

COMMUNITY-BASED COUNTER-RADICALIZATION AND YOUTH RESILIENCE TO VIOLENT EXTREMISM: EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FROM MANDERA COUNTY, KENYA

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Abstract

This study examines the effectiveness of community-based counter-radicalization programs in mitigating extremist sympathies and involvement among youth in Mandera County, Kenya. The county remains highly vulnerable to violent extremism due to its proximity to Somalia and recurrent cross-border incursions by al-Shabaab. The study employed a sequential explanatory mixed-methods design. It integrated quantitative survey data with qualitative insights from interviews conducted with youth participants, community leaders, and security stakeholders. A total of 120 respondents were selected through stratified purposive sampling to capture diverse perspectives across program sites. The findings indicate that areas with higher program coverage exhibit significantly lower levels of extremist sympathies and reduced engagement in radicalized activities. In particular, youth participation in economic empowerment interventions such as skills development and livelihood support etc. was strongly associated with enhanced resilience to extremist recruitment. This underscores the role of socio-economic inclusion in strengthening protective factors. Qualitative evidence further highlights the importance of mentorship, community engagement, and social cohesion in shaping positive youth trajectories and reinforcing local resistance to extremist narratives. The overall evidence suggests that community-based counter-radicalization initiatives play a critical complementary role to formal security-led approaches. The study concludes that strengthening institutional support, ensuring program sustainability, and scaling up economic empowerment components are essential for enhancing the long-term effectiveness of counter-radicalization efforts in high-risk border regions.

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1 Introduction

Terrorism has profoundly shaped everyday life in parts of northern Kenya for more than a decade, with Mandera County occupying a particularly central position in this experience. Its extensive and porous border with Somalia, combined with recurrent cross-border incursions, has exposed the

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county to frequent attacks, ambushes, and intimidation attributed to al-Shabaab, with security incidents fluctuating but peaking at various points in recent years [1]. For many residents, daily life is characterized by a dual burden: the persistent threat of militant violence alongside an intensified state security presence that, while intended to enhance protection, has at times strained relations between communities and security actors [12]. These localized experiences are analytically significant because they shape community perceptions of security interventions and directly influence how prevention and counter-radicalization efforts are received on the ground [1, 12].

In response to these dynamics, programmes operating at the community level, commonly referred to as community-based counter-radicalization or terrorism-prevention interventions, seek to address the underlying drivers that increase youth vulnerability to recruitment by violent extremist groups. Such initiatives typically combine awareness-raising activities, interfaith or civic dialogue forums, psychosocial support, and gatekeeper training, alongside economic empowerment measures such as vocational skills development and small business support, which are central to this study [11]. Rather than positioning communities as extensions of the formal security apparatus, these interventions aim to strengthen local resilience and social cohesion. Evidence from other contexts suggests that their effectiveness depends heavily on local ownership, trust-building, and careful programme design, as poorly implemented approaches risk reinforcing stigmatization or generating unintended harms [11, 2].

Kenya-specific research, however, presents mixed findings regarding the impact of such interventions. While some evaluations report positive short-term outcomes, including increased awareness, improved reporting mechanisms, and stronger engagement between community leaders and programme implementers etc., these gains are frequently undermined by limited geographic reach, weak monitoring systems, and difficulties in sustaining impact over time [8]. Scholarly analyses further warn that community-based programmes may become subsumed within counterinsurgency logics that prioritize rapid results, surveillance, or intelligence gathering over long-term social investment, thereby eroding community trust [10]. This divergence between programme objectives and lived community experiences helps explain why certain interventions reduce extremist sympathies in localized settings yet fail to generate durable, county-wide change.

Economic marginalization remains one of the most consistently identified structural drivers of youth vulnerability to violent extremism. Young people lacking access to stable and dignified livelihoods are more likely to perceive recruitment overtures by extremist groups as appealing or at least understandable. Where programmes incorporate credible skills training or income-generating support, participants often report improved life prospects and reduced susceptibility to extremist narratives [2]. Yet implementation remains uneven: not all communities receive comparable opportunities, and interventions characterized by short-term training, weak market linkages, or limited post-training mentorship frequently fail to translate skills into sustainable livelihoods [8, 2]. Such disparities are particularly salient in Mandera County, where structural conditions and programme intensity vary considerably across wards.

Against this backdrop, this study focuses on two analytically and practically significant dimensions of community-based counter-radicalization programmes: the breadth of programme reach (programme coverage) and the depth of youth engagement in economic empowerment activities. These dimensions are readily operationalized and correspond directly to key outcomes at both the attitudinal and behavioural levels, namely, extremist sympathies and involvement in extremist-related activities. Examining the relationship between programme coverage and youth attitudes, as well as between economic participation and behavioural involvement, enables a more precise assessment of whether expanding reach or strengthening economic components is more likely to reduce vulnerability to violent extremism. This distinction is critical, as programme reach without substantive content risks producing superficial awareness gains, while economic opportunities delivered at limited scale may benefit individuals without altering broader community dynamics. Empirical attention to both dimensions is therefore essential for informing policy decisions and investment in interventions capable of producing sustained and meaningful impact in high-risk border contexts such as Mandera County.

1.1 Purpose and Objectives of the Study

The purpose of this study was to assess whether community-based counter-radicalization programs in Mandera County generate measurable reductions in youth radicalization. Specifically, the study focused on program dimensions that can be empirically observed and directly linked to youth-level outcomes, in order to inform policy decisions on which intervention components warrant expansion and sustained investment. Two measurable objectives guided the analysis:

- 1.1.1 To examine the relationship between the coverage of community-based counter radicalization programs and the level of extremist sympathies among youth in Mandera County.
- 1.1.2 To determine the relationship between youth participation in economic empowerment activities within community-based counter-radicalization programs and their involvement in extremist-related activities in Mandera County.

1.2 Hypotheses

The study tested the following hypotheses:

- 1.2.1 Hypothesis 1 (H_1): There is a statistically significant negative correlation between program coverage and the level of extremist sympathies among youth in Mandera County, such that higher program coverage is associated with lower extremist sympathies.
- 1.2.2 Null Hypothesis 1 (H_{01}): There is no statistically significant correlation between program coverage and extremist sympathies among youth in Mandera County.
- 1.2.3 Hypothesis 2 (H_2): There is a statistically significant negative correlation between youth participation in economic empowerment activities within community-based counter-radicalization programs and their involvement in extremist-related activities in Mandera County, such that greater participation is associated with lower involvement.
- 1.2.4 Null Hypothesis 2 (H_{02}): There is no statistically significant correlation between participation in economic empowerment activities and youth involvement in extremist-related activities in Mandera County.

1.3 Theoretical Frameworks

Understanding youth radicalization and the effectiveness of community-based counter-radicalization programs in Mandera County requires a theoretical framework that captures both social processes and structural conditions shaping behaviour. This study draws on two complementary perspectives - Social Learning Theory and Relative Deprivation Theory - to explain pathways into radicalization and the mechanisms through which community-based interventions may reduce vulnerability among youth.

Social Learning Theory, advanced by Albert Bandura (1977), posits that behaviour is acquired through observation, imitation, and reinforcement within social environments. Individuals - particularly young people - learn attitudes and behaviours by observing significant others and evaluating the perceived rewards or sanctions associated with those behaviours. Applied to counter-radicalization, the theory suggests that exposure to positive role models, such as community elders, teachers, mentors, and peer leaders, can foster prosocial norms and reduce receptivity to extremist narratives. Program components including mentorship initiatives, community dialogues, and structured youth activities create spaces where constructive behaviours are modelled and reinforced. The principal strength of Social Learning Theory lies in its emphasis on social influence and non-coercive pathways to behavioural change. However, it places limited attention on broader structural constraints, such as poverty or marginalization, that may shape vulnerability. Despite this limitation, the theory provides a strong basis for examining how program coverage influences youth attitudes, particularly levels of extremist sympathies.

Relative Deprivation Theory, originally articulated by John C. Davies (1962), complements this social perspective by focusing on the structural and psychological conditions that can motivate radicalization. The theory argues that perceived disparities between expectations and actual life conditions generate frustration, which may manifest in political violence or support for extremist movements. In northern Kenya, where youth experience chronic unemployment, economic exclusion, and limited upward mobility, such perceptions of deprivation can heighten the appeal of extremist ideologies. Community-based counter-radicalization programs that incorporate vocational training, entrepreneurship support, and income-generating activities seek to reduce these perceived gaps by offering tangible economic alternatives. The strength of Relative Deprivation Theory lies in its attention to socio-economic drivers of radicalization; however, its reliance on subjective perceptions of deprivation presents measurement challenges. Nonetheless, it provides a compelling theoretical foundation for assessing how participation in economic empowerment activities relates to youth involvement in extremist-related behaviours.

Taken together, these theories offer a complementary and integrated lens for analysing radicalization and prevention. Social Learning Theory explains how youth attitudes and behaviours are shaped through social interaction and exposure, while Relative Deprivation Theory clarifies why certain youth may be drawn toward extremist groups in contexts of perceived inequality and exclusion. This combined framework directly informs the study's objectives by justifying the examination of both programmes reach (as a mechanism influencing attitudes) and economic empowerment participation (as a mechanism influencing behaviour). By integrating social and structural explanations, the framework supports a more comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of community-based counter-radicalization programs in Mandera County.

2 Methodology

This study adopted a sequential explanatory mixed-methods design, integrating quantitative and qualitative approaches to assess the effectiveness of community-based counter-radicalization programs in Mandera County. The design enabled the study to first examine statistical relationships between program characteristics and youth radicalization outcomes, and subsequently to explore the contextual and implementation factors underlying these patterns through qualitative inquiry.

The target population comprised youth participants, community leaders, and security stakeholders directly involved in or engaged with counter-radicalization programs in the county. Youth constituted the primary unit of analysis, given their heightened vulnerability to radicalization, while community leaders and security personnel contributed contextual perspectives on program reach, implementation dynamics, and local security conditions. Stratified purposive sampling was employed to ensure representation across wards with active programs and to capture variation in age, gender, and social background. In total, 120 respondents participated in the study, including 80 youth, 25 community leaders, and 15 security stakeholders, allowing for both breadth and depth of insight.

Data were collected through structured questionnaires and semi-structured interviews. The questionnaires captured both independent and dependent variables. Program coverage was operationalized using a composite index incorporating exposure to program activities, frequency of participation, and perceived community reach. Youth participation in economic empowerment activities was measured through indicators of attendance, duration of engagement, and self-reported skills acquisition. Extremist sympathies were assessed using Likert-scale items measuring agreement with extremist narratives, while involvement in extremist-related activities was captured through a composite of self-reports, proxy indicators, and available recorded incidents. Semi-structured interviews with community leaders and program implementers provided qualitative insights into program design, delivery challenges, and perceived impacts, enabling deeper interpretation of the quantitative results.

Quantitative data were analysed using descriptive statistics and Pearson's correlation coefficients to test the hypothesized relationships between program coverage and extremist sympathies, and between participation in economic empowerment activities and involvement in

extremist-related behaviours. Prior to analysis, assumptions of linearity, normality, and the absence of extreme outliers were assessed to ensure the robustness of correlation estimates. Qualitative data were analysed thematically and used to triangulate quantitative findings, offering explanatory depth and highlighting key facilitators and constraints affecting program effectiveness.

3 Results

3.1 Objective 1: Relationship between Program Coverage and Extremist Sympathies

The first objective examined the relationship between program coverage of community-based counter-radicalization programs (CBCRPs) and the level of extremist sympathies among youth in Mandera County. It was hypothesized that higher program coverage would be associated with lower levels of extremist sympathies. Consistent with the study's sequential explanatory design, the analysis first established the statistical relationship and then explored qualitative explanations for the observed pattern.

Quantitative data were obtained from 80 youth respondents. Program coverage was measured using a composite index ranging from 0 to 100, incorporating frequency of attendance, exposure to program activities, and perceived community reach. Extremist sympathies were measured using aggregated Likert-scale items (1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree) assessing agreement with extremist ideologies. Descriptive statistics indicated a relatively high level of program exposure ($M = 68.5$, $SD = 12.3$) and generally low endorsement of extremist sympathies ($M = 2.1$, $SD = 0.7$).

A Pearson correlation analysis was conducted to test Hypothesis 1 (H_1). As shown in Table 1, program coverage was strongly and negatively correlated with extremist sympathies ($r = -0.630$, $p < 0.001$).

Table 1: Pearson Correlation between Program Coverage and Extremist Sympathies (n = 80)

Variables	Pearson's r	Sig. (2-tailed)
Program Coverage & Extremist Sympathies	-0.630*	0.000

*** - Means significant at 5% level**

Source: Author, 2025

The magnitude and statistical significance of this relationship led to the rejection of the null hypothesis (H_{01}) and acceptance of the alternative hypothesis (H_1). The findings indicate that youth exposed to broader and more consistent program coverage exhibit lower levels of extremist sympathies. In practical terms, increased exposure to community dialogues, mentorship activities, and awareness sessions appears to reduce the likelihood that youth will endorse extremist ideologies.

Qualitative findings provided important context for interpreting this relationship. Youth participants consistently emphasized the role of trusted role models and structured engagement spaces in shaping their attitudes. One participant noted: *"The program helped me understand the dangers of extremist ideologies, but sometimes not all my friends could attend sessions because of distance or family obligations."*

This account highlights how logistical and social barriers constrain coverage, even where programs are perceived as effective. Community leaders echoed this observation, pointing to security and accessibility challenges: *"We try to reach as many youths as possible, but security restrictions in some areas prevent us from covering certain villages fully. Still, those who attend regularly show a clear change in mindset."*

Program implementers further emphasized that funding interruptions affected continuity: *"Sustainability is a challenge. Funding delays sometimes mean sessions are postponed, and continuous engagement becomes difficult. Even so, the youth we reach show reduced attraction to extremist messages."*

Despite these constraints, qualitative evidence consistently supported the quantitative findings. Youth who participated regularly reported increased awareness of extremist risks, greater rejection of violent ideologies, and stronger attachment to community norms. Community elders

noted observable shifts in attitudes, particularly among youth who experienced repeated exposure to program messaging over time.

Thematic analysis identified three key mechanisms mediating the relationship between program coverage and reduced extremist sympathies. First, exposure to credible role models enabled social learning and reinforced prosocial norms. Second, repeated engagement strengthened message retention and internalization. Third, trust and social cohesion within communities enhanced receptivity to program content. These mechanisms align closely with Social Learning Theory, which underpins the study's theoretical framework by emphasizing observational learning and reinforcement in shaping behaviour.

Overall, the integration of quantitative and qualitative findings demonstrates that program coverage is both a statistically significant predictor and a practically observable driver of reduced extremist sympathies among youth in Mandera County. While coverage alone does not address all structural drivers of radicalization, it constitutes a foundational condition for attitudinal change. Persistent challenges—such as uneven access, security constraints, and funding disruptions—underscore the need for sustained investment to maximize program reach and effectiveness.

3.2 Objective 2: Relationship between Youth Participation in Economic Empowerment Activities and Involvement in Extremist-Related Activities.

The second objective examined the relationship between youth participation in economic empowerment activities within community-based counter-radicalization programs and their involvement in extremist-related activities in Mandera County. It was hypothesized (H_2) that greater participation in economic empowerment initiatives would be associated with lower involvement in extremist activities. Unlike Objective 1, which emphasized program reach, this objective focused on program depth and content, particularly the role of practical skills and livelihood opportunities in shaping behavioural outcomes.

Quantitative data were drawn from the same sample of 80 youth respondents. Participation in economic empowerment activities was measured using a composite index ranging from 0 to 100, incorporating attendance in vocational training, hours of engagement in entrepreneurship initiatives, and self-reported skills acquisition. Youth involvement in extremist-related activities was assessed using a composite measure that combined self-reported engagement, proxy indicators (such as absenteeism and association with known radicalized peers), and verified incident reports where available. Descriptive statistics indicated moderate levels of participation in economic empowerment activities ($M = 62.4$, $SD = 14.1$) and relatively low levels of involvement in extremist-related activities ($M = 1.8$, $SD = 0.6$).

To test Hypothesis 2 (H_2), a Pearson correlation analysis was conducted. As presented in Table 2, participation in economic empowerment activities was negatively and significantly correlated with youth involvement in extremist-related activities ($r = -0.582$, $p < 0.001$).

Table 2: Pearson Correlation between Economic Empowerment Participation and Youth Involvement in Extremist Activities (n = 80)

Variables	Pearson's r	Sig. (2-tailed)
Participation in Economic Empowerment & Youth Involvement in Extremist Activities	-0.582*	0.000

*** - Means significant at 5% level**

Source: Author, 2025

Given the strength and statistical significance of the relationship, the null hypothesis (H_{02}) is rejected and the alternative hypothesis (H_2) is accepted. The findings indicate that youth who are more actively engaged in economic empowerment activities are significantly less likely to participate in extremist-related behaviours, underscoring the preventive value of livelihood-oriented interventions.

Qualitative findings further clarified the mechanisms underpinning this relationship. Youth participants emphasized that skills acquisition provided not only income opportunities but also a

renewed sense of purpose, dignity, and social belonging. One participant explained: *“Since I joined the program, I have learned tailoring skills and started a small business. I no longer feel idle or pressured to join extremist groups, and I feel more respected in my community.”*

Community leaders echoed these observations, noting that economic engagement reduced both idleness and vulnerability: *“When young people are busy learning skills and earning a livelihood, they are less likely to be drawn to extremist ideologies. We see clear changes in behaviour among those who participate regularly.”*

Program implementers, however, highlighted constraints that occasionally undermined program continuity: *“Some youths drop out because materials or trainers are unavailable for a few weeks. This affects continuity, but those who remain committed benefit greatly and show less interest in extremist networks.”*

Thematic analysis identified three key factors influencing the effectiveness of economic empowerment interventions. First, skills acquisition created viable alternatives to extremist recruitment pathways. Second, sustained economic engagement enhanced youth self-efficacy, social inclusion, and future orientation. Third, continuity of participation emerged as critical for consolidating these gains, highlighting the importance of reliable funding, consistent mentorship, and stable program delivery.

The findings from Objective 2 complement those of Objective 1 by demonstrating that the depth and content of community-based interventions are as critical as their coverage. While broad reach is necessary to influence attitudes, meaningful engagement through economic empowerment addresses structural vulnerabilities that drive behavioural involvement in extremism. These findings align with Social Learning Theory, which explains behavioural change through structured engagement and role modelling, and Relative Deprivation Theory, which emphasizes the role of economic exclusion in shaping radicalization pathways.

In summary, the second objective confirms that youth participation in economic empowerment activities within CBCRPs is strongly associated with lower involvement in extremist-related activities. The convergence of quantitative and qualitative evidence demonstrates that livelihood-focused interventions significantly enhance the preventive impact of counter-radicalization programs in Mandera County. Addressing challenges related to resource constraints and program continuity would further strengthen these outcomes and support more durable reductions in extremist engagement.

4 Discussion

The findings of this study both align with and extend existing scholarship on the role of community-based counter-radicalization programs (CBCRPs) in reducing youth vulnerability to violent extremism. Consistent with prior research, the results demonstrate that programs combining broad community reach with substantive economic and social engagement are associated with lower levels of extremist sympathies and reduced involvement in extremist-related activities. At the same time, the study contributes new empirical evidence from a high-risk border context, offering insights into how program design features translate into measurable attitudinal and behavioural outcomes.

The role of economic marginalization identified in this study resonates strongly with Kamais' (2024) analysis of youth radicalization in coastal Kenya, which emphasizes unemployment, exclusion, and limited opportunity as key drivers of extremist susceptibility. The present findings reinforce this argument by showing that youth exposed to economic empowerment initiatives within CBCRPs exhibit significantly lower levels of extremist engagement. By empirically linking participation in livelihood-oriented activities to reduced extremist involvement, this study strengthens the case for addressing economic vulnerability as a central pillar of preventive counter-radicalization strategies.

Similarly, the findings corroborate Chitembwe, Okoth, and Matanga's (2021) conclusions that poverty and unemployment create fertile conditions for extremist recruitment in Mombasa and Kwale counties. While their analysis is largely framed within criminal justice and security responses, this study extends their work by demonstrating how community-based, non-coercive interventions can mitigate these vulnerabilities before they escalate into security threats. In doing so, it shifts the analytical focus from reactive enforcement to preventive, community-centred solutions.

The importance of social cohesion and trust highlighted in this study aligns with Van Metre's (2016) work on community resilience to violent extremism in Kenya. The qualitative findings in Mandera show that program coverage and sustained participation foster social networks, strengthen intergenerational relationships, and reinforce community norms that discourage violence. These social dynamics amplify the impact of economic interventions by embedding them within trusted local structures, thereby enhancing program legitimacy and effectiveness.

The study also complements Farhiya's (2020) research on youth radicalization in Nairobi's informal settlements, which identifies the absence of constructive engagement opportunities as a key risk factor. While Farhiya's work focuses on urban settings, the present study demonstrates that similar dynamics operate in rural and borderland contexts, albeit shaped by different structural constraints such as insecurity, remoteness, and limited-service provision. This comparative insight underscores the adaptability of CBCRPs across diverse socio-spatial settings.

Finally, the findings resonate with Holla's (2020) analysis of marginalization among Somali Muslim communities in Kenya. Although this study does not directly measure ethnic discrimination, its emphasis on economic and social exclusion reflects broader patterns of marginalization identified in the literature. The results suggest that reducing perceived exclusion—whether economic, social, or institutional—can weaken the appeal of extremist narratives, reinforcing the need for integrated approaches that address multiple dimensions of vulnerability.

At the policy level, the study's findings strongly align with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism's (2024) emphasis on youth empowerment as a cornerstone of preventing violent extremism. By demonstrating that participation in skills development and livelihood programs is associated with lower extremist involvement, the study provides empirical support for global CVE frameworks that prioritize youth agency, opportunity, and inclusion.

5 Conclusion

This study assessed the effectiveness of community-based counter-radicalization programs in reducing extremist sympathies and involvement in extremist-related behaviours among youth in Mandera County, Kenya. The findings provide robust evidence that CBCRPs are most effective when they combine broad program coverage with meaningful engagement in economic empowerment and social development activities. Youth exposed to such interventions exhibit lower endorsement of extremist ideologies and reduced participation in behaviours associated with radicalization. Economic empowerment emerged as a particularly influential mechanism. Skills acquisition, vocational training, and income-generating opportunities not only reduce economic vulnerability but also enhance self-efficacy, purpose, and social belonging—factors that collectively strengthen resilience against extremist recruitment. When embedded within trusted community structures and supported by mentorship and dialogue, these interventions generate both attitudinal and behavioural change.

The study further underscores the importance of community ownership and social cohesion. Programs that actively engage local leaders, elders, and respected figures foster trust, reinforce non-violent norms, and improve the legitimacy of counter-radicalization efforts. Although challenges related to funding, accessibility, and security constraints persist, the evidence suggests that sustained, well-designed community-based programs can meaningfully complement formal security approaches. Overall, the findings affirm that CBCRPs represent a viable and effective preventive strategy in contexts vulnerable to violent extremism. By addressing both social learning processes and structural economic drivers, these programs contribute to safer, more resilient communities in Kenya's border regions.

5.1 Recommendations

Based on the study's findings, several actionable recommendations are proposed for policymakers, practitioners, and community stakeholders:

- 5.1.1 First, expanding program coverage strategically: CBCRPs should prioritize extending reach to remote and underserved wards, using vulnerability mapping and localized

outreach strategies to overcome geographic, cultural, and security barriers. Equitable access is essential for maximizing preventive impact.

- 5.1.2 Second, institutionalizing economic empowerment as a core program pillar: Skills training, vocational education, and entrepreneurship support should be integrated into all CBCRPs, with clear pathways for translating training into sustainable livelihoods. Partnerships with local businesses, cooperatives, and financial institutions can enhance market relevance and long-term impact.
- 5.1.3 Third, strengthening continuity and mentorship: Sustained engagement—rather than sporadic activities—is critical. Programs should invest in long-term mentorship and regular interaction, leveraging community elders, religious leaders, and peer role models to reinforce positive norms and behaviours.
- 5.1.4 Fourth, enhancing program sustainability: Stable funding, trained personnel, and institutional backing are necessary to prevent disruptions. Multi-stakeholder financing models involving government, civil society, and development partners can improve program resilience.
- 5.1.5 Fifth, embedding robust monitoring and evaluation systems: Continuous tracking of participation, skills acquisition, and behavioural outcomes will enable adaptive management, evidence-based refinement, and accountability.
- 5.1.6 Finally, adopting a holistic prevention approach: Addressing violent extremism requires integrating economic, social, and cultural interventions within a broader framework of community resilience. Programs that simultaneously reduce exclusion, strengthen cohesion, and promote meaningful youth engagement are more likely to generate durable change.

Implementing these recommendations would significantly enhance the effectiveness of community-based counter-radicalization programs, reduce youth vulnerability to violent extremism, and contribute to long-term peace and stability in Mandera County and similar high-risk contexts.

Abbreviations

ACLED	Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project
CBCRP	Community-Based Counter-Radicalization Program
DV	Dependent Variable
H0 / H1 / H2	Null Hypothesis / Alternative Hypotheses
ISD	Institute for Strategic Dialogue
NIJ	National Institute of Justice
r	Pearson's Correlation Coefficient
SD	Standard Deviation

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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