

Deploying Africa's Voices Common Social Accountability Platform (CSAP) to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism (PCVE) in Somalia

Background

Listening to citizens to understand what works to reduce violent extremism, is a key priority for many policymakers. Despite this need, citizens are often left out of the table where decisions on violence reduction are made.

To address this knowledge gap, Africa's Voices Foundation in partnership with European Institute of Peace (lead), and Elman Peace Centre (EPC) are implementing Strength Through Tolerance (STT) project that seeks to bring together citizens and government agencies to address factors causing violent extremism (VE) in Galmudug, Puntland and Jubaland regions for the period 2020 - 2024. The project is funded by the European Union.

Between August 2021 - November 2021, Africa's Voices Foundation unique interactive radio talk shows and SMS methodology was deployed to understand Somalis' perception on violent extremism, the causes, solutions and risks of violent extremism activities and the impact of COVID-19 and election uncertainties in aggravating violent extremism.

Radio guests drawn from the community responded to questions sent by the participants. The citizen engagement generated insights on citizens' perception on violent extremism, drivers of violent extremism, solutions to violent extremism, and created awareness on dangers of violent extremism. The insights were shared with stakeholders during a workshop in Somalia in January 2022.

Engagement Summary

Total numbers of participants	4,322
Total numbers of SMS received	12,770
Total number of participants who consented to have their data included in the analysis	3,901
Total messages with consent relevant for analysis	3,406

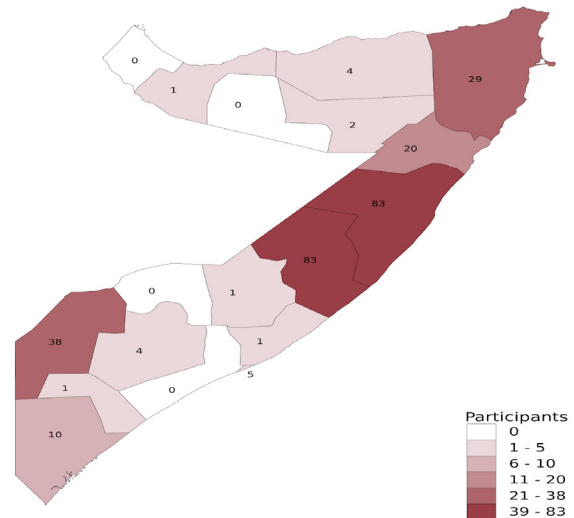
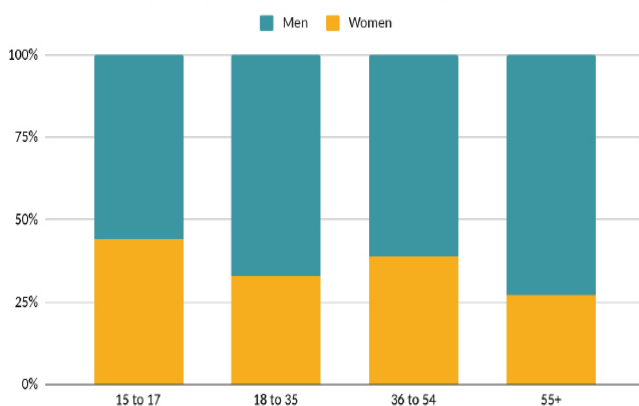


Fig 1: Map shows Location of participants from each region as indicated

Gender split of participants that reported their gender (n=2046)



IDP Status (n=1648)

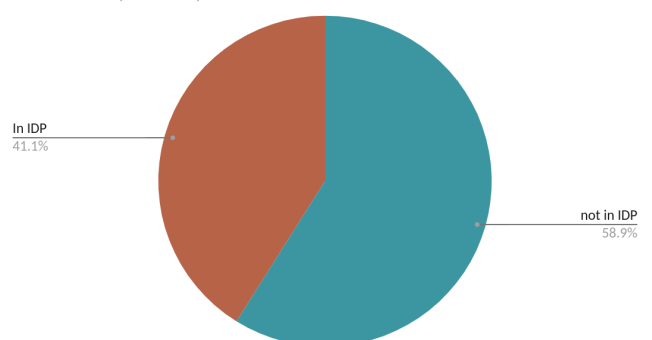


Fig 3: IDP camp status as reported by some of the Participants via SMS

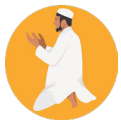


Bushado waxay ka aamin ficilada xagjirka ah wax xun ayey ka aaminsatahay waxaana loobaahanyahay dadku inaysan ku qaldamin fikirdiimeedka sida qaldan ay u faafinay kooxaxa xagjirka ah waxaana muhiim ah in laga wacdi galiyo bulshada.

Communities believe extremist acts are bad and people should not mistake the ideologies as Islamic because of how it has been misinterpreted by extremist groups, so it is important to educate the public.

Man, Jubaland

Summary of Key Findings



Participants perceive violent extremism as against Islamic teachings and should be stopped for it creates problems in the community i.e. loss of life, and property.



Lack of community cooperation, poor governance, injustices, misinterpretation of the religion, and unemployment were stated as the key drivers of VE in Somalia.



In order to end VE, there is a need for collaboration within the community, raising awareness on violent extremism, adhering to Islamic teachings, stopping clanism, community to work with government, and job creation for youth.



The community can be supported to report on VE activities through government-community collaboration, awareness creation, provision of security, and instituting good governance.



Some of the messages received also encouraged citizens to follow COVID-19 preventive measures to avoid the pandemic effects on the fight against violence extremism and elections.

Recommendation

Stakeholders to enhance cooperation and cohesion in the community through raising awareness on EV, administering fair justice, ensuring adherence to Islamic teachings and successful implementation of PCVE interventions.



The project is funded by the European Union.



Preventing Violent Extremism