

Community Artivism (Art and Activism) In Resisting Extremist Ideologies (Care) Project



2021

EVALUATION REPORT

FROM CHAINS TO PCVE
CHAMPIONS

Lwanergy Infiniti Consulting

Acknowledgement

Lwanergy Infiniti Consulting is deeply indebted to MAYE for the opportunity to conduct this assignment. In addition, we appreciate their decision to commission and provide funds for this study. In particular, we wish to express sincere gratitude to the following MAYE staff; Nicholas Songora (Executive Director), Ndarigho Esther, Allan Wangulu, Juma Mwaboye and Chiku Mwaleso for their time and availability throughout the study process.

Secondly, we benefited greatly from the contributions of ForumCiv staff. We are particularly grateful to both Augustine Karani for his rich insights into the strategic framework of the project and equally to Lionel Angote for accepting peer review and providing technical input that birthed this final report.

This study would not have been successful without the unreserved support of young men and women, parents and caregivers, community leaders, duty bearers, and all the primary actors engaged during the field data collection in Matuga and Kinango sub counties of Kwale County. We thank them for their willingness to share their thoughts and pain points so far as the project is concerned. It was evident that many are concerned about supporting youths to resist extremist ideologies and building safer and healthier societies for all the residents of Kwale County.

Last but not least, it is our conviction that the lessons drawn from this study will provide strategic insight and pathways for new youth facing program interventions, including the decisions and actions taken by governments, CSOs, and the communities on PCVE. Lwanergy Infiniti Consulting is grateful for the collective effort and action from all the actors in producing this final evaluation report.

Finally, this study would not have been possible without the unrivalled commitment and sacrifice of Mr. Lwanda Keya (Lead Consultant); Mr. Rapudo Hawi (Governance and Security specialist), our Associate Consultants and Research assistants.

Table Of Contents

Acknowledgement.....	0
List Of Tables and Figures	4
Acronyms And Abbreviations.....	5
Executive Summary	6
1.0 Introduction	7
1.1 Overview of The Evaluation Report.....	7
1.2 Project Background.....	7
1.3 Evaluation Objectives	8
1.4 Results Framework/Outcome Journal/Theory of Change.....	9
1.5 Scope of the end line Evaluation.....	11
2.0 Evaluation Methodology	12
2.1 Methodological Approach	12
2.2 Evaluation Criteria	12
2.3 Data Collection Methods	13
2.4 Limitations to The Evaluation.....	13
3.0 Evaluation Findings.....	14
3.1 Observed Project Results.....	14
3.1.1 Relevance to the needs of youth.....	14
3.1.2 Relevance to the needs of duty bearers and other stakeholders	15
3.1.3 Validity of the Kwale County Countering Violent Extremism plan.....	16
3.2 Project Efficiency	17
3.2.1 Community Resource and value generated.....	17
3.2.2 Management structure and effectiveness in partnerships	17
3.2.3 Project targeting and the ability to address identified issues.	17
3.2.4 Monitoring and evaluation learning and reporting.....	18
3.3 Short- And Medium-Term Project Effects.....	19
3.3.1 Unintended Outcomes	20
3.3.2 Key Factors of Success	21
3.3.1 Sustainability.....	21
3.3.1 Good Practice (GPs).....	23

3.3.2	Challenges Faced in Implementation	24
3.4	Lessons Learnt	25
4.0	Recommendations	27
5.0	Conclusions	30
6.0	Annexes.....	31

List Of Tables and Figures

Figure 1: Map of Kwale County.....	8
Figure 2: Analysis of MAYE Outcome Journal 2019-2021	10
Figure 3: Evaluation Methodology.....	12

Acronyms And Abbreviations

ACC	Assistant County Commissioner
CADP	County Annual Development Plan
CARE	Community Art and Activism in Resisting Extremist Ideologies (CARE),
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CBP	Community Based Policing
CGK	County Government of Kwale
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
CVE	Countering Violent Extremism
DCC	Deputy County Commissioner
FBOs	Faith Based Organisations
GOK	Government of Kenya
GPs	Good Practices
ICPC	International Centre for Peace and Conflict
ICT	Information Communication Technology
KIHBS	Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey
KSG	Kenya School of Government
MAYE	Manyatta Youth Entertainment CBO
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
MFI	Micro Finance Institutions
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRC	Mombasa Republican Council
NACADA	National Campaign against Drug Abuse
NG CDF	National Government Constituency Development Fund
OCS	Officer-In-Charge of a Police Station
PCVE	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
PET	Participatory Education Theatre
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
USIP	United States Institute of Peace
WB	World Bank
WEF	Women Enterprise Fund
YEDF	Youth Enterprise Development Fund

Executive Summary

Manyatta Youth Entertainment, a youth-led community project that concluded in June 2021, contributed to Outcome 1.2 of the Wajibu Wetu program. The 5.8-million-shilling project (Kshs. 5 million in financing and an extra Kshs. 0.8 million for equipment) as a worthwhile investment implemented in Matuga and Kinango, Kwale County. The evaluation commissioned from June 2021 to July 2021. Purposive sampling used and data collected through Key Informant Interviews (KII), Focus Group Discussions and Literature Review. The evaluation findings showed a significant effect by ensuring that "young women, men, and communities resisting extremist ideologies" used established community structures to increase positive attitudinal change through participation in PCVE and security meetings.

This was evidenced below:

- a) Increased engagement between youth, duty bearers, and other actors on P/CVE. fifteen youth networks accelerated community engagement and creative arts to trigger community dialogue and demystify sensitive CVE topics in hotspots for criminal gangs. Also trained PCVE youth champions who participated in peace and security barazas were instrumental in peaceful co-existence among youth, duty bearers, and communities. Artivism is a livelihood project in the tourism economy that strengthen the capacity of the youth. ANIKA Hub festivals and theatre dialogues achieved a lot with graffiti installation that educated people to understand the message.
- b) Established and functioning community structures that encourage reporting and provide alternative dispute resolving mechanisms on PVCE. Fourteen information booths involved youth champions in planning, decision-making, and multi-sector collaboration with duty bearers. MAYE strong participation in the coastal civil society movement, as well as ForumCiv assistance, were essential in transforming PCVE plan efforts in the community and Kwale county. Active youth engagement with duty bearers and local leaders (village elders, chiefs, law enforcement officers, etc.) in peace committees, nyumba Kumi including Kinango development forum served as a strategic entry point for engagement.

The monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) support provided by ForumCiv to MAYE staff was instrumental in tracking youth throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. The unintended outcomes identified: digital disruptions accelerated the use of digital tools boosting skills among young people despite internet challenges and also PCVE activists were sometimes portrayed negatively by criminal gang peers who saw them a threat to their operations. Sustainability may be attained through constant youth participation and partnerships with duty bearers and partners so that the information centers and community structures offer critical services to deal with extremist ideologies.

The key recommendations made to maximize the chances of MAYE's PCVE initiatives: *Entrenching alternative livelihood pathways for PCVE champions, scale up the Anika Community Hub as a social enterprise model that prioritizes social impact but strives for financial sustainability. Leverage the power of digital tools and technology to accelerate income generation pathways and digital learning. Optimization of knowledge transfer to unlock the collective knowledge held by MAYE staff and partners entrenches positive PCVE narratives within communities. Expanding the scope and breadth of partnerships will tap into the safe space provided by the information booths in Kwale County towards elections in 2022. Evaluation as a valuable tool for youth-friendly PCVE policy and programmatic interventions and approaches in Kwale County.*

Finally, utilizing creative arts to increase youth engagement in resisting extremist ideologies has proven to be a low cost high-impact approach of stimulating and redefining youth engagement and public debate on PCVE. The innovative initiatives that would effectively position young men and women in decision-making institutions at the local level, fostering PCVE discourse.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Overview of The Evaluation Report.

Manyatta Youth Entertainment CBO implemented Community Artivism in Resisting Extremist Ideologies, a youth community-driven initiative contributing to the Wajibu Wetu program Outcome 1.2 supported by ForumCiv. The two-year project began in July 2019 and concluded in June 2021, extending out to Kwale's two main sub-counties, Matuga and Kinango. The project was well-received by gatekeepers and engaged with the National Government, Office of Kwale County Commissioner offices, Chiefs, County Government, Civil Society, village elders, and community members had a role in both the direct and indirect outcomes. The intended outcomes- increased engagement between youth, duty bearers, and other actors on P/CVE, narrowed the gap and promoted conversation in promoting peace and security, as evidenced by the Anika Amani Festivals and Multi-stakeholder Barazas, which included graffiti installation processes, and the Kinango and Matuga Youth forums, which distributed information to communities. Secondly, developing established, active, and functional community-government-led organizations that encourage reporting and provide alternative conflict resolution mechanisms to counter extremist ideas is still in its preliminary phase. It was evident in Tiwi and Kombani, where trained village elders and PCVE ambassadors were trained in peace and security matters, averting juvenile and restoring community engagement with duty bearers.

1.2 Project Background

Kenya has seen a rise in terrorist attacks and violent extremism over the last 10 years, which has hit the Coast region in particular. Young people in the region are particularly prone to extremism and recruitment by extremist organizations such as Al-Shabaab due to a lack of economic and social opportunities, as well as a sense of political marginalization. Muslims and ethnic Somalis, in particular, have consistently experienced political discrimination by the government. Economic, social, and political issues have historically fuelled violent extremist activity in the Coast area of Kenya.¹ The unemployment rate in Kenya is likewise quite high, with estimates indicating that up to 75 percent of the 2.3 million jobless Kenyans are youth.² The economic outlook in coastal Kenya is also directly impacted by insecurity, as terrorist activities and counter-operations by Kenyan security forces have severely impacted economic activities.³ In terms of economics, the proportion of Kenyans living below the international poverty line has decreased over the previous decade, but it remains significant (36 percent in 2015-2016). In terms of economics, the proportion of Kenyans living below the international poverty line has decreased over the previous decade, but it remains significant (36 percent in 2015-2016).⁴ This adds up to a sense of marginalization and hopelessness in many of Kwale's indigenous citizens. Families and communities in Kwale's Diani, Ukunda, Kona Ya Musa, Bongwe, Mbuwani, Tiwi, Ngombeni, Kombani, Mwapala, Matuga, and Lunga Lunga have been badly impacted by radicalization, recruitment to Al-Shabaab, MRC, and the returnees entangled in political violence and crime.⁵

¹ Botha, Anneli, "Radicalisation in Kenya Recruitment to al-Shabaab and the Mombasa Republican Council", Institute for Security Studies, Paper 265 (2014).

² "Kenya: Youth unemployment rate from 2007 to 2017", Statista, 2018 (Accessed on 16 October 2018)

³ Kessels, E, et al, "Violent Extremism and Instability in the Greater Horn of Africa: An Examination of Drivers and Responses," Global Center on Cooperative Security, April 2016 (Accessed on 16 October 2018).

⁴ Poverty Incidence in Kenya Declined Significantly, but Unlikely to be Eradicated by 2030", World Bank, 10 April 2018.

⁵ Kessels, E, et al, "Violent Extremism and Instability in the Greater Horn of Africa: An Examination of Drivers and Responses," Global Center on Cooperative Security, April 2016 (Accessed on 16 October 2018).

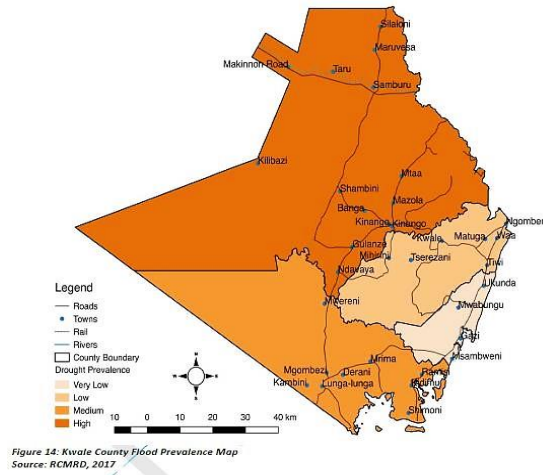


Figure 1: Map of Kwale County

Kwale County is one of the six counties in the coastal region of Kenya. The county covers an area of 8270.2 km², of which 62 km² is under water. Kwale is divided into four administrative sub-counties of Matuga, Kinango, Lungalunga, and Msambweni, each divided into 20 wards. It is estimated that Kwale County has a population of 858,748. The gender inequality is 63% (Gender Development Index 2015). One out of five (20%) children under 18yrs who have lost one or both parents are at risk of acute and severe malnutrition. Kwale County has a total of 471 primary schools with a total enrolment of 178,166 pupils. The literacy rate for adults is 87.4% (90.6% for males, 84.2% for females) ([World Bank, 2010](#)). The youth literacy rate is 92%. The average distance to the nearest water point in the county is two kilometers. Kwale's economy is based on tourism, agriculture, and fishing. Forestry is a key source of revenue, food, and medicine, as well as charcoal that is used by over 90% of rural households.⁶ More than half (71.7%) of households rely on firewood for cooking, while 12.2% use charcoal, and 7.7% use kerosene. Landlessness is an emotive issue in the county, coupled with the ownership of prime land by migrant communities. Moreover, 30% of the total labour force aged between 15-64 years is either unemployed or underemployed. Kwale is adversely affected by the illicit drug trade, which is blamed for insecurity problems affecting Ukunda, Kinango, Matuga, and Diani. There is a possibility for repeated violence as witnessed the 1997 violence. The project has been paramount towards resisting extremist ideologies in Kwale County.

1.3 Evaluation Objectives

The objective is to comprehend the functioning of the project in terms of its design, scope, and the overall implementation. This will comprise of reviewing and expanding evidence against the results achieved and documented. The experiences of the project staff will also be interrogated to provide more nuance to implementation experiences. Additionally, the exercise will seek to generate recommendations as to how this project and other potential projects might be designed in the future. The findings of this evaluation will serve the following three purposes:

- a) Provide useful insights on areas of strengthening project management and implementation.
- b) To strengthen the project team's ability to test the overall theory of change of the project.
- c) To provide recommendations to the project team regarding the overall M&E framework utilized to manage results.

⁶ Kenya National Bureau of Statistics. (2019). *Kenya Population and Housing Census Results*. Kenya National Bureau of Statistics. <https://www.knbs.or.ke/?p=5621>

1.4 Results Framework/Outcome Journal/Theory of Change

Programme Goal							
Contribute to respect for and fulfilment of human rights, deepening democracy and realization of gender equality in Kenya							
Programme Objective	Programme Outcomes indicator	Baseline	Intended		Actual		Sources of verification
Improved attitudes and behaviours of right holders and duty bearers for upholding and defending human rights, democratic culture and gender equality in Kenya	1.2 Young women, men and communities resist extremist ideologies	0 Young women, men and communities resist extremist ideologies.	0 No of established community structures working on P/CVE 0 Positive Attitudinal change by youth and the community in participating in PCVE and security meetings.		Significant progress and evidence in Community Structures that organize or working on CVE are recognized by the duty bearers and participation in PCVE/ security committees. Increased commitments by Kwale duty bearers influence on PCVE to engage with youth incorporate community inputs and needs into PCVE and implement PCVE actions		
Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 1		Milestone 2		Sources of verification
			Intended	Actual change	Intended	Actual change	
Young women, men and communities resist extremist ideologies.	No of established community structures working on P/CVE Positive Attitudinal change by youth and the community in participating in PCVE and security meetings.	0 structures Average of 20 youths attend the PCVE and security meetings	0 structures	Youth led functional committees & Groups increased number of Instances of duty bearers' responsiveness to youth on PCVE	Average of 20 youths attend the PCVE and security meetings.	Participatory learning through PCVE Information booths and trained persons that encourage feedback and suggested action from youth and partners for learning and review of results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual, Quarterly and Monthly Narrative Reports. - Quarterly, Mid-term and End term project reviews. - Documentary by ANIKA Community Media team
Project Outcome 1	Outcome Indicator 1	Baseline	Milestone 1		Milestone 2		Sources of verification
			Intended	Actual	Intended	Actual	
Increased engagement between youth, duty bearers and other actors on P/CVE	1.1 No. of Anika Amani Festivals Conducted	Limited user-friendly PCVE open spaces and platforms			2 festivals conducted 30 artists	Local artists (15) at the 2 festivals actively supported project activities across sub-countries with 600 people fully engaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participant lists Activity reports
	A 1.2 No of meetings and graffiti installation done. No of Commitments and MOU signed/ Agreed	Absence of user-friendly PCVE Information Education and Communication materials and publications	4 Multi-stakeholders Meetings (Inclusive of Graffiti Installation) 600 pax 0 commitments	Four (4) meetings with graffiti installed to enabled commitments and signed MOU were key benchmark for PCVE community structures.Covid-19 messaging and drawing of coronavirus dangers and preventive actions			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participant lists Activity reports Signed commitment board Participant lists Activity reports
	A-1.3 No. of community youth mobilizers and champions trained on PCVE	Weak PCVE community mobilization strategy and limited trained youth resource persons			144 youth Mobilizers and Champions	144 youth Mobilizers and Champions (Female 72, Male 72) had significant effect on positive attitudinal change by youth and community in PCVE and security meetings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participant lists Activity reports
	A-1.4 No. of theatre youths dialogue outreaches on PCVE	Absence of an effective avenues for public dialogue on PCVE as a securitized and highly sensitive matter.		6 Theatre Youth Dialogue Outreaches 300 youth Participants	Theatre Youth Six (6) Dialogue Outreaches reached 300 youth Participants (Female 180, Male 120) improving positive attitudinal change that		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity reports

				showed commitment to gender equality.			
	A-1.5 No. of youth actively & meaningfully participating in peace and security Barazas	Low youth representation and engagement in peace and security Barazas.			60 youths participating in Barazas	Evidence of Barazas as vital community structures for spreading messages on P/CVE, encouraged youth (60) participation during Covid-19 measures. The open spaces were improved while observing the safety rules placed to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.	Participant lists Activity reports
Outcome 2	Outcome Indicator 2	Baseline	Milestone 1		Milestone 2		Sources of verification
			Intended	Actual	Intended	Actual	
Established and functioning community structures that encourage reporting and provide alternative dispute resolving mechanisms on PVCE	A 2.1 No of County PCVE action plan sensitization forums conducted No of community members attending community sensitization forums	Limited public awareness and inexistence of a County based PCVE action plan	3 PCVE action Plan Sensitization forums 408 participants	PCVE action Plan (3) was disseminated in Sensitization forums with 600 participants (Female 400, Male 200) engaged. The events were key for positive attitudinal change and participation in PCVE and security meetings, faced with COVID-19 stringent measures			Participant lists Activity reports
	A 2.2 No of Established PCVE information booths at ward level.	Absence of youth friendly information booths that encourage positive messages on PCVE			12 PCVE Information Booths	12 PCVE Information Booths (12) have publications from partners i.e. National Campaign Against Drug Abuse (NACADA), International Centre for Peace and Conflict (ICPC), United States Institute of Peace (USIP), Inform Action etc. The activities were affected by Covid-19 measures on public gatherings and social distancing.	Report of established booths Participants/ lists
	A 2.3 No. of Trained Nyumba Kumi elders/ leaders No. of Trainings conducted	Low participation of youths in nyumba kumi and local level structures.	144 participants	Trainings (2) sensitized participants (144) (Female 36, Male 36) on decision making processes and participation in committees (Barazas and Nyumba Kumi) synergy evidenced among the young and old community members helped address some of the grave security matters.			Participant lists Activity reports ANIKA Community brief documentary

Figure 2: Analysis of MAYE Outcome Journal 2019-2021

1.5 Scope of the end line Evaluation

The consultant is expected to:

- a) Comprehensively review the current project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework and implementation plan for assessing and understanding the achievement of the project outcomes and overall objective.,
- b) Generate key lessons, identify promising practices for learning and propose potential actions which may be developed to amplify the project effects;
- c) Provide recommendations and best practices that may be used in current and future programming and strategy.

2.0 Evaluation Methodology

2.1 Methodological Approach

MAYE was essential in identifying 18 key informants and 5 FGDs, ensuring that only those who were capable of providing thorough and accurate responses to the evaluation questions. To consider targeted respondents, non-probability and purposive sampling approach was utilized. This allowed for the deliberate selection of participants based on their knowledge and engagement in project activities. External and internal stakeholders were mostly selected through purposive sampling. It also allowed for the investigation of data-rich cases, mostly from the indirect beneficiary group, in order to encourage transparency in case selection, triangulation, and the search for empirical evidence.

Methodology	Rationale	Approach	Tool
I. Desk research	Review of relevant literature to enrich study design, tools and reporting	Review of MAYE programme documents and other relevant documents that include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Proposals • Baseline Study Report • Project quarterly and annual reports including donor feedback notes • MAYE and Partners Reports including published county and sub-county statistics 	Relevant documents
II. Qualitative	Serves to capture the target subjects' experiences, opinions and attitudes	Use of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with key target populations of project drawn from: (<i>youth officers,</i>	Focus Group Discussion guide moderated by facilitator with knowledge on CVE, Community Activism and Human Rights
Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with external stakeholders drawn from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Society Organisations including FBOs • National legislating bodies and policy mechanisms (National Government agencies, Kwale county governments). • Justice and Law enforcement agencies (police). • Relevant partners • Community leaders, village elders • Local Media. 		Unstructured Key Informant Interview guide administered one-on-one by an interviewer	
Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with internal stakeholders involved in project design and implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artistic organizations • Youth organizations • Woman Organizations 		Unstructured Key Informant Interview guide administered one-on-one by an interviewer	

Figure 3: Evaluation Methodology

2.2 Evaluation Criteria

The final evaluation used a mix of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria for evaluating development assistance and outcome monitoring as the key mechanisms for examining the intervention's implementation. The evaluation looked at project outcomes in

terms of: i) relevance, ii) efficiency, iii) effectiveness, iv) impact, and v) sustainability. The major purpose of outcome monitoring was to assess project effectiveness and determine the extent to which objectives were accomplished. It made use of the project Log Frame focusing on expected outcomes using corresponding indicators set at the project inception for tracking progress.

2.3 Data Collection Methods

The evaluation undertook a desk research as a secondary source of information entailed review of relevant project documents with a view to streamline the methodology to inform and enrich the design of study instruments and report writing. Key documents reviewed included Project documents, baseline study reports, periodic reports, the Kwale County CVE Plan, national legislations, international and regional instruments relevant to human rights, national policies on youth, peace and security, academic and non-academic literature on youth and coastal region especially Kwale county. A total of 5 FGDs and 18 KIs were conducted. (See Annex 2). The evaluation employed a mixed methods approach in collecting primary data. It applied i) Key Informant Interviews, ii) Focus Group Discussions, iii) Outcome Harvesting, Direct Observation and iv) Most Significant Change Stories to gather qualitative data for analysis and reporting.

- Outcome Harvesting was applied to generate important information about the contributions made by the project towards attained outcomes and change created
- Most Significant Change Stories assessed participation of beneficiaries in measuring achievements and capture unique experiences, opinions and attitudes regarding the project.
- Monitoring of the project helped to assess the influence of organizational procedures, project management and changes in behaviour of target groups on activities and outcomes.

2.4 Limitations to The Evaluation

- Availability of respondents: some respondents were not immediately available during the study necessitating call backs. This might delay the execution of the evaluation or occasion data gaps. To mitigate this, we interviewed their assistants or designate officers.
- Attribution: Owing to other to the existence of so many actors and other influences on project stakeholders in the sub-counties, it was difficult to directly attribute impacts to the preventing and countering violent extremism or related issues
- Limited data: Some institutions had minimal PCVE data to inform the evaluation. The consultants made effort to get the data from other sources.
- The Corona crisis: The COVID-19 safety measures affected collection of data, availability and interaction with respondents during the field visits in the sub-counties.
- Limited evaluation time: the time frame (14 days) available for conducting this final evaluation was quite limited based on the rigorous nature of the assignment. The evaluators tried to exhaustively harvest the best outcome within the stipulated time lines. Ideally, based on the scope, an evaluation process requires between 25 - 30 days.

3.0 Evaluation Findings

3.1 Observed Project Results

3.1.1 Relevance to the needs of youth

Kinango and Matuga sub-counties have a large population of young people with poor education contributing to marginalization and hopelessness. It is complicated by an increased fighting for land. Diani, Ukunda, Kona Ya Musa, Bongwe, Mbuwani, Tiwi, Ngombeni, Kombani, Mwapala, Matuga were affected by radicalization, recruitment to Al-Shabaab, MRC, the impact of returnees and effects of the covid-19 epidemic affected people's livelihoods, abating crime, and insecurity. That is why the project is aimed at increasing engagement between youth, duty bearers, and other actors, establishing community structures and organizational development.

In Kwale County, the number of incidents of insecurity has increased, forcing police officials to search for the culprits of these heinous crimes. Targeted youths often fled and return to their hometowns, where they pose a significant threat to the re-establishment of juvenile gangs in remote rural areas. This makes locating them in their hometown difficult. **KII Youth**

To combat this, the CARE project had 12 youths in Matuga sub-county and Kinango Sub County directly involved in activity planning, peacebuilding and security platforms as MAYE focal points. Youth had a higher chance of assuming decision-making positions. They worked with village elders and local government representatives to develop innovative PCVE strategies. Young people inspired their peers working together in the development of the community and hosting community events that contribute to a society free of violence.⁷ MAYE received written commitments from the sub-county commissioner, village elders, youth president, community policing officer, chiefs, senior police officers, county youth affairs officer among others. The area member of parliament also joined and signed the pledges. It strongly indicated strong relationship between duty bearers and youths. This was confirmed by

"The increase of communal violent extremism has had an influence on his offline and online behaviors, according to the KII interviewer. He claims that neighborhood violence has an impact on economic activity, and that some businesses have decided to promote and sell their products online, away from the threat of violence. Because those striving to attain PCVE have joined forces to ensure their voices are heard and violent extremism is decreased, there has been a rise in the number of duty bearers engaging on online platforms." **KII Community Leader**

The project was a bold initiative by the MAYE to attract new youth energies into increasing engagement in development through the arts and successfully provide spaces where they could interact duty bearers. Partners such as Islamic Radio FM were actively involved in the project activities organizing dialogue sessions and inviting duty bearers into the stations to broadcast expression of hope and give insight into young problems and solutions. The journalist engaged as facilitators in community meetings and spoke as poets and mentors for youths in the process, which sparked their interest of the art festivals. **KII Media partner**

The needs of youth living in a highly polarized and radicalized society have collided, aggravated by radical youths and extremists' hostility toward residents especially village elders. The government blames the communities for hiding perpetrators of violence and extremist ideologies. The CARE project developed strong bond with the community who accepted to be part of the activities and increasing trust and ownership. The Anika Amani Festivals and Multi-stakeholders barazas including Graffiti installation processes played a key role. The Matuga

⁷ Wajibu Wetu Programme Project Annual Progress Report: July 2019-December 2019

Youth Empowerment Center was formed by trained youth champions and participants from various grassroots groups during the ANIKA AMANI Festivals. Training sessions were beneficial in increasing the engagement of youth and duty bearers. On September 4, 2019, at Kombani social hall, a workshop taught youth, village elders, and invited stakeholders on the more in-depth elements of PCVE and the participation of young in Tiwi decision-making platforms, in addition to holding monthly sessions for active engagement.

The project's design is distinctive because it integrates women's voices into spaces where young girls' marriages are common and tourism has drawn young girls who drop out of school in search of quick cash to support their families. After being selected at the ward level to participate in the events and foster their skills through the ANIKA Hub activities, the girls have been a part of the training and forums. However, the effect of the PWD population remains a significant challenge, requiring further specialized training and psychosocial assistance. **Kil Project Staff**

The evaluation was impressed with the youth's commitment to the project, but it requires a significant resource allocation and diversified approaches such as economic support for livelihood. Beyond community Artivism, follow-up activities and training may improve positive attitudinal change and narratives of transformation. Despite the tremendous demand for youth and the rising radicalization caused by the COVID-19 epidemic, the evaluation has conclusively demonstrated the need for sustainable mechanisms beyond the project.

The Kinango Youth Network, which was formed as a result of CARE Project interventions and now houses the information centre has influenced young people to become young activists in community awareness forums, engagements (production of audio-visual content for public consumption and engagement), and information centre management. MAYE should create an office in Kinango, according to the Kinango community, in order to promote greater change and community is yearning for more meaningful interaction, something they rarely have, and project has been able to give. **Kil Community Leader**

3.1.2 Relevance to the needs of duty bearers and other stakeholders

Insecurity in Kinango and Matuga has risen because of Extrajudicial executions, forced disappearances, terror profiling of suspects, weak cooperation between law enforcement and the community. This situation has led to youth involvement in violent extremism because the police are not trusted. Governments have attempted to raise awareness about the risks of extremist organizations, but such messages do not offer viable alternatives. The intended outcome was to develop established, active, and functional community-government-led structures that encourage reporting and provide alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. relevance of community-driven mechanisms was utilized to solve local problem through established fora, the community in Kwale has been able to evade juvenile attacks on unsuspecting people in the community, peacefully and collaboratively engage the police in flushing out criminal acts, and as well enabled the restoration of power in Kwale, which experienced blackouts and business losses. In Kwale,

The Matuga Youth Empowerment Forum, as well as the larger Kwale Civilian Oversight Forum, show how alternative structures could help sustain peace and respect for human rights in the community. Training in Preventing and Countering violent extremism, sensitize them on the importance of involving young people in decision making processes and committees such as Barazas and Nyumba Kumi structures. 72 participants comprising of 24 Village elders, 12 youth in Matuga and 20 Village Elders, 16 Youth leaders in Kinango sub-counties. MAYE acts as a liaison between the young and the old in the community, providing a platform for youth to have their opinions heard. **MAYE Annual Report 2020-2021**

Youth from the Tuko Na Hope Youth Group met in Matuga to explore the importance of youth and wazees interacting through local barazas. The dialogue outreach is sponsored by MAYE to demonstrate the value of youth in the

community, ask questions and receive feedback. Other community interventions between the youths and the office bearers followed. For instance, in Kinango the community would be organizing a football match with the police force to enhance the relationship and unity between police and community. **KII Youth Champion**

3.1.3 Validity of the Kwale County Countering Violent Extremism plan

The project foundation is embedded in the purpose of the Kwale County Plan to Counter Violent Extremism to have practical measures for countering radicalization and violent extremism. MAYE's partnership with the ForumCiv and other partners promoted youth participation in peace and security decision-making processes, bridging the gap between young and older residents while instituting youth-led safe spaces and structures that resist extremists and strengthen cohesion and ideology. The evaluation revealed that indicators for the County CVE Plan Strategies in the project delivery:

Formative Effort Stage (Green Circle I), Strengthening Nyumba Kumi clusters, mainstreaming social values, partnering with civil society and government institutions, training and capacity building, awareness creation through barazas, public forums and joint security-citizen engagements, developing counter narratives and massaging, and host cultural events to create social cohesion were among the preventive interventions.

The evaluation looked into the targeted groups in achieving the project objective, which is that young women, men and communities resist extremist ideologies. The intended outcome of increased engagement and working with established, active and functional community-government led structures for reporting and providing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. It was in line with some of the actors aligned to the County CVE Plan:

- Community (youth, community leaders and related stakeholders) to participate and co-operate with CSO and FBOs to implement the Kwale CVE Plan, co-operate with state actors in prevention and mitigation of VE and Peacefully co-exist with each other regardless of tribe, religion and political persuasions
- Duty bearers (National government agencies): to offer leadership, innovative and holistic strategies, respect human rights, public sensitization, Initiate development programs targeting poor and unemployed youth specifically in active recruitment areas etc.
- Duty bearers (county government of Kwale) to engage legislation and policy framework on CVE, capacity building, research, County Policing and Citizen Security, finance youth empowerment, approved early childhood, curriculum (madrassa and other religious learning institutions) etc.

3.2 Project Efficiency

3.2.1 Community Resource and value generated

The CARE project received funding of **Kshs. 5 million** to implement project interventions during the two-year timeline. The organization also received further support of **Kshs. 0.8 million** that was used to directly purchase musical equipment that are a valuable and productive asset to the organization.

3.2.2 Management structure and effectiveness in partnerships

The project was directly managed by MAYE with continuous technical support and backstopping from ForumCiv. MAYE's active participation in the coastal civil society movement also enhanced its institutional capacity and positioned it to play a front-line role in the PCVE space. The project featured several organizations that complemented each other in executing other pillars of the Wajibu Wetu program. Project interventions were categorized into three groups:-

- **Engagement with duty bearers.** This created a platform for young people to engage with leaders and duty bearers. Through sustained efforts, it translated into the integration of youths into various committees; peace committees, nyumba kumi including Kinango development forum which served as a strategic entry point for engagement.
- **Increasing youth urgency;** Community forums and public outreaches were organised to increase their urgency to engage in the governance platform. As a result, "At least 15 youth networks and information booths accelerated youth engagement, sustained their actions and consolidated their collective power based on numerical strength," noted a key informant.
- **Awareness:** Youths engaged communities in creative arts that triggered dialogue through; dramatized dances, theatre performances, graffiti. These provided a good entry point thus demystifying and deconstructing taboo or highly sensitive topics like CVE. Through creative arts, they were able to take the audiences through a journey of transformation.

3.2.3 Project targeting and the ability to address identified issues.

The project was accurate in its targeting of young women, men and communities to resist extremist ideologies. Decision to settle on Matuga and Kinango was strategic because they are considered hotspots, breeding grounds and hideouts for criminal gangs. Working with local youth groups and duty bearers was equally a noble decision.

In addition, the choice of project activities was well guided as it focused on the use of creative arts to promote dialogue and solution finding on community concerns in order to confront the increasing and exploding youth crisis, which is entangled in drugs and violence, juvenile gangs thus endangering community safety and security.

There was appropriate time management, and each activity was allocated enough time to ensure successful delivery and completion. Time management was an important aspect since it allows for improved performance and achievement of goals. However, there is need for more time in the project to tackle the fundamental underlying issues in the community. Community issues were enormous that could not be adequately concluded even within the limited time available during radio sessions.

3.2.4 Monitoring and evaluation learning and reporting

The project had a well thought out Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework, which put into consideration the project design. The outcome journal was a useful indicator tracking tool. It was developed during the project inception and design. It focused on two outcome areas; (i) Increased engagement between youth, duty bearers and other actors on P/CVE (ii) Established and functioning community structures that encourage reporting and provide alternative dispute resolving mechanisms on PVCE.

In the initial stages, there were weak internal systems and organizational capacity and this could be attributed to the fact that most of the organizational staff are volunteers with limited technical capacity thus curtailing their level of competency. According to a key informant, “We had to provide continuous support and backstopping. Considering the short project time horizon these efforts could not be optimized. A good proportion of organizational resources were spent on enhancing and strengthening internal organizational systems and capacities i.e., financial management and M&E.”

ForumCiv has played a pivotal role in enhancing the internal capacity of organisational staff to develop and maintain robust MEL systems. This was done through onsite coaching, in person and virtual trainings focused on financial management, project cycle management and M&E. The growth has been steady though there is room for more work to be done especially recruitment of professionals based on availability of funding.

Even though a baseline study was not done for the project, relevant measures were made to build a monitoring framework to help track progress through activity, monthly and quarterly reports. MAYE collected monthly data on project outputs, which they would later verify during project visits and stakeholders’ reviews. Each quarter, a progress would similarly be generated from project monitoring, using the required templates. The monthly and quarterly reports would further feed into the annual report shared with the donor.

Overall, the monitoring and evaluation framework and plan appear to have been quite robust. However, weaknesses emerged due to weak technical capacity and the absence of a fulltime professional project Monitoring, evaluation, and learning officer, to guide the development of the M&E plan. MAYE largely depended on the ForumCiv M&E staff to assist in handling more strategic aspects of MEL, but not much at the project level. The evaluators observed that all other reports were easily understandable and reader-friendly. All progress reports were all updated and complete.

3.3 Short- And Medium-Term Project Effects

Strengthened partnerships and enhanced relations and multi sectoral collaboration between young people, communities and duty bearers' especially local level security agencies and structures. The overriding aim of partnerships is to empower young people and communities to enable them to overcome various obstacles through a synergistic, holistic and complementary rights-based approach. It would primarily increase their decision-making capacity and freedom of action on truly fundamental issues on PCVE. According to a key informant, "building of networks with stakeholders and duty bearers has opened many doors for youngsters to influence and impact on the community development agenda."

During the study, it was noted that due to such partnerships,

The Kwale County Commissioner had "supported more groups' access registration at Huduma Centres and further offered some financial support to groups engaged in arts and media engagement. Youths now join Community Village elders, Bodaboda and chiefs as part of early warning and dispute resolution committee efforts, also done through WhatsApp groups."

Expanded democratic spaces for young men and women to engage duty bearers in policy dialogue and local decision-making processes. Even though the engagements did not directly influence policies at both national and county, they however, "strengthened existing policies especially those related to youth participation on security issues, securitization of PCVE agenda, engagement of youths in public planning processes, accessing Uwezo fund *inter alia*. It further reinforced the engagement between duty bearers, youths and other claim holders.

Bolstered organizational and individual leadership capacity of young men and women to engage with duty bearers in defining the local development agenda. Activism is a source for livelihood in the tourist entrenched economy which provide new insights for youth community to embrace. There is need for credit facilities to be available for youths to start livelihood projects such as waste management, eco-tourism. Many positive changes happened, but there was a lot of negative critics on matters concerning the youth when the project was starting.

Increased access to safe spaces and information through the youth friendly information centres including the Anika Community Hub. The establishment of ANIKA Community Hub "was an inspiration especially with the musical equipment and theatre performances as it creates a creative space that enables young men and women to optimise their capacities." It is considered as a sustainable action that will outlive the project life cycle. Youths including partner organisations will be able to tap and plug into these spaces for better skills development and livelihood pathways.

For example, the information centre that was established in Kinango (though it has not yet been officially launched) provides a strategic space and opportunity for young men and women to participate in local decision-making processes. These centres provide a useful space for diffusion of innovations and access to much needed information.

Fostered and accelerated peaceful co-existence among rival criminal gangs and communities.

The presence of increased harmony throughout the community is the most significant beneficial improvement. Communities that were formerly at odds are now united in their desire for peace, and freedom of movement has been restored. Young men and women from these high-risk communities are even collaborating in communal decision-making processes. Based on community dialogue and outreaches conducted by MAYE,

"Youths in Ng'ombeni and Denyenye have reconciled, and everyone may now walk about the neighbourhoods in peace. Juvenile gangs have collapsed, and young people are rehabilitating and embracing social cohesiveness via art

and culture. The self-imposed movement restrictions in these areas have been lifted, and school-aged children no longer need to be escorted to and from school." It was also reported that, some drug users have reformed and are joining rehabilitation Centres and are encouraging other young people to pull away from juvenile gangs.

It is clear that communities are embracing the concept of living in peace and looking out for one another. The link that has been formed between the community and the duty bearers to accept responsibility in areas of work and duty distribution, establishes an outlet for joint responsibility in addressing and resolving community concerns.

Increased social status of young men and women in the society. As a result of the project, PCVE champions enjoy increased social status and recognition in the society. While these PCVE change makers bask in a broader sense of acceptance and social status in the community, their peers who 'remained behind' view them in negative light which might pose personal safety risks or possible backlash. Based on insights from the CARE project staff,

"Youths who have transformed and trained to be PCVE champions are seen as "watiaji" (traitors) by members of juvenile gangs since they interact closely with police and administrative authorities, according to the criticism."

Increased responsiveness by parents, caregivers and duty bearers towards young men and women. The study found that the project has progressed considerably in getting parents and carers to take their parental obligations more seriously via *Gumzo mtaani* or public theatre. It was evident that the nature of previously tense relationships in Likoni, Matuga and Kinango between young people, parents and law enforcement agencies had changed significantly.

During an FGD with parents and caregivers in Kinango, "They agreed that they must be friends with their children and understand that some of them have skills that may help them survive and earn a livelihood as an alternative source of income."

3.3.1 Unintended Outcomes

Increased uptake of digital tools in response to the effects of Covid-19: The COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences negatively affected the smooth implementation of project activities leading to delays that prompted the adoption of alternative mechanisms. The emergence of Covid-19 stimulated digital disruptions thus accelerating the uptake of digital tools to further the delivery of project interventions. The project was compelled to switch to online meetings and live streaming. Young men and women have learned to adopt new skills in order to continue working on the project.

Negative profiling of PCVE champions by criminal gang peers: youth empowered to be grassroots PCVE champions did not expect that they would be blamed by members of juvenile gangs for helping some of the gang members' reform. The gang members felt like their gangs were weakening in strategy because the PCVE champions pulled some of their members out.

High expectations and community perceptions about development and humanitarian organisations: the ideology that community members developed that for any activity or forums reaching out to them, they should be reimbursed or at least be served with refreshments. Lack of these caused low turnout to important community functions.

3.3.2 Key Factors of Success

The adoption of creative arts combining performances and graffiti played a significant role in stimulating public dialogue on taboo or highly sensitive topics. In these two approaches stood out as key in promoting social change especially in Kinango, Tiwi and Likoni. These included; *Gumzoo mtaani* or *maskani* that motivated a mutual engagement between community and security officers while *Sports na Sanaa* annual event contributed to reduced hostilities between young people from different fragile neighbourhoods of Timbwani, Vijiweni and Shika Adabu in Likoni. These dual approaches triggered grassroots-based discussions and solution finding between the police and communities.

Respondents felt that; “The interactive theatrical elements of this initiative made a difference since the plays encouraged conversation amongst young men and women, as well as the police and the elderly. They were all taught their roles and how to get along with one another. Graffiti as a means of communication has also made a difference since the messages stay longer, are understood by both the elite and the illiterate, and may even be seen by PWDs who are unable to talk or hear.”

Other approaches entailed radio talk shows where listeners would listen and call in to engage policy makers and change makers on CVE related topics. The radio stations had a large reach into the surrounding areas, allowing communities to listen to their own people converse in their own language and discuss the realities that they faced.

Additionally, MAYE made good use of social media space to sustain civic engagement especially with young men and women including communities.

FGD respondents observed that, “Every activity which was conducted was widely shared on social media platforms mostly through WhatsApp, Facebook etc. Through this, people could get the message from comfort of their places.”

3.3.1 Sustainability

The study established that there is potential for continuity beyond the project cycle even though this is weakened by two extremes i.e., the ravaging effects of Covid19 on livelihoods and the forthcoming 2022 general elections. Covid-19 which has eroded some of the gains realised in the first year of project implementation. This was aggravated by the fact that most of the project interventions had a public outreach facing component which was curtailed by government restrictions on public gatherings. In addition, general elections provide a fertile ground for politicians to activate some of the ‘sleeping criminal gangs’ and vulnerable youths especially those whose livelihoods have been disrupted.

The study established the following sustainability mechanisms;

- *Entrenching alternative livelihood pathways for PCVE champions*

The project felt the need to identify and establish alternative livelihood pathways to reduce vulnerability of young men and women while resisting extremist ideologies which sadly offer instant income opportunities. This remains a key pain point that should be nurtured and sustained.

“We should be supported with credit facilities that support youth empowerment, governance aspects of leadership will be needed to hold forums and meetings during elections campaigns to provide avenue for negotiation into youth led development support by the government of Kwale and national government agencies. Eco-friendly practices such as waste management will provide increased sources of funding,” said FGD respondents.

The drilling of a borehole by MAYE at Dongo kundu is a key milestone that is bound to spur agribusiness and emergence of agri-preneurs. The training of young men and women on film

making also opens up pathways for young men and women to exploit their talents and capabilities. It was evident that the initiative has taken shape and some of the young people have developed self-sustaining mechanisms, such as agribusiness plans.

According to MAYE artists, they confirmed that they “will continue implementing project activities after the project funding ends because there is still a large population that need to be equipped with the knowledge and skills to resist the appeal of extremist ideologies and radicalization, and it is their duty to do so as PCVE champions.”

According to a former youth development officer, “Only about 40% of the youths can continue on their own while 60% are at risk of sliding back into violence extremism in the absence of viable alternative livelihood options.”

This was reinforced by FGD respondents, “In Kinango, approximately 10% of youngsters are capable of continuing on their own. Only a few Kinango youngsters benefited from the project interventions. It is necessary to go out to the grassroots and cover the remaining sub counties inside Kinango Sub County.”

Some of the young artists felt that, “the gains and benefits can be sustained because the young men and women have formed and registered their group in a SACCO where all the 20 members contribute Kshs. 500 monthly, 50% is saved in their account and the remainder is shared between 2 members in a merry go round.

- *Establishment of youth friendly information centres*

It is envisaged that the information centres shall become a point of convergence for various actors and repository for youths to access essential services. As a long-term sustainability measure, ForumCiv invested in; fully equipping the Anika Community Hub with modern musical equipment worth Kshs. 1.5 million. The rationale behind this was to enhance livelihood pathways through nurturing of talents thus creating safe spaces and opportunities for youths to be busy while running thriving creative enterprises.

Beyond the project time horizon, “we have provided the necessary infrastructure that the organisation can use to generate alternative income to sustain its activities. They have one of the best sound equipment which is a long term and productive asset,” said a key informant. Moreover, resources that can support the project are still available and will be maximized to sustain the activities and members. For instance, the public address system and musical instruments, Anika Hub.”

- *Strengthening partnerships with key duty bearers and actors engaged in PCVE space facilitates long term sustenance of project interventions*

A key pillar for sustainability is the nature of horizontal and vertical partnerships and collaborations that have been forged during the project period.

According to FGD respondents, “The CARE project has improved partnership and collaboration with government and other partners such as Plan international, MUHURI plus other security agents because since the project began. The government is issuing young people with platforms to showcase their talents by providing loans for business start-ups to enhance financial independence, girl child empowerment programs on reproductive health and human rights, and even borrowing ideas for graffiti and cultural exhibitions, and trainings to equip the young people with skills and knowledge of PCVE.”

In addition, “Media organizations are documenting success stories of PCVE champions and challenging the rest of the world to do the same. Learning institutions are donating resourceful learning materials in information centers to empower young men and women with knowledge.”

In the last two years, MAYE has cultivated and excelled in key partnerships and engagements which has strategically positioned and increased its visibility for example; participation in regional and national CVE festivals, Civil society networks. It has developed partnerships with national and international organisations e.g., international partnerships; Georgian Center for Strategy and Development (GCSD), Agha Khan Foundation, prominent public personalities artistes like John Allan Namu, Juliani, Octopizzo etc. This has boosted their credibility, broadened their base of partners and sustainability of the organisation.

In general, most of the respondents felt that the time horizon for this project was short to effectively entrench sustainability mechanisms, “The youngsters felt that the project ended sooner and there are still other hotspot areas that need to receive the knowledge and empowerment to equip them to resist the appeal of extremist ideologies and radicalization,” said FGD respondents. This was worsened by the negative effects occasioned by Covid-19 that disrupted livelihoods leading to loss of jobs, collapsed businesses, high cost of living and broken families. It will take a while for these families and economy to bounce back.

3.3.1 Good Practice (GPs)

In order to identify the GPs relating to the CARE project, the study adopted the criteria that focused on; relevance and responsiveness, efficiency, effectiveness, ethical soundness, participatory and sustainability of the GP.

#Good Practice 1: Establishment of youth friendly information centres including the Anika Community Hub.

The project supported the establishment of youth information centres to avail the much-needed services to the youths. The role that Kinango information centres and Anika Community Hub continue to play in increasing youth access to information for decision making and livelihood opportunities provides a strategic platform for sustainability beyond the project life cycle. It is a good practice because it guarantees the continuity of youth engagements and opens up avenues for youths to engage with the duty bearers and other development partners who are keen on work with the youths in Likoni, Matuga and Kinango. Information centres provides a safe space with centralised access to essential services for the youths. It also enhances their confidence and capacity to play a key role in local level decision making processes.

#Good Practice 2: Leave no one behind: deliberate action to on-board and engage diverse partners, communities and duty bearers in the design and delivery of project interventions is a gateway for a successful PCVE engagement.

The project mapped out potential partners and the potential roles that they could play in enabling the youths to resist extremist ideologies. These partners spanned between government agencies, communities and other non-state actors. Based on their strengths, MAYE has been able to leverage on their goodwill to deliver on a wide range of project interventions. Most of the achievements realized in this project came as a result of multi sectoral approach that tapped on the synergies and collaborative strengths of diverse horizontal and vertical actors. In the last two years of this project, the lessons and good practices noticed include the changed perception of the society and police towards young men and women. After empowering the young men and women to be PCVE champions, the young people have embraced their duties and roles and are now seen as the mirror of the society. The youths are participating in barazas, the youth can access information through the booths equipped with information on PCVE and are entitled with some community responsibilities which was unheard of in the past.

#Good Practice 3: Championing creative arts and innovative approaches to stimulate dialogue on PCVE issues that considered as highly sensitive and taboo topics.

Awareness building through public outreaches where the youths engaged in creative arts that help to trigger dialogue through; dramatized dances, theatre performances and graffiti. These provided a good entry point thus demystifying and deconstructing taboo or highly sensitive topics on extremist ideologies. Through creative arts, they were able to take the audiences through a journey of transformation.

We consider the adoption of creative arts as a good practice, because it created a conducive atmosphere for communities to engage on a highly sensitive and fragile agenda. Extremist ideology was a topic that could potentially backfire if approached directly. However, it was easy for audiences to engage and identify with scenarios that were outlined in the theatre performances and relate them to their context. Reduced hostility between youths from conflicting communities in Likoni and Matuga. *For example*; rival gangs from fragile communities in Mtongwe, Timbwani and Shika adabu, Ng'ombeni and Denyenye communities have ended their constant fights and hostilities.

A former habitual drinker transforms into a brilliant actress as a consequence of the CARE initiative in MAYE. There is also a young man in the Tiwi locality who has totally recovered from drug and substance misuse. He had been a victim of terrible violence, and no one in the community wanted to associate with him, but the CARE project helped him grow into a nice guy who is now recognized in society. A former drug addict was recruited by MAYE thespian team and now he is using his talent to promote PCVE. Also, the young man did not have any idea on how to use social media platforms. Now he has a twitter account, and is using his account to advocate for change among the youth.

3.3.2 Challenges Faced in Implementation

Evaluation revealed that

- **Resistance to youth mobilization and positive attitudinal change:** bringing together young people and duty bearers in decision-making positions as an innovative ways of combating terrorism and violent extremism, which has been a long-standing issue. However, there was attrition on the project due to a change of leadership and transfers of duty bearers. At the Kinango sub-county office, where the county commissioner and director of youth affairs in Kwale County who were involved in project activities were transferred. The processes experienced a hurdle in re-establish public trust and community engagement.
- **Uncertainty associated with PCVE knowledge and information gaps among the youth may affect level of confidence.** The needs of youth living in a highly polarized and radicalized society have collided, aggravated by radical youths and extremists' hostility toward village elders, which has resulted in killings and abductions, has remained a challenge, with communities blaming the government while the government blames the communities for hiding perpetrators of violence and extremist ideologies.
- Community members are less likely to attend community gatherings, if projects are not funded due to high expectations and social attitudes on development. Some think that they should be compensated or given refreshments in exchange for their involvement.

3.4 Lessons Learnt

- 1) Through continuous support, resilience building and adaptation, young men and women have the inherent ability and strength to promote their own ideals. All they require is adequate direction, training, and financial assistance. “Every step we take towards being responsible and productive improves our self-esteem as well as our relationships with friends, family, and the community,” admitted a youth leader. The deliberate action by ForumCiv to purchase musical equipment for the Anika Community Hub is a significant milestone in exploiting youth capacities. ANIKA Community hub has attracted youths and provided space for young men and women to nurture their talents and transform into better citizens while providing opportunities for gainful income.

The respondents observed that the CARE project, “has taught young men and women how to cope with disappointments. Rather than allowing themselves to be devastated by failure, they learn from it and become even more successful later in life.”

- 2) In order to sustain the gains realized while resisting violent extremism, creative arts should be anchored and sequenced with sustainable livelihood pathways for young men and women. Throughout the study, this was a major pain point that had potential to reverse some of the gains realized in the last two years.

According to a key informant, “MAYE is doing fantastically well. However, art will not be able to successfully shift the narrative until alternative means of income are provided. There is a need for youngsters to grow value-added coconut, which fosters coconut oil, processing nuts, soap, wastes for charcoal, and building materials.”

- 3) Self-discipline and delegated authority are a great lesson if young people are to successfully drive their agenda. This includes financial discipline.

‘Manyatta team respect each other and take their work very seriously. They are hard working. When I look at where they started and where they are today, I feel deeply challenged.’

- 4) Gender Equality: Inclusion of young men and women in community development and decision-making processes is very important because the youth constituency forms a critical mass of the local population. The inclusion of youth brings about diversified opinions and promotes inter-generational sustainability.

- 5) Embracing unity and mutual understanding between young men and women and the police officers is a major strength necessary for positioning the youths to resist extremist ideologies and communities to achieve sustainable peace.

- 6) Through continuous support, resilience building and adaptation, young men and women have the inherent ability and strength to promote their own ideals. All they require is adequate direction, training, and financial assistance. “Every step we take towards being responsible and productive improves our self-esteem as well as our relationships with friends, family, and the community,” admitted a youth leader.

The respondents observed that the CARE project, “has taught young men and women how to cope with disappointments. Rather than allowing themselves to be devastated by failure, they learn from it and become even more successful later in life.”

The deliberate action by ForumCiv to purchase musical equipment for the Anika Community Hub is a significant milestone in exploiting youth capacities. ANIKA Community hub has

attracted youths and provided space for young men and women to nurture their talents and transform into better citizens while providing opportunities for gainful income.

- 7) In order to sustain the gains realized while resisting violent extremism, creative arts should be anchored and sequenced with sustainable livelihood pathways for young men and women. Throughout the study, this was a major pain point that had potential to reverse some of the gains realized in the last two years.

According to a key informant, "MAYE is doing fantastically well. However, art will not be able to successfully shift the narrative until alternative means of income are provided. There is a need for youngsters to grow value-added coconut, which fosters coconut oil, processing nuts, soap, wastes for charcoal, and building materials."

- 8) Self-discipline and delegated authority are a great lesson if young people are to successfully drive their agenda. This includes financial discipline.

'Manyatta team respect each other and take their work very seriously. They are hard working. When I look at where they started and where they are today, I feel deeply challenged.'

- 9) Gender Equality: Inclusion of young men and women in community development and decision-making processes is very important because the youth constituency forms a critical mass of the local population. The inclusion of youth brings about diversified opinions and promotes inter-generational sustainability.

- 10) Embracing unity and mutual understanding between young men and women and the police officers is a major strength necessary for positioning the youths to resist extremist ideologies and communities to achieve sustainable peace.

4.0 Recommendations

This evaluation established that the project contributed to the organizational, draft strategic plan and was equally aligned to the Kwale County CVE Plan 2017, UN SGD16 on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions: *Inclusive societies, strong institutions, and equal access to justice* and UN SGD 17 on Partnerships for the Goals: *Revitalize Partnerships for the Goals*. Other international protocols included; the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on youth, peace, and security (YPS) and AU 2063 resolutions⁸ **Agenda 4: A Peaceful and Secure Africa** and **Agenda 6: An Africa Whose Development is people driven, relying on the potential offered by African People, especially its Women and Youth, and caring for Children.**

At this juncture, a number of key recommendations can be made to maximize the chances of MAYE's PCVE initiatives being successful beyond this project time horizon. The evaluation therefore draws the following recommendations;

Entrench alternative livelihood pathways for PCVE champions

It is important that alternative livelihood pathways are identified and sustained to reduce vulnerability of young men and women to resist extremist ideologies which sadly offer instant opportunities. "We should be supported with credit facilities that support youth empowerment, governance aspects of leadership will be needed to hold forums and meetings during elections campaigns to provide avenue for negotiation into youth led development support by the government of Kwale and national government agencies. Eco-friendly practices such as waste management will provide increased sources of funding," said FGD respondents.

In the absence of viable income generating pathways for reformed juvenile gang members or PCVE champions, they easily relapse back into their old ways. For example, a juvenile youth would ask, *'am giving up violent crime for what?'* This is a simple but very difficult question to answer considering that in crime they get instant money compared to alternative pathways that might require patience and dedication. Basically, how to balance instant versus long term gains.

As observed by a key informant, "imagine that you have trained a PCVE champion to engage in small scale business enterprise like selling water or boiled eggs and then Covid-19 hits and livelihoods are disrupted? Covid19 has really rolled back the gains and we are worse off than where we were back before. How does this young man or woman survive without relapsing back to crime? Youths are more vulnerable now than they were before. The cost of living is very high.

Scale up the Anika Community Hub without compromising the flexibility of the approach

Anika Community hub is a unique model that can be adopted and contextualised for the greater benefit of young men and men and their communities. This can be explored and implemented in collaboration with other partners engaged in the PCVE and other youth empowerment ecosystem. Perhaps, a conversation for another day is the need to develop the Anika community hub as a social enterprise model that is semi-autonomous to MAYE. Social enterprises prioritize social impact, but also strive for financial sustainability. While they may rely on philanthropic capital, such as grants, to get their work off the ground, they ultimately look for a model that enables them to stay afloat without a constant infusion of charitable support.

⁸ <https://au.int/en/agenda2063/goals>

Leverage on the power of digital tools and technology

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the digital divide that exists to different extents in different societies. It has also catalysed the uptake of digital technology. The role of ICTs in accelerating and unbundling alternative income generation pathways for youths at Anika Community Hub cannot be undermined.

To ensure both short- and long-term impacts, Anika community hub and other youth friendly information booths or centres should focus not only on using digital technologies, but also on developing access to and capacities for the use of digital tools among young men and women including local stakeholders and communities. MAYE needs to integrate digital learning, documentation, environmental ecotourism solutions aimed at promoting Community Activism. This will impact institutional learning for current information booths, integrate digital education among young people and chronicle creativity in the community to mitigate and counter violent extremism.

Improving youth access to technology can be achieved through the development of local digital infrastructure or by targeting resources to provide laptops and wireless cards or Wi-Fi, for example. Training in digital literacy and associated soft skills, such as facilitation, online jobs might also be required for these tools and technologies to be used effectively. Overall, training in the use of digital platforms can even be seen as part of broader efforts to engage stakeholders and develop long-term relationships. People have different levels of experience with such tools, as well as a differing willingness to experiment with them, and so a key message is to tailor the approach according to the users' needs.

Optimization of knowledge transfer

Like other emerging CBOs, MAYE increasingly needs systems to manage the creation, accessing and deployment of information: within the CBO itself, between different CSOs that work in the PCVE space and, ultimately, between the organisation and the society as a whole. Put simply, MAYE needs an effective knowledge management system to help tackle the problems that arise from both their local-global nature and from the difficulties of effective communication between and within itself and Civil Society.

As a growing youth organisation MAYE should develop a robust and well managed knowledge management systems. The organisation has a goldmine of collective knowledge at its disposal. Thus, streamlining knowledge management could have a dramatic effect on the productivity and preservation of institutional memory of the organisation. Furthermore, making information accessible and well organised helps unlock the value of the collective knowledge held by organizational staff and its partners. This is informed by the fact the organisation heavily relies on its dream carrier and a pool of volunteers to deliver its programs. Downstream, the level of engagement with young people, relevant government, and local community leaders should be supported to increase their level of knowledge and skills. This will help to promote and embed narratives of prevention and counter violent extremism within the community structures.

Expand the scope and breadth of partnerships and partnerships management

Although the organisation through the CARE project has broadened its engagement through horizontal and vertical relationships with partners, there is considerable room that remains for expanding their respective parameters to help sustain some of the project interventions beyond

the project life. For example, there is a strategic opportunity for private and public partners to tap into the safe space provided by Anika Community hub and other information booths. In the planning and execution of the projects for both youth and duty bearers should be concerned with the design and implementation of the project. Critical and important PCVE activities will enhance engagement by young people and duty bearers. These efforts will be essential in Kwale County towards the forthcoming general elections in 2022 that could potentially disrupt these gains.

Through the participatory approach at the community level, MAYE demonstrated that community Artivism project has a great probability of resulting in outcomes for the young people, relevant government, local community leaders and possibly the whole county of Kwale. The principal conclusion of the CARE project in generating outcomes that can relate to the design of other resisting extremist ideologies programs include:

- *Permit sufficient time for outcomes to emerge:* the 2-year implementation period may not have been sufficient to effect change in the community, behaviour change processes take long and achievement of major outcomes may take longer.
- *Created opportunities for collaborations:* One of the main gains of the CARE project is enhancing the capacity of the community to engage the duty bearers in prevention and counter violent extremism through creative arts. The multi-stakeholder sessions, training sessions and festivals created platforms for continued engagements that would continue beyond MAYE.

The evaluation examined the project and its effects as concluded:

- Incorporating established community institutions for reporting and alternative conflict resolving mechanisms, the project design enhanced interaction between youth, duty bearers, and other stakeholders. Indeed, the innovative approach boosted young knowledge and skills in Kwale County's Matuga and Kinango sub-counties. The model has a wealth of information for future community PCVE projects.
- Young people, community leaders, government agencies and partners recruited and mapped as part of Community Artivism in Resisting Extremist Ideologies project. Sufficient resources should be provided, according to the evaluation, to ensure that it is sustainable. The project concentration in Kwale County's Matuga and Kinango sub-counties, for example, resulted in the utilization of additional logistical resources that were not expected during planning and budgeting.
- Gender equality was achieved through partnerships. These included deliberate decision to engage young women and men in youth forums in Matuga and Kinango, along with trainings, community structures, and the utilization of ANIKA hub among others activities. The significant stories of relative peace in Tiwi, Ng'ombeni, Kinango, showed best practices could be adopted in the fight against violent extremist. MAYE would not have been able to meet and garner support without the duty bearers and partners.
- MAYE achieved major substantive milestones for two outcome areas by engaging with youth, community leaders and duty bearers. Despite the effects of COVID-19, the ANIKA festival was the most successful activity for inspiring youth knowledge and skills. A significant amount of time and money may be spent on digital training for information booths and financial assistance for young art microprojects, culminating in a combination of arts and activism. Baseline assessment, continuous monitoring and evaluation, and documentation are required in order to make coordinated management decisions.

5.0 Conclusions

Using creative arts to accelerate youth engagement in resisting extremist ideologies proves to be a high impact way of stimulating and re-defining public dialogue on PCVE. This study sought to: *evaluate the entire project in terms of effectiveness, relevance, efficiency, sustainability, scalability, replicability and impact, with a strong focus on assessing the results at the outcomes and project goal.*

A number of lessons were learned from the exercise particularly how to position youths to be integrated into local level decision making structures and promotion of dialogue on PCVE using creative designed and delivered by young men and women.

Far from being a finished product, this study is rather an essential input to help facilitate future policy and programmatic interventions and especially strategic guidance for scaling up and domesticating youth friendly PCVE approaches in Kwale County and its possible extension to other hotspots in the region.

6.0 Annexes

Annex 1: Evaluation in Display (Photos)



Inception meeting with MAYE Staff



FGD with Young Artists at ANIKA Hub



FGD discussion with young men



FGD discussion with young women



KII with duty bearer



FGD with Nyumba Kumi and Village Elders

Annex 3: Terms of Reference (TOR)



MAYE_CARE
Project_Final Evalua

Annex 4: Infographic of Project Outcomes and Activities



MANYATTA YOUTH ENTERTAINMENT CBO
Advocating Community Resilience and Restoring Dignity
 while Upholding the Rule of Law and Respect for Human Rights

Community Art and Activism In Resisting Extremist Ideologies (CARE)

"The project was a bold initiative by the MAYE to attract new youth energies into increasing engagement through the arts and provide spaces where they could interact duty bearers. Radio FM Stations and use digital platforms (WhatsApp) to broadcasted expression of hope and give insight into community problems and solutions."

Outcome 1: Increased engagement between youth, duty bearers & other actors on P/CVE.

144 Youth Mobilizers & Champions





Four (4) Multi-stakeholder Meetings Inclusive of Graffiti Installation



Four (4) Anika Amani Festivals



Four (4) Theatre Youth Dialogue (300 pax)



60 Youths participating in Barazas



60 Youths participating in Barazas

Outcome 2: Established and functioning community structures encourage reporting & alternative dispute resolving mechanisms on PVCE



3 PCVE Action Plan Sensitization forums (600 pax)



12 PCVE Information Booths




12 Trained Nyumba Kumi elders/leaders


Outcome: Young women, men, and communities resist extremist ideologies.

For more information, visit www.manyattayouth.org

Annex 5: Data Collection Tools

- 

MAYE_CARE
Project_KII Guide_Fir



MAYE_CARE
Project_FGD Guide_I

Annex 6: Summary of Respondents

- 

MAYE_CARE
PROJECT_FIELD DAT