



**REPORT OF THE TRAINING OF TARGETED LOCAL COMMUNITIES FROM THE
MOYALE BORDER AREA OF KENYA AND ETHIOPIA ON PREVENTING AND
COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM
MOYALE TOWN, KENYA**

15TH-18TH APRIL 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A training workshop of targeted local communities from the Moyale border area of Kenya and Ethiopia on preventing and countering violent extremism and terrorism was held from 15th – 18th April 2025 in Moyale, Kenya. Convened by the Governance, Peace and Security Unit in collaboration with the National Counter Terrorism Centre of Kenya, the Horn of Africa Youth Network (HoAYN) and Search for Common Ground, the training workshop was necessitated by the recent security challenges in the border area, most notably – an influx of militias and terrorist groups in February 2025. The training workshop was also conducted in response to the Decision of the 18th Meeting of the COMESA Ministers of Foreign Affairs, which, ***“Emphasised the need for an integrated approach across the peace and development nexus that addresses the underlying causes of conflict in the COMESA region including violent extremism.”***

With a total of 78 (59 males and 19 females) participants, the training primarily sought to strengthen the capacities of local community stakeholders on preventing and countering violent extremism from various respective thematic lenses, including governance, peace, and security. The training further intended to enhance the skills and competencies of local communities, increase their awareness of P/CVE strategies, and strengthen their networking and collaboration on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) initiatives. The training structured its agenda around six thematic pillars: - foundational P/CVE concepts, regional threat assessments including experience sharing from the National Counter Terrorism Center of Uganda, youth and gender inclusion in P/CVE, early warning in P/CVE, good governance principles, and cross-country collaboration.

The training concluded with the following key outcomes, along with the below outlined recommendations:

The key outcomes included the following:

- a. Participants from Kenya and Ethiopia mapped a way forward with country-specific strategies aimed at navigating and countering their unique challenges and dynamics in terms of addressing violent extremism and terrorism at the community levels.
- b. Potential areas of collaboration in the prevention/countering of violent extremism in the Moyale border area were identified by participants from both Kenya and Ethiopia, including; intelligence report sharing and the strengthening of existing border peace committees.
- c. Recommendations for fast tracking P/CVE efforts in the Moyale border area were proffered to COMESA and its partners, including; the provision of financial and technical support for grassroots initiatives and the speeding up of the signing of the Simplified Trade Regime (STR).

The following recommendations were specifically made for implementation by the Kenya and Ethiopia Governments and included:

Kenya Government	Ethiopia Government
✓ Creation of a one-stop border digital platform where intelligence reports are shared among the interested parties especially from the security sectors. ✓ Modernising surveillance at the strategic border entry points. ✓ Gazettement of the other three border corridors (that is Sololo-Mio, Dukana-Dilo, and Forole-Dirre, in order to scale down challenges occasioned by porous border points). ✓ Coming up with structured ways of mining by artisanal miners to work freely.	✓ Establishment of community-based early warning and Anticipatory Action systems. ✓ Launch of P/CVE education in schools and community centers. ✓ Empowering youth through job creation and civic engagement. ✓ Involving traditional and religious leaders in peacebuilding efforts. ✓ Organisation of culture and sport festivals regularly in the border area. ✓ Initiation of media campaigns using multi-language to enhance efforts in P/CVE.