

CARE PROGRAM



From
the People of Japan



STRENGTHENING CAPACITY OF GOVERNMENT OF
KENYA AND RESILIENCE OF VULNERABLE BORDER
COMMUNITIES TO ENHANCE PEACE ALONG KENYA
EASTERN BORDER

NEWSLETTER

PREPARED AND DESIGNED
Robert Mwangi
Communications Action Life



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At Action Life Organization, our mission is clear—to empower communities, enhance security, and foster long-term resilience in Kenya's vulnerable border regions. Through strategic partnerships with IOM - UN Migration Kenya and the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), we have made significant strides in rehabilitation, reintegration, countering violent extremism (CVE), community policing, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

Our recent initiatives in Lamu and Garissa Counties have focused on building local capacity, strengthening security collaborations, and ensuring community ownership of peacebuilding efforts. Through validation workshops, training of trainers (TOTs), awareness sessions, and perception surveys, we have engaged stakeholders at all levels—government officials, religious leaders, security actors, youth representatives, and women leaders—to create sustainable, community-driven solutions.

Key Achievements

- ✓ Validation of Reintegration & Community Policing Manuals in Masalani & Faza, ensuring locally relevant and actionable strategies for CVE.
- ✓ Training of Trainers (TOTs), equipping local leaders with the skills to lead rehabilitation, reintegration, and community policing efforts.
- ✓ PSEA Awareness Sessions, empowering communities with knowledge on safe reporting mechanisms and survivor protection.
- ✓ Community Engagement & Policing (CEP) Perception Survey, capturing 2,346 community insights to guide security policy improvements.

Noor Dahir

Executive Director, Action Life Kenya

Inception of the CARE Project – A New Approach to P/CVE and Reintegration in Lamu and Garissa Counties



Action Life Kenya is proud to announce the launch of its newest initiative, the **CARE Project**, in partnership with **IOM – UN Migration**, aimed at tackling radicalization and supporting reintegration efforts in Lamu and Garissa counties. This project is designed to directly address the growing challenges of violent extremism and insecurity that have recently plagued Faza Ward in Lamu East Sub-county and Masalani Ward in Ijara Sub-county, Garissa County.

Understanding the Context: A Region in Crisis

The counties of Lamu and Garissa have witnessed the devastating effects of radicalization and extremist violence, with vulnerable youth often becoming targets for extremist ideologies. These communities have experienced rising insecurity, which has hindered development and the well-being of their people. As the region continues to grapple with these challenges, the CARE Project aims to turn the tide by introducing sustainable, community-led solutions.

The CARE Project: Building a Foundation for Change

The CARE Project focuses on community sensitization, P/CVE (Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism), and reintegration of individuals who have been affected by radicalization. The project seeks to empower local communities with the tools and knowledge necessary to recognize and prevent the spread of extremist ideologies, while also providing pathways for the reintegration of former radicals.

One of the key outcomes of the project will be the creation of a community-led manual for sensitization. This P/CVE and reintegration guide will serve as a valuable resource for local stakeholders, community leaders, and youth groups to understand the complexities of radicalization and how they can play an active role in countering it. The manual will be a comprehensive framework designed to encourage attitudinal shifts in individuals, foster community resilience, and provide counter-narratives to challenge extremist ideologies.

CORE OBJECTIVES OF THE CARE PROJECT

- **Community-Led Sensitization:** The project will involve community members in the creation and dissemination of the manual. This will ensure that the framework reflects local realities, cultural nuances, and the lived experiences of the communities in both Lamu and Garissa. By involving the community from the outset, the project aims to create a sense of ownership and commitment to the process.
- **Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE):** A critical focus of the project is to provide the community with the tools to identify early signs of radicalization and develop strategies to prevent vulnerable youth from falling prey to extremist ideologies. The manual will outline effective methods for engaging at-risk youth and offering alternative pathways to building resilience against radicalization.



- **Reintegration of Former Extremists:** The reintegration aspect of the project focuses on providing support for individuals who have been radicalized and are now seeking to reintegrate into society. This involves addressing the emotional, psychological, and social challenges faced by these individuals and helping them rebuild their lives within their communities.
- **Creating Counter-Narratives and Ideologies:** A significant part of the project will be dedicated to developing counter-narratives that challenge extremist ideologies. This involves engaging with youth and community members to promote alternative messages that foster peace, unity, and inclusivity, creating a compelling contrast to the divisive and harmful rhetoric often used by extremists.



The Process: A Four-Month Timeline

The CARE Project will be implemented over the next four months, focusing on Faza Ward in Lamu East Sub-county and Masalani Ward in Ijara Sub-county. These two areas have been particularly impacted by recent radicalization efforts, making them a priority for intervention. The project will involve:

Community consultations and focus group discussions with local stakeholders, youth, and community leaders to understand the context and develop tailored interventions.

- **Workshops and trainings** for local youth, educators, and religious leaders to enhance their capacity to identify and prevent radicalization.
- **Development of the P/CVE and reintegration manual** that will serve as a practical guide for community-led initiatives in addressing extremism.
- **A soft-approach strategy**, focusing on attitude change, dialogue, and peaceful coexistence as methods to combat radicalization.

Over the coming months, Action Life Kenya will be working closely with local communities in Lamu and Garissa to roll out the CARE Project, and we are excited to see the positive impact it will have on these at-risk communities. This project is just the beginning of a larger effort to create long-lasting peace, promote the reintegration of affected individuals, and ensure that our youth are equipped with the skills and resilience they need to thrive in a peaceful society.

#PCVE #reintegration
#communityempowerment #peacebuilding
#extremism

Why This Matters: A Call for Community Action

The CARE Project is more than just an initiative—it's a movement that seeks to empower communities to take charge of their own futures. By focusing on soft-approach strategies like attitude change, dialogue, and community engagement, the project hopes to foster a sense of ownership in the fight against radicalization.

As Action Life Kenya embarks on this project, we invite all stakeholders, including local leaders, youth, and members of civil society, to join us in this transformative journey. Together, we can create a more resilient, united, and peaceful society, free from the clutches of violent extremism.



Action Life Kenya Launches the CARE Project to Strengthen P/CVE and Reintegration in Masalani - Garissa County



Masalani Ward, Ijara Sub-county, Garissa County – Action Life Organization Kenya proudly hosted an inception meeting for the CARE Project, a groundbreaking initiative funded by IOM – UN Migration to tackle the growing challenges of radicalization and extremist violence in the region.

This four-month initiative seeks to develop a community-led manual designed to enhance Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) efforts while supporting the reintegration of youth affected by radicalization. By engaging local stakeholders, community leaders, and youth representatives, the CARE Project is laying the foundation for sustainable, locally-driven solutions to counter the spread of extremist ideologies.

THE CARE PROJECT: A COMMUNITY-CENTERED APPROACH TO P/CVE AND REINTEGRATION

At its core, the CARE Project prioritizes soft approaches to P/CVE, focusing on attitudinal shifts, community engagement, and counter-narrative development. The project aims to discourage radicalization and prevent the perpetuation of extremist ideologies through:



1. DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY-LED P/CVE & REINTEGRATION MANUAL

One of the key outcomes of this initiative will be a practical and culturally relevant manual tailored for use by local communities, educators, religious leaders, and youth mentors. This manual will provide:

- Guidance on identifying early signs of radicalization
- Strategies for engaging at-risk youth
- Counter-narratives to extremist ideologies
- Approaches for reintegrating individuals who have been radicalized back into society

2. EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH SENSITIZATION & DIALOGUE

The CARE Project will facilitate community dialogues, training sessions, and focus group discussions to raise awareness and equip locals with the skills to prevent extremism. By fostering open discussions, communities can collectively develop localized counter-narratives to challenge extremist propaganda.



3. Reintegration Support for Affected Youth

Many young people who have been influenced by radical ideologies face social stigma and rejection when attempting to reintegrate into their communities. The CARE Project aims to create a supportive reintegration framework that promotes acceptance, rehabilitation, and positive transformation.



Key Outcomes Expected from the CARE Project

- ✓ Strengthened community resilience against radicalization
- ✓ Development of counter-narratives to extremist ideologies
- ✓ Enhanced youth empowerment and alternative livelihood opportunities
- ✓ A well-defined reintegration framework for affected individuals
- ✓ Capacity building for local leaders, religious figures, and educators

Strengthening Community Engagement & Policing: IOM-UN Migration & Action Life Organization Lead a Critical Workshop in Lamu County

Lamu County, Kenya – In a significant step toward enhancing peace, security, and resilience, IOM - UN Migration, in partnership with Action Life Organization, successfully conducted a pivotal workshop on the Community Engagement & Policing (CEP) Perception Survey in Lamu County. This initiative brought together key stakeholders, including:

- ✓ **The Administration** – to reinforce governance structures.
 - ✓ **Security Actors** – to assess and improve policing strategies.
 - ✓ **The County Government of Lamu** – to strengthen local governance in promoting peace.
- This collaborative effort reflects a shared commitment to strengthening the Kenyan government's capacity while building the resilience of vulnerable border communities along Kenya's eastern border.



THE URGENCY FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & POLICING IN LAMU COUNTY

In the spirit of collaboration, we worked closely with Area Chief Jamal and trained Trainers of Trainers (TOTs) to map the region and explore effective solutions during a Joint Planning session. Together, we identified actionable steps towards a more Lamu County remains a critical region in Kenya's broader security and counter-extremism strategy, given its strategic location and history of security threats. Communities in Lamu have experienced:

- Rising security concerns due to violent extremism, radicalization, and cross-border threats.
- Tensions between security forces and local communities, impacting effective policing and community trust.
- Limited structured engagement between authorities and residents, leading to gaps in reporting security concerns and slow responses to emerging threats.

The CEP Perception Survey Workshop was designed to address these concerns, ensuring collaborative, community-driven solutions to policing and security. peaceful and harmonious community:

KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE CEP PERCEPTION SURVEY WORKSHOP



THE WORKSHOP AIMED TO:

1. Assess Perceptions of Policing & Security in Lamu County

Through community-driven discussions, we explored how locals perceive policing, law enforcement efforts, and overall security in their areas. This assessment provided valuable insights into:

- ✓ Levels of trust in security actors and institutions.
- ✓ Effectiveness of community policing strategies.
- ✓ Challenges and barriers to security cooperation between residents and authorities.

2. Strengthen Security-Government-Community Partnerships

By bringing together security actors, government officials, and local communities, the workshop fostered open dialogue and trust-building. Security responses are most effective when locals actively collaborate with authorities, making their voices heard in shaping security policies.

3. Identify Areas for Capacity Building & Policy Recommendations

Findings from the CEP Perception Survey will guide:

- Training programs for security forces on community-centered policing.
- Policy interventions that support inclusive security governance.
- Programs that enhance community reporting and engagement in security matters.





TRAINING ENUMERATORS FOR THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & POLICING (CEP) PERCEPTION SURVEY IN LAMU

As part of an ongoing commitment to enhancing peace and security in Lamu County, Action Life Organization, in partnership with IOM - UN Migration Kenya, successfully conducted a two-day enumerator training focused on the Community Engagement & Policing (CEP) Perception Survey.

This crucial training equipped a team of dedicated enumerators with technical skills and field methodologies to effectively collect community insights using the Kobo Tool, a digital data collection platform.

Through this initiative, we aim to gather critical, community-driven insights that will inform policies and strategies for enhancing security and fostering resilience in Lamu County.



WHY THE CEP PERCEPTION SURVEY MATTERS FOR LAMU COUNTY

Lamu County has faced significant security challenges due to:

- Rising threats of violent extremism and radicalization in border communities.
- Gaps in trust between local communities and security agencies.
- Limited structured engagement between law enforcement and residents, leading to security concerns and slow response times.

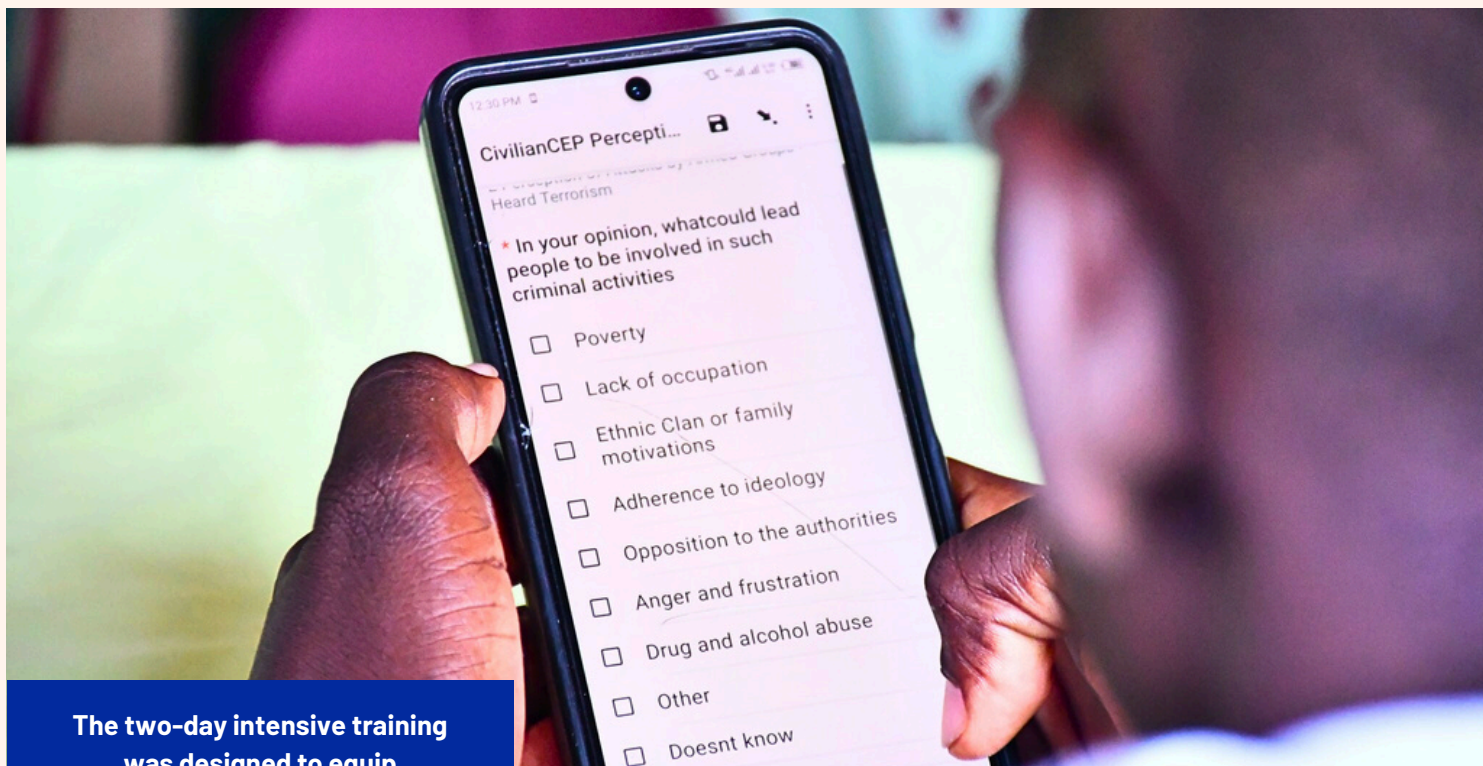
The CEP Perception Survey will bridge these gaps by collecting accurate, first-hand data from community members, ensuring that security measures are inclusive, community-driven, and impactful.



W

hat

THE ENUMERATOR TRAINING COVERED



The two-day intensive training was designed to equip enumerators with the right tools and methodologies to carry out an effective survey process.



What Happens Next? The Data Collection Phase

With our enumerators now fully trained and equipped, the next phase of the initiative is field data collection, where they will:

- ✓ Visit target communities across Lamu County to gather insights on security perceptions, policing effectiveness, and community needs.
- ✓ Engage residents, local leaders, and key stakeholders to ensure inclusive representation in the survey.
- ✓ Use real-time digital data collection tools (KOBO) to ensure accuracy, efficiency, and integrity of the information gathered.

The data collected will provide evidence-based recommendations for:

- Strengthening community-policing relations.
- Improving security responses and interventions.
- Enhancing collaboration between local authorities and communities.

Key Training Components:

- ✦ Understanding Community Engagement & Policing (CEP) – How local communities can play a central role in fostering security and resilience.
 - ✦ Survey Ethics & Effective Community Interaction – Approaching data collection with sensitivity, neutrality, and respect for human rights.
 - ✦ Technical Training on KOBO Tool – Using digital data collection for real-time, accurate, and efficient reporting.
 - ✦ Security & Risk Mitigation During Fieldwork – Ensuring the safety of enumerators while collecting data in diverse communities.
- The practical, hands-on approach of the training prepared enumerators to confidently conduct the CEP Perception Survey across Lamu County, engaging local residents and stakeholders in meaningful dialogue.



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR A SAFER FUTURE

VALIDATION OF THE REHABILITATION, REINTEGRATION & COMMUNITY POLICING TRAINING MANUAL IN FAZA

Faza, Lamu County – Action Life Organization Kenya, in collaboration with IOM - UN Migration Kenya, successfully conducted a Training Manual Validation Workshop on Rehabilitation, Reintegration, and Community Policing in Faza, Lamu East Sub-county. This critical initiative is part of ongoing efforts to combat violent extremism (VE) and strengthen social cohesion along Kenya's eastern border. The workshop brought together government officials, community leaders, security agencies, and key stakeholders to validate a comprehensive training manual designed to enhance community resilience through rehabilitation, reintegration, and community policing strategies.

WHY THIS TRAINING MANUAL MATTERS

The enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment displayed by all participants filled the meeting with an electric sense of purpose. We express our heartfelt gratitude to each and every individual and organization. For years, communities in Lamu and Garissa counties have faced challenges related to violent extremism, insecurity, and radicalization, especially among at-risk youth. A community-driven approach is essential in addressing these challenges, and this training manual provides a structured, action-oriented framework for stakeholders to implement sustainable solutions.

The manual focuses on three critical areas:

1. Rehabilitation & Reintegration

- ✓ Providing structured support for returnees and at-risk youth to help them rebuild their lives.
- ✓ Offering psychosocial support, vocational training, and mentorship to prevent re-radicalization.
- ✓ Strengthening community acceptance and reintegration to reduce stigma and foster inclusion.

2. Community Policing

- ✓ Enhancing collaboration between security agencies and local communities to improve trust and cooperation.
- ✓ Encouraging early warning and response mechanisms to prevent security threats.
- ✓ Promoting community-led safety initiatives that empower citizens to take an active role in maintaining peace.

3. Peace & Social Cohesion

- ✓ Strengthening dialogue, tolerance, and inclusion to counter extremist narratives.
 - ✓ Promoting alternative narratives that emphasize coexistence and non-violence.
 - ✓ Encouraging civic engagement and youth empowerment to foster long-term peace.
- ganization that contributed to the success of this event. Your support has set us on an inspiring path toward a stronger, safer, and more sustainable Lamu County.



The Validation Process & Key Outcomes

The manual validation workshop in Faza provided a platform for expert input, community perspectives, and policy alignment.

Key Outcomes from the Workshop:

- Refinement of the training manual – Stakeholders provided feedback to ensure the manual is practical, culturally relevant, and effective.
- Stronger multi-stakeholder collaboration – The workshop strengthened partnerships between government agencies, community leaders, and security actors.
- Commitment to action – Participants agreed on strategies for rolling out training sessions and integrating the manual into community programs.

“ STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE: VALIDATION OF THE REHABILITATION, REINTEGRATION & COMMUNITY POLICING TRAINING MANUAL IN IJARA, GARISSA COUNTY

Ijara, Garissa County – Action Life Organization Kenya, in collaboration with IOM - UN Migration Kenya, successfully conducted a Training Manual Validation Workshop on Rehabilitation, Reintegration, and Community Policing in Ijara, Garissa County. This initiative marks a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to counter violent extremism (VE) and enhance community safety along Kenya's eastern border. The workshop brought together government officials, community leaders, security personnel, and key stakeholders to review and refine a comprehensive training manual that will serve as a critical tool in strengthening security partnerships, promoting social cohesion, and rehabilitating at-risk individuals.



Why This Initiative Matters

Garissa County has been significantly impacted by violent extremism, insecurity, and radicalization, particularly in border communities like Ijara. Addressing these challenges requires a community-centered approach that prioritizes rehabilitation, reintegration, and proactive policing strategies.

The training manual focuses on three critical pillars aimed at building trust, resilience, and long-term security solutions:

1. Rehabilitation & Reintegration

- ✓ Providing structured support for returnees and at-risk youth to help them rebuild their lives.
- ✓ Offering psychosocial support, vocational training, and mentorship to prevent re-radicalization.
- ✓ Strengthening community acceptance and reintegration to foster social inclusion.



2. Community Policing

- ✓ Enhancing collaboration between security agencies and local communities to improve safety measures.
- ✓ Promoting early warning systems and intelligence-sharing mechanisms to prevent security threats.
- ✓ Encouraging community-led safety initiatives that empower civilians to take an active role in security.

3. Peace & Social Cohesion

- ✓ Fostering dialogue, tolerance, and inclusivity to counter extremist narratives.
- ✓ Promoting alternative narratives that encourage coexistence and non-violence.
- ✓ Encouraging civic engagement and youth empowerment as tools for sustainable peace.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: ACTION LIFE ORGANIZATION AND IOM - UN MIGRATION KENYA LEAD PSEA TRAINING IN FAZA



Faza, Lamu County – Action Life Organization, in collaboration with IOM - UN Migration Kenya, successfully conducted a Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) training in Faza, Lamu County. This significant initiative was graced by Hon. Tashriffah Abubakar, County Executive Committee Member (CECM) of the Lamu County Government, whose leadership and support reinforced the importance of safeguarding vulnerable individuals and promoting community awareness on PSEA.

This training marked a crucial step in fostering safer communities, ensuring that all beneficiaries of humanitarian and development programs understand their rights, recognize exploitation and abuse, and know the appropriate reporting mechanisms.

Why PSEA Matters

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) remains a serious global issue, particularly in communities facing economic, security, and social vulnerabilities. It is essential to build strong protection systems that safeguard individuals from all forms of exploitation and empower them to seek justice and support.

Through this initiative, Action Life Organization and IOM - UN Migration Kenya are committed to:

- ◆ Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by raising awareness and fostering accountability.
- ◆ Protecting vulnerable groups, including women, children, and marginalized individuals.
- ◆ Empowering communities to recognize and report violations without fear.

Key Areas Covered During the Training

The PSEA training in Faza focused on three critical aspects aimed at building community resilience and strengthening protective systems:

1. Understanding Sexual Exploitation, Abuse & Harassment

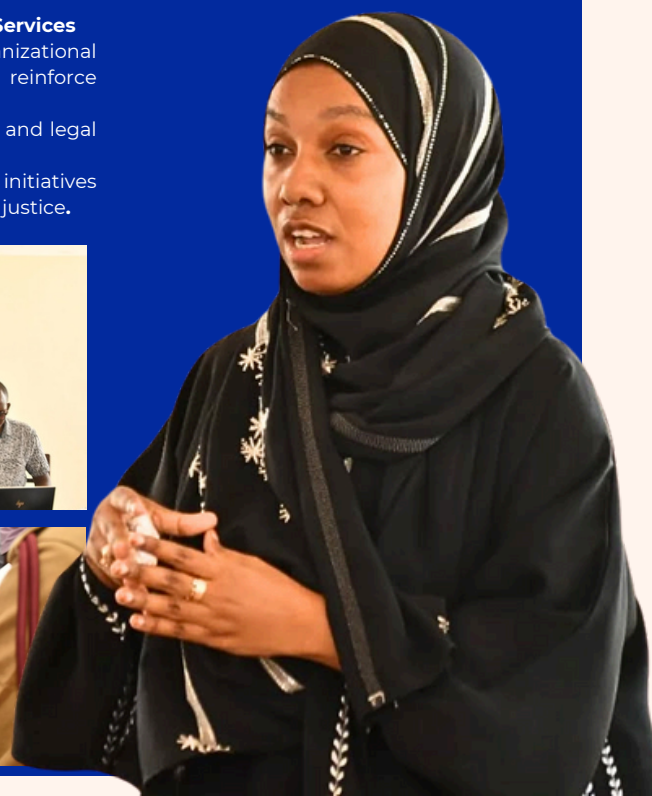
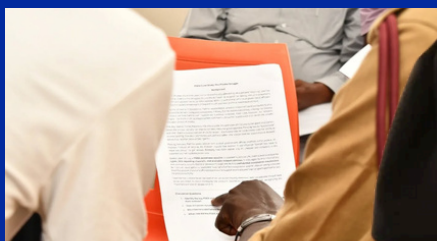
- ✓ Defining sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH) to help participants identify inappropriate behaviors.
- ✓ Discussing root causes, societal impacts, and survivor experiences to foster community awareness.
- ✓ Addressing power imbalances and the responsibilities of organizations and community leaders.

2. Responsibilities & Reporting Mechanisms

- ✓ Equipping participants with safe and confidential reporting channels to report cases of SEA.
- ✓ Emphasizing the role of local authorities, organizations, and community leaders in enforcing prevention measures.
- ✓ Strengthening bystander intervention strategies, ensuring community members can safely report and prevent abuses.

3. Consequences & Victim Support Services

- ✓ Outlining legal and organizational consequences for perpetrators to reinforce accountability.
- ✓ Highlighting psychosocial support and legal assistance available to survivors.
- ✓ Encouraging community-driven initiatives to support survivors and advocate for justice.



BUILDING BRIDGES FOR PEACE: A TRANSFORMATIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TRAINING IN FAZA ISLAND

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES, STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE

Faza Island, Lamu County – A significant milestone in community-led peacebuilding has been achieved as Action Life Organization Kenya, in collaboration with IOM – UN Migration Kenya and the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC), successfully conducted a Community Engagement Manual Training for Trainers of Trainers (TOTs) in Faza Island.

This intensive program brought together local leaders, security stakeholders, and community representatives to equip them with rehabilitation, reintegration, and community policing strategies that will foster peace and resilience against violent extremism (VE).

The training marks a historic step in transforming communities affected by insecurity by empowering individuals to take ownership of peacebuilding and social cohesion.

DAY 1: LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

The opening day of the training focused on understanding the root causes of violent extremism and building a strategic, community-driven response. Participants engaged in deep discussions on rehabilitation, reintegration, and security collaboration, setting the stage for an impactful knowledge-sharing process.

Key Areas of Focus:

✓ Rehabilitation & Reintegration:

- ✓ Emphasizing a compassionate, evidence-based approach to supporting returnees as they transition back into society.
- ✓ Providing psychosocial support and mentorship to at-risk youth to prevent recidivism.
- ✓ Exploring economic empowerment opportunities to help reintegrated individuals become self-reliant.

✓ Community Policing & Trust-Building:

- ✓ Strengthening cooperation between security agencies and local communities to enhance intelligence-sharing and crime prevention.
- ✓ Encouraging dialogue and collaboration between law enforcement and civilians to eliminate fear and foster mutual respect.

✓ Sustainable Change Through Capacity Building:

- ✓ Equipping Trainers of Trainers (TOTs) with skills to cascade knowledge to grassroots networks.
- ✓ Encouraging locally-led initiatives that promote peace and inclusion.
- ✓ Strengthening community resilience by addressing historical grievances and reinforcing social bonds.



DAY 2: TRANSFORMING KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION



Impact & Way Forward: A Future Rooted in Peace

The second day of training was inspiring and action-oriented, as participants delved deeper into community engagement, social cohesion, and transformative success stories.

Key Highlights from Day 2:

- ✓ **Community Engagement & Social Cohesion:**
 - ✓ Understanding how unity, trust, and collaboration can dismantle radicalization networks.
 - ✓ Practical strategies for resolving community divisions and fostering inclusion.
 - ✓ Promoting interfaith and intergenerational dialogue to strengthen social bonds.
- ✓ **Success Stories of Reformed Individuals:**
 - ✓ Firsthand accounts of former extremists who have successfully reintegrated into society.
 - ✓ Demonstrating that rehabilitation and reintegration work not just as theories but as life-changing realities.
 - ✓ Encouraging returnees to become ambassadors of peace in their own communities.
- ✓ **Peer Education & Mentorship:**
 - ✓ Empowering reformed individuals to guide youth away from violent pathways.
 - ✓ Establishing mentorship programs where experienced leaders help at-risk youth build meaningful, productive lives.
 - ✓ Using storytelling and real-life examples to inspire change and counter extremist narratives.

This training has ignited a movement—one that will see local leaders and security actors working together to ensure that rehabilitation and reintegration efforts are effective, sustainable, and deeply rooted in community values.

- ◆ TOTs are now equipped with the tools and skills to drive change in their communities.
- ◆ Returnees have new avenues for support, mentorship, and inclusion.
- ◆ Local security agencies and community members have strengthened their collaboration and trust.

This initiative is a testament to the power of collective action in countering violent extremism. Through knowledge-sharing, mentorship, and proactive peacebuilding strategies, we are not just preventing violence—we are reclaiming our future.



From
the People of Japan



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: PSEA POLICY SENSITIZATION IN MASALANI, GARISSA COUNTY

Masalani, Garissa County – In a bold and transformative effort to combat sexual exploitation and abuse, Action Life Organization, in partnership with IOM - UN Migration Kenya, successfully conducted a Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Policy Community Sensitization Awareness Session in Masalani.

This impactful event aimed to educate, empower, and mobilize the community to stand against sexual abuse, strengthen reporting mechanisms, and ensure survivors receive the support they deserve. Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) remain critical challenges in vulnerable communities, where lack of awareness, stigma, and fear often silence victims. Through this session, participants were equipped with the knowledge and tools to recognize, report, and respond to cases of SEA, reinforcing the importance of a safe, respectful, and empowered society.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SENSITIZATION SESSION

◆ Understanding Sexual Exploitation, Abuse & Harassment

- ✓ We broke down the key definitions and examples of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH) to help participants identify and prevent such cases in their community.
- ✓ Discussions centered on power dynamics, recognizing inappropriate behavior, and ensuring community-led prevention strategies are put in place.

◆ Responsibilities & Reporting Mechanisms

- ✓ The session provided practical guidance on how and where to report cases of SEA.
- ✓ Participants learned about confidentiality and protection mechanisms for survivors and whistleblowers to ensure safe and effective reporting.
- ✓ We emphasized the role of community members, leaders, and institutions in creating a zero-tolerance culture for SEA.

◆ Consequences & Victim Support Services

- ✓ We addressed the legal consequences of SEA, reinforcing the need for accountability and justice.
- ✓ Survivors were informed about available support systems, including counseling services, medical care, and legal assistance.
- ✓ We highlighted the importance of community solidarity in ensuring that survivors are supported, not stigmatized.



Building Resilient Communities: Community Engagement Manual Training for Trainers (TOTs) in Masalani, Garissa County

A Step Towards Sustainable Peace & Rehabilitation

Masalani, Garissa County – In a significant step toward peacebuilding, community resilience, and countering violent extremism, Action Life Organization, in collaboration with IOM - UN Migration Kenya and the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC-Kenya), successfully launched the Community Engagement Manual Training for Trainers (TOTs).

This transformative training aims to equip local leaders with the necessary skills in rehabilitation, reintegration, and community policing, fostering a safer, more inclusive, and self-sustaining society. The training focuses on empowering community trainers who will cascade the knowledge to grassroots networks, ensuring long-term impact and community-driven solutions.



Day 2: Strengthening Social Cohesion & Community-Led Solutions

Day 2 of the Community Engagement Manual Training for Trainers (TOTs) in Masalani, Garissa County, was a deep dive into practical strategies that will shape the future of community engagement and social transformation.

Key Highlights from Day 2:

✓ Community Engagement & Social Cohesion

- ✓ Participants explored effective community engagement strategies, focusing on trust-building, inclusivity, and collaboration.
- ✓ Addressing community divisions and creating safe spaces where all voices are valued and heard.
- ✓ Emphasizing that a united community is a resilient community, capable of standing against external threats and fostering long-term peace.

✓ Importance of Community Policing

- ✓ Reinforcing the idea that security is a shared responsibility between law enforcement and local communities.
- ✓ Open dialogues on how to prevent crime, reduce radicalization risks, and strengthen trust between citizens and security agencies.
- ✓ Encouraging communities to take proactive steps in ensuring safety through local initiatives and cooperation.

✓ Creation of Work Plans & Implementation Strategies

- ✓ Trainers developed practical work plans tailored to their specific community challenges.
- ✓ These plans will guide the implementation of engagement programs, ensuring tangible and lasting change.
- ✓ Setting up monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track the impact of initiatives.

✓ Peer Education & Mentorship

- ✓ Reformed individuals shared personal success stories, proving that rehabilitation and reintegration are possible.
- ✓ Encouraging a peer-to-peer mentorship approach, where former at-risk youth guide others towards positive alternatives.
- ✓ Empowering young people with new opportunities that deter them from engaging in violence, crime, or extremism.



Why This Training Matters

◆ Rehabilitation & Reintegration

- ✓ A compassionate, evidence-based approach to supporting returnees disengaging from violent groups.
- ✓ Helping individuals rebuild their lives, access psychosocial care, and reconnect with their communities in meaningful ways.

◆ Community Policing

- ✓ Strengthening collaboration between security actors and community members to enhance peace and trust.
- ✓ Empowering communities to play an active role in preventing radicalization and ensuring their own safety.

◆ Sustainable Impact

- ✓ By training trainers (TOTs), this knowledge will reach and empower broader community networks, ensuring local ownership of transformation efforts.
- ✓ Encouraging self-led community initiatives that address the root causes of conflict.



A CALL TO ACTION: OWNING THE CHANGE

This training is not just about learning—it's about taking action. Every participant left the session with a renewed commitment to leading community transformation efforts.

What's Next?

- ✓ TOTs will return to their communities and implement what they've learned.
- ✓ Engagement sessions, mentorship programs, and community dialogues will be launched across different areas.
- ✓ Collaboration between TOTs, community leaders, and law enforcement will strengthen peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts.



From
the People of Japan



IOM
UN MIGRATION



ACTION LIFE
Partnering lives, creating hope



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & INSIGHTS

1. Validation of Reintegration & Community Policing Training Manuals

✦ Masalani & Faza Workshops brought together government officials, religious scholars, women and youth leaders, and security representatives to review the training manual.

✦ Key concerns included:

- Reintegration challenges for former extremist group members.
- Psychosocial support and trauma-informed care for returnees and their families.
- Economic empowerment as a key factor in preventing re-radicalization.

✓ Outcome: The manual was unanimously endorsed for implementation in community-led CVE efforts.

2. Training of Trainers (TOT) in Masalani & Faza

✦ Over 50 trainers equipped with skills on rehabilitation, CVE, and reintegration.

✦ Key training modules:

- Community Policing to build trust between security agencies and citizens.
- Economic Empowerment programs to reduce youth vulnerability to radicalization.
- Feedback & Evaluation Mechanisms to track reintegration success.

✓ Impact: TOTs are now cascading knowledge to grassroots leaders, ensuring sustainable change.

3. PSEA Awareness Sessions in Faza & Masalani

✦ Over 150 participants engaged, including community leaders, youth, and security officers,

✦ Discussions covered:

- Understanding SEA & Harassment through case studies & animation videos.
- Safe Reporting Mechanisms, including anonymous hotlines and community-led referrals.
- Commitment to Action, with community leaders signing a pledge to uphold PSEA principles.

✓ Outcome: Increased community awareness & reporting commitment, reducing exploitation risks.

4. Community Engagement & Policing (CEP) Perception Survey

✦ 2,346 interviews conducted across Lamu & Garissa, assessing security, trust, and reintegration

✦ Key findings:

- 96.3% participation rate in the survey, reflecting strong community engagement.
- Majority expressed concerns over trust in law enforcement and the need for improved police-community relations.
- High acceptance of community-led CVE strategies, such as Nyumba Kumi initiatives and religious leader involvement.

✓ Outcome: Data-driven recommendations for enhancing community-police collaboration and strengthening border security initiatives.

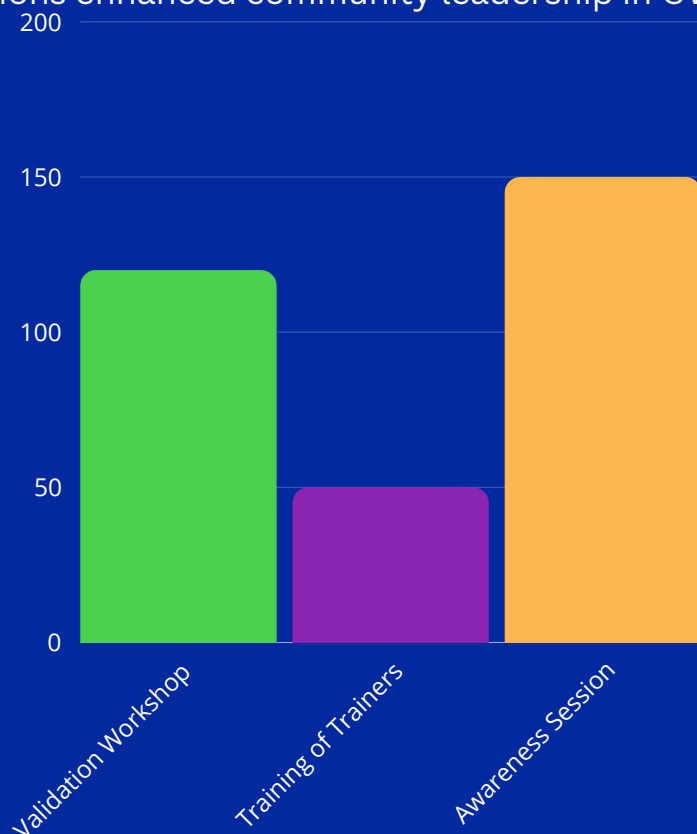
Data Visualizations & Impact Metrics

1. Participation in TOT & PSEA Sessions

 Figure 1: Number of Participants Trained in Various Programs

Activity	Location	Participants Trained
Validation Workshops	Masalani & Faza	120
Training of Trainers (TOT)	Masalani & Faza	50
PSEA Awareness Sessions	Masalani & Faza	150

 Impact: These sessions enhanced community leadership in CVE & PSEA interventions.

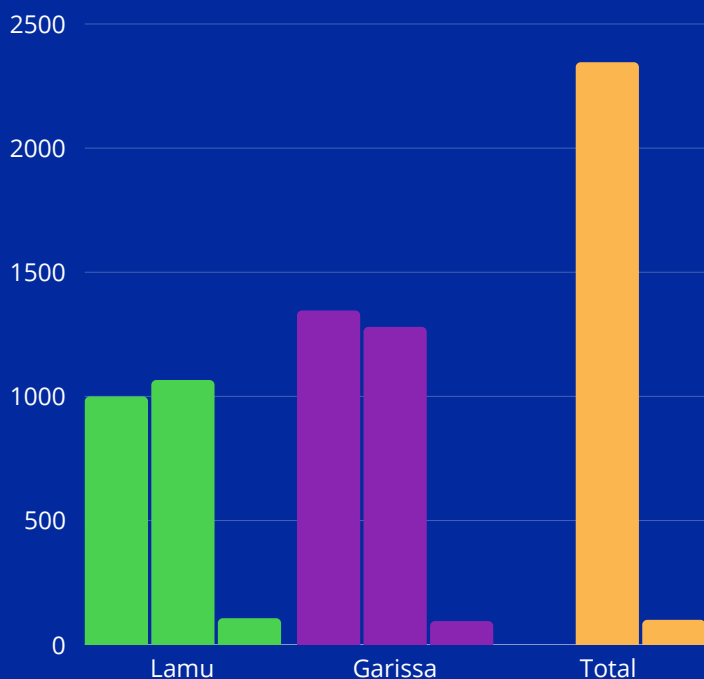


2. CEP Perception Survey Response Rate

 **Figure 2: Community Engagement & Policing (CEP) Survey Completion**

County	Targeted Responses	Achieved Responses	Completion Rate
Lamu	1000	1066	106.6%
Gaissa	1346	1280	95.1%
Total	2346	2346	100%

 **Outcome:** Successful data collection for informed decision-making in security & reintegration strategies.



Next Steps & Sustainability Plans

- **Rolling Out Community Training Sessions**
 - TOTs will begin training local community members on CVE, Reintegration, and Community Policing.
- **Strengthening Community-Led Security Initiatives**
 - Expanding Nyumba Kumi and youth-led peace initiatives to enhance public safety.
- **Enhancing Mental Health & Economic Support for Returnees**
 - Partnering with local businesses & TVET centers to provide vocational
- **Improving PSEA Awareness & Reporting Mechanisms**
 - Launching radio programs & community dialogues to increase reporting of SEA cases.





2025

ISSUE 01

