

## A LEARNING AND WORKING REPORT



### A MENTORSHIP TRAINING

**Theme:** *Effects and Causes of Conflict, Violent Extremism and Radicalization of Young People in Kamukunji, Eastleigh.*

### REPORT SUBMITTED TO

Mohammed Abdirizak

Executive Director

Agents of Peace

2021



## OVERVIEW

Children are vulnerable to radicalization for a wide range of factors that are not fully understood by both practitioners and professionals some of the factors are; marginalization either by state or community, lack of access to proper educations, poverty, financial inducements, exposure ideology and search for identity. As the world witnessed that many young children around the world have been recruited by extremist groups, where the boys were used as combatant and forced to attack their own families; some were given weapons like guns to attack people while girls were forced to get married. In the year 2015 United Nation verified 274 cases having been recruited by Islamic state in the Iraq and Levant. The UN verified that there are centers in the country which provided military training to at least 124 boys between 10-15 years of age.

The abducted children are forced to act as spies, transport military equipment and supplies, plant explosive devices as well as to actively engage in attacks. Children recruitment is also practiced by the Al-Shabaab in Kenya and Somalia. Some children join the terrorist group with their own will without being forced. And this is mainly brought by children experiencing family problems, children dropping out of school. Some of effective tools to protect children from the recruitment of violent extremist groups in the context of radicalization is through prevention.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's General Comment No. 10 draws attention to the need for countries to consider prevention when tackling the issue of child criminality, stating that 'a juvenile justice policy without a set of measures aimed at preventing juvenile delinquency suffers from serious shortcomings'. This is because preventing crime is better for children, their families, their communities and society as a whole.

## The Proceedings

Agent of Peace supported by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS) undertook a training program for 12 schools both Primary and High Schools, Agents of Peace trained them in building peace and resilience to violent extremism and terrorism attacks, and helping vulnerable groups and individuals particularly youth and teenagers on identifying radical narratives and how to respond in a soft way, and being resilient the long-term effects of violent extremism and conflict for sustainable development. The emphasis on young students was to identify the issues that lead them to be attracted to crime, drugs and radical groups in society particularly young boys and what can be done by the society composed of schools, teachers, community elders and the government in prevention of these issues.

The training objective was to impart knowledge and skills on how to prevent violent extremism and radicalization while aiming at improving 'Peaceful coexistence' managing conflict and preventing any forms of violent in their schools, homes and work as they implement to serve their community in their respective vicinity. The training was informed by a consultative meeting with agent of peace volunteers and some stakeholders who Pointed out some of the concerns pertaining peaceful coexistence, peacebuilding and conflict management, the relevant topics which were relevant and related to Preventing and countering violent



extremism to the Peace agents and it will add value to their work as the country is on the process of preparing for forth coming general election in early august 2022.

### **Training Duration & Methodology**

The mentorship training commenced sin the month of 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 through to the month of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 reaching out to 6 schools.

Each school underwent a day long training. The training approach entailed the use of; presentations, application of group discussions/activities, question and answer sessions, case studies and scenario building. The participants were taught how to undertake a Participatory Systemic Inquiry which is an approach to learning and deliberation that involves the participants in generating profound insights into the dynamics of the systems that they are trying to change. Some of the things that were highlighted by the participants to have stood out were, understanding that definitions are not the same and could vary based on different perspective. Also, it came out the extremism does not necessarily mean terrorism. It is possible to be extreme about ideologies one believes in without necessarily being violent.

### **Causes of violent extremism on children**

During the training, the facilitator engaged the young minds in citing the diverse causes of extremism among children. Some of the core causes that were raised included, but not limited to;

- 1) Fanfare: Children being promised adventure and freedom by the extremist groups.
- 2) School Drop Outs: Many children drop out of school while they are still at a young age, this lead to children being drug dealer's and some joining extremist groups and becoming terrorist.
- 3) Organized Groups: The existence of well-organized violent extremist groups with compelling discourses and effectively programs that are providing services such as employment in exchange of membership. Thus telling young children that they have jobs to offer hence leading to children becoming terrorist.
- 4) Discrimination and mistreatment: Some children are being discriminated or mistreated either by their parents at home or at school because he/she isn't performing well in studies. This leads to the child running away from both home and school to look for better life and hence leads to him/her joining extremist groups.
- 5) Inquisitiveness among children: By virtue of not knowing what extremism is, the children go ahead and make trials not knowing the long term consequences

### **Key Achievement**

- 1) The training program enhanced the knowledge, capacity and confidence of two hundred and thirty-three (233) young people who are peace ambassadors to address and respond to issues and areas revolving around P/CVE activities in Kamukunji sub-county in Nairobi County.

- Two (2) teachers from each school from twelve (12) schools who were engaged as patrons were also engaged on modalities and best practices of operationalizing children clubs to be spaces where their confidence can be enhanced and for shared learning and peer support.

### Pictorials





**ROSA LUXEMBURG FOUNDATION TANZANIA**