of Amu Police Station, where the echoes of law and order reverberate, a different kind of dialogue unfolded - one that delved into the depths of the human psyche and the power of compassion.

The Psycho Social Pillar, guided by the beacon of the Action Plan On Countering Violent Extremism, achieved a significant milestone in their mission to counter violent extremism. Their second engagement with officers at the Amu Police Station was not just a discussion; it was a transformative experience, illuminating the path towards understanding and healing. A pivotal topic took center stage during this dialogue: how psychological counseling could serve as a potent countermeasure to violent extremism, as perceived from an officer's perspective. In a profession where the weight of responsibility and the specter of violence often bear heavily on the shoulders of law enforcement officers, this discussion became a lifeline.

The Psycho Social Pillar, with their expertise and empathy, opened the floor to a conversation that transcended the uniform. Officers shared their experiences, their fears, and their challenges. In this safe space, vulnerability became strength, and wounds found the balm of understanding.



Through this dialogue, officers began to perceive psychological counseling not as a sign of weakness, but as a shield against the corrosive effects of extremism. They understood that mental well-being was not just a personal concern; it was a matter of national security. A psychologically resilient officer, unburdened by the scars of trauma, could be the vanguard against extremist ideologies, their clarity of mind becoming a powerful weapon against the forces of darkness.

This initiative wasn't just about psychological counseling; it was about nurturing the mental fortitude of those entrusted with safeguarding communities. It was about acknowledging the toll their profession takes on their minds and souls and offering them the tools to heal. The success of this endeavor didn't just lie in the discussions held; it resonated in the renewed determination gleaming in the officers' eyes.



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EMPOWERING MINDS, SHATTERING CHAINS: ANNASRI EDUCATION CENTRE'S TRIUMPH OVER DRUGS AND RADICALIZATION



In the serene classrooms of Annasri Education Centre in Mokowe, a transformative dialogue unfolded, echoing the voices of education, ideology and politics, economic empowerment, and law enforcement. Gathered together, these pillars of community strength embarked on a mission that aimed not just to educate, but to liberate young minds from the clutches of drugs and the insidious influence of violent groups.

The subject of discussion was as critical as it was sensitive: drugs and substance abuse. Recognizing that these substances are often the bait used by extremist groups to ensnare vulnerable youths, the four pillars united in their resolve to break this cycle of destruction. Young minds, exposed to drugs at a tender age, become susceptible to radicalization, making them easy prey for those with nefarious agendas.

The heart of this initiative was peer-to-peer discussion. Students became active participants, engaging with educators, ideological leaders, economic advocates, and law enforcement officers. These conversations were not lectures; they were conversations, where questions were welcomed, concerns were heard, and fears were acknowledged. In this atmosphere of trust, the students found the courage to share their experiences and uncertainties.





The essence of these discussions was twofold. Firstly, it aimed to provide vital knowledge about the dangers of drugs and substance abuse, empowering the students to make informed choices. Secondly, it sought to expose the manipulative tactics used by extremist groups. By shedding light on the sinister ways in which these groups exploit vulnerability, the students were equipped with a shield of awareness, rendering them less susceptible to radical ideologies.

Crucially, the involvement of teenagers in these conversations was strategic. The pillars recognized that by engaging with youths directly, they could swiftly refute any narratives imposed upon them. These discussions became a fortress of truth, where misinformation wilted in the face of knowledge, and where radical ideologies found no fertile ground to grow.

The success of this initiative wasn't just measured in the knowledge imparted; it was seen in the gleam of understanding in the students' eyes, in the newfound determination to resist the temptations of drugs, and in the resilience they displayed against extremist narratives. It was a triumph not just for Annasri Education Centre but for the entire community, symbolizing a collective victory against the forces of ignorance and radicalization.

In the heart of Mokowe, these discussions didn't just mark a success story; they planted the seeds of a safer, enlightened future. They proved that when the pillars of education, ideology and politics, economic empowerment, and law enforcement unite, they become an unstoppable force, breaking chains, empowering minds, and lighting the way for generations to come.



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UNITING YOUTH, SECURITY PERSONNEL, AND THE COMMUNITY THROUGH SPORTS AND MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

The Power of Unity: Under the visionary leadership of Famau Ahmed, a dedicated advocate for mental health awareness, Lamu Island witnessed an extraordinary football match that transcended the boundaries of age, occupation, and gender. The event not only showcased the athletic prowess of the participants but also served as a testament to the island's unity. The vibrant energy on the field was palpable, with laughter and camaraderie filling the air.

Mental Health Matters: Following the football match, participants engaged in a peer-to-peer discussion on mental health issues, a topic often shrouded in stigma and silence. Led by mental health experts, this session provided a safe space for individuals to share their experiences, fears, and hopes. Through open dialogue and empathetic listening, the community began to break down the misconceptions surrounding mental health, fostering a supportive environment for those in need.



Introduction to LCAP and PCVE: The event also served as a platform to introduce the Lamu County Action Plan (LCAP) and its pillars, particularly focusing on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE). Participants gained valuable insights into the strategies and initiatives designed to promote peace and security within the community. By understanding the significance of PCVE, individuals became empowered to actively contribute to the safety and well-being of their neighborhood.

The Impact: This holistic approach to community engagement left an indelible mark on Lamu Island. The event not only promoted physical health through sports but also nurtured mental and emotional well-being. The knowledge shared about PCVE empowered community members to actively participate in initiatives that safeguarded their community from extremist influences.

Spearheading Change: Fama Ahmed's dedication and passion were instrumental in the success of this initiative. His unwavering commitment to the psycho-social pillar of LCAP paved the way for meaningful conversations, breaking barriers, and fostering a sense of belonging among Lamu Island's residents. Through his leadership, Lamu Island took a significant step towards a safer, more united, and mentally resilient community.

A Brighter Future: The impact of this event extended far beyond the football field. It planted the seeds of change, nurturing understanding, empathy, and cooperation among Lamu Island's diverse population. By coming together, embracing mental health awareness, and understanding the importance of PCVE, the community forged a path towards a brighter, more secure future.

In the annals of Lamu Island's history, this event stands as a beacon of hope and unity, reminding everyone that it is through collective efforts and unwavering determination that communities can thrive, no matter the challenges they face. Thanks to the collaboration between the youths, security personnel, administration, LCEF, and the Lamu Women Alliance, Lamu Island embarked on a transformative journey, proving that positive change begins within the hearts and minds of its people.



GSU CAMP AND LOCAL SCHOOL FORGE BONDS FOR EDUCATION AND SECURITY



In the heart of Bodhei Junction, a remarkable alliance between the GSU Camp and the local school illuminated the path toward a brighter future. In a powerful display of support for the Education Pillar, members of the GSU Camp embarked on a mission that not only equipped students with essential school supplies but also reinforced the vital bond between the security forces and the community.

Empowering Dreams: On a bright morning, members of the GSU Camp arrived at the local school, bearing gifts that held the promise of education. School uniforms, books, and pens were distributed among the eager students, transforming their aspirations into tangible possibilities. The children's eyes lit up with excitement, envisioning a future where education was the key to unlocking their potential.

GRATITUDE AND SOLIDARITY:

In addition to the generosity displayed through the school supplies, the GSU Camp took a moment to express heartfelt gratitude to the local community. They acknowledged the pivotal role played by the community in supporting the security forces. By working hand in hand with the locals, insecurity problems were minimized, and a sense of peace and security was restored to Bodhei Junction. This mutual respect and cooperation formed the foundation of a robust alliance against violent extremism.





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STRENGTH IN UNITY:

The significance of this collaboration extended far beyond the immediate moment. It exemplified the power of strong security and community ties in the battle against violent extremism. By fostering understanding, trust, and gratitude, the partnership between the GSU Camp and the local community became a beacon of hope. It demonstrated that when security forces and citizens unite, they create an impenetrable shield against extremist ideologies.

Restoring Faith and Trust: This initiative stood as a testament to the unwavering commitment of the Law Enforcement Pillar. Their dedication to restoring faith and trust within the community was evident in every smile exchanged and every school supply distributed. Through their actions, they reaffirmed the belief that a secure environment is not just a privilege but a fundamental right that every child deserves.

A Future Secured: As the day concluded, Bodhei Junction stood stronger and more united than ever before. The event not only equipped students with the tools they needed to pursue their education but also fortified the foundation upon which a peaceful, secure, and prosperous community could be built. The success of this endeavor was not just in the school supplies given; it was in the bonds of trust formed and the shared commitment to a future where education and security walked hand in hand. In the heart of Bodhei Junction, a new chapter had begun—one marked by education, security, and a community standing tall against the shadows of violence. The story of this day resonated far and wide, inspiring neighboring communities and reinforcing the belief that through collaboration and compassion, any challenge, no matter how daunting, could be overcome.



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BREAKING BARRIERS AND HEALING MINDS: AHMED FAMAU AHMED'S IMPACTFUL VISIT TO LAMU TVET



In a pivotal moment at Lamu TVET, the esteemed leader of the Psycho-social Pillar, Ahmed Famau Ahmed, affectionately known as Abedinho, orchestrated an enlightening and transformative session for over 300 students from diverse educational backgrounds. This event, part of the County Engagement Forum (CEF), emerged as a beacon of hope, initiating crucial conversations about mental health and the path to healing within the framework of the Lamu County Action Plan (LCAP).

Opening Minds, Healing Hearts: Abedinho, with his compassionate demeanor and deep understanding of mental health issues, engaged the students in a conversation that transcended the boundaries of traditional education. With empathy as his guide, he delved into the intricacies of the human mind, shedding light on the challenges faced by many youths. By sharing personal stories and real-world examples, he not only educated but also inspired, empowering the students to confront the stigma surrounding mental health.

LCAP Unveiled: Within the hallowed halls of Lamu TVET, Abedinho unfolded the pages of the Lamu County Action Plan (LCAP) before an eager audience. Together, they explored the plan's six components, understanding the comprehensive strategies devised to build a harmonious, secure, and prosperous community. The LCAP became more than a document; it became a roadmap for collective action and positive change.

Addressing the Heart of the Matter: Amidst discussions of LCAP, Abedinho courageously tackled the issue that often lurks in the shadows: mental health problems. He emphasized how these challenges, if left unaddressed, could lead to the radicalization of youths, highlighting the urgency of mental health support within the community. His words resonated deeply, sparking a collective determination to combat this issue head-on.



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SEEDS OF CHANGE:

Abedinho's visit planted seeds of awareness and acceptance among the students.

By openly discussing mental health, he shattered taboos and ignited conversations that would echo far beyond the confines of Lamu TVET. The students, armed with knowledge and empathy, became ambassadors of change, ready to challenge stereotypes and support their peers in times of need



A Legacy of Empathy and Understanding:

Abedinho's impactful visit left an indelible mark on Lamu TVET and the hearts of the students. His legacy became one of empathy, understanding, and action. As the students carried forth the lessons learned, the ripples of this transformative session reached every corner of Lamu Island, fostering a culture of compassion and support.

A Community United: In the wake of Abedinho's visit, Lamu Island stood united, embracing its youth with open arms and open hearts. The barriers of silence around mental health began to crumble, making way for a community where individuals could seek help without fear or judgment. The success story of this day was not just Abedinho's; it belonged to every student, teacher, and community member who pledged to stand together in the face of mental health challenges, fostering a community where everyone could thrive, mentally and emotionally.

In the annals of Lamu Island's history, this day marked a turning point—a day when courage, understanding, and empathy triumphed, paving the way for a brighter, more compassionate future. Abedinho's visit became a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the power of dialogue in healing minds and building bridges within communities.



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EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH BOXING:

Mr. Feiswal's innovative use of boxing has provided a dynamic platform for the youth. Beyond the punches and jabs, boxing has become a medium through which young individuals channel their energy, discipline their minds, and build self-confidence. Through rigorous training and mentorship, the youth are not just mastering the art of boxing but are also imbibing invaluable life skills, fostering a sense of purpose and direction.

Fostering Crucial Conversations: Within the confines of the boxing ring, Mr. Feiswal has created a safe space, encouraging open discussions on violent extremism and mental health. Through peer-to-peer talks, young minds are being enlightened, myths around mental health are dispelled, and the roots of violent extremism are confronted. These conversations, often difficult in other settings, thrive within the supportive atmosphere of the ARIVE Program, fostering understanding and empathy among participants.



Uniting Pillars of the Community: The ARIVE Program stands as a testament to the power of collaboration. The Law Enforcement Pillar brings security and guidance; the Media Pillar spreads awareness, ensuring the program's impact reaches every corner of the community, while the Psychosocial Pillar provides the necessary emotional support. Together, they form a cohesive unit, reinforcing the community's resilience against violent extremism and mental health challenges.



A Success Story Unfolds: Through the dedication of Mr. Feiswal and the collaboration of the community pillars, the ARIVE Program has become a resounding success. It symbolizes more than just a boxing initiative; it stands as a beacon of hope, empowerment, and resilience. Our community, once divided by fear and misunderstanding, now stands united, ready to face any challenge that may come our way. The ARIVE Program's success story is not just about boxing; it's about the triumph of dialogue over discord, unity over division, and understanding over ignorance. In the ring of life, our community has emerged victorious, thanks to the vision and dedication of Mr. Feiswal and the unwavering support of our community pillars.



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JOURNEY TO UNITY, EMPOWERMENT, AND MENTAL WELL- BEING

The Power of Unity and Empowerment: Under the vibrant sun and amidst the cheers of the spectators, the soccer match became a symbol of unity. Girls from diverse backgrounds and experiences came together on the field, forging connections that transcended societal barriers. In the spirit of healthy competition, they found strength in unity and empowerment, learning that they were not alone but part of a supportive community.

Mental Well-being Takes Center Stage: Mr. Ahmed Famau, the esteemed leader of the Psycho-social Pillar at Lamu Women Alliance, seized this opportunity to engage in peer-to-peer talks with the girls. His discussions delved into crucial topics such as mental health issues and trauma healing. With empathy and understanding, Mr. Famau and his team created a safe space for dialogue. Through these conversations, the young ladies found solace, realizing that their challenges were acknowledged, understood, and surmountable. Armed with newfound knowledge and support, they discovered the strength within themselves to confront and overcome obstacles.



Support, Guidance, and Empowerment: In this open atmosphere of understanding and compassion, Mr. Famau and his team provided vital support and guidance. They shared valuable insights, empowering the young ladies to address their mental health challenges with courage and resilience. The discussions not only dispelled myths surrounding mental health but also instilled a sense of hope, showing the girls that they were capable of navigating life's complexities with grace and determination.

A Heartfelt Appreciation: The success of this transformative event was a testament to the dedication of everyone involved—organizers, volunteers, participants, and esteemed partners. Their collective efforts painted a portrait of a community united in its commitment to empowering its youth. Lamu Central, through initiatives like these, is becoming stronger and more resilient, creating an environment where every young individual can thrive and overcome any obstacles they may face.

A Bright Future Ahead: As the echoes of the soccer match faded away, the impact of this event continued to resonate. The seeds of unity, empowerment, and mental well-being planted on that field were destined to grow into a future where the youth of Lamu Central would face life's challenges with confidence and resilience.





2023



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