Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Research Methodology Training on Inclusive Mechanisms Targeting Youth for Countering Violent Extremism in the IGAD Region

Two Consultancy Positions in Research Methodology Training

By

Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA)

March 2017

1. <u>Background</u>

Today, there are about 1.8 billion young people in the world between the ages of 10 and 24, or just under one-quarter of the world's population (UNFPA, 2014). Over two thirds of the Africa's population is under the age of 35 years, making the continent the most youthful in relation to other continents (Williams, 2012: Mihyo, 2014: Mihyo and Mukuna, 2015).

In mainstream scholarship, policy and debate, there is often a general fixation with youth as major sources of violence, insecurity and the collapse of public order. Increasingly, however, they are held up as a social category with immense economic potentials capable of playing a major role in transforming the African continent. What is perhaps missing in preventing the former and achieving the latter is the design of inclusive mechanisms to deter youth from embracing radical, extreme and violent practices.

The creation of an inclusive mechanism to mainstream youth and youth issues into interventions in Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) poses substantive conceptual, methodological and policy challenges. For the most part, young men and women make up the majority of actors- and "foot soldiers"- that embrace and actively engage in acts of violent extremism (VE). As the threat posed by VE deepens in Africa, especially, inter-governmental state and non-state institutions are investing time and resources to contemplate and implement innovative and collaborative solutions. However, there is still a plethora of gaps in the conceptual understanding of youth engagements in VE and in the current approaches put in place by state and non-state actors to CVE.

A longitudinal design and mixed method is deployed in this study, **with emphasis on scholarly and action-oriented policy outputs.** Placing premium on gender-disaggregated data, the study emphasizes in-depth contextual analysis of the structural factors that underpin youth exclusion, injustice vis-à-vis violence, extremism and radicalization. Three research organizations: OSSREA (academia), PeaceNet (CSOs) and IGAD-CEWARN in relation to ICPAT (Inter-governmental) are collaborating to bringing critical synergies and comparative advantages to the successful implementation of the project. The network will jointly engage in the co-production of new knowledge and interventions on multi-stakeholders engagement with youth in CVE.

The overall aim is to generate new and richer body of knowledge and perspectives to inform evidence based policy interventions on CVE in two member states of the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD); (Kenya and Uganda), and across Africa.

2.   Justification

It is not clear which young people- male or female-are predisposed to joining armed groups, why they do so, and what can be done to stem the tide of their embrace of violent ideologies and activities. Dominant narratives that explain youth alienation and militancy outside of structural or contextual factors they thrive cannot help us gain better and more nuanced understanding of how to design and implement CVE. For instance, while grievances might present strong justifications for youth embrace of and participation in VE, it is prudent to interrogate other factors that are implicated in their proliferation and intensity.

In the light of the above, there are several specific justifications to implement this project on youth and CVE in the IGAD region:

*2.1.   **The IGAD region has witnessed multiple instances of VE and conflicts.***
At different times, and in varying intensities, all countries in the IGAD region have experienced acts of terrorism due to their geographical proximity to the hotbed of terrorism franchise (in the Middle East), persistence of inter-communal conflicts involving cross-border pastoralist violence, governance deficits, widespread exclusion from access to subsidized socio-economic opportunities, to name a few. Thus, from the rise of a violent armed opposition in Djibouti to the harsh repression and incarceration of political dissidents in Ethiopia and the perennial clashes between government forces and rebel factions in Darfur and South Sudan, conditions in the Horn are generally conducive for the incubation of different forms of radical expressions and VE. Indeed, the IGAD region is recognised to be Africa's most vulnerable to terrorism (Bashir, 2007).

2.2.   IGAD region face deficits in technical capacity at national and regional levels for CVE. The heightened atmosphere insecurity described above has further weakened the capacity of state institutions to exercise their core raison d'etre. It is imperative that several, if not all the countries in the IGAD region could benefit from a variety of assistances in the design and implementation of counterterrorism legislations. This project seeks, in the medium and long terms, to bridge the evident capacity gap in CVE in the IGAD region in ways that ameliorate the challenges facing vulnerable groups that are targets of recruitment by extremist groups.

3.   General Objective

The research study seeks to inform policy debates and practices in CVE interventions within the IGAD region in order to engage and empower youth, both male and female.

3.1   Specific Objectives

3.1.1   To identify and analyse the factors that predispose youth, male and female, to engage in VE in Uganda and Kenya.

3.1.2   To identify avenues and strategies for creating as well as deepening interventions to engage and empower youth in CVE interventions in Kenya and Uganda.

3.1.3   To analyse existing/emerging policies and practices related to CVE with the view to ensuring that they lead to the creation of safe spaces and sustainable opportunities for youth participation in CVE

4   Research Questions

Main research question: How does research evidence inform policy debates and practices in CVE interventions in order to engage and empower youth, both male and female?

4.1   Specific Research Questions

4.1.1   What are the driving factors that incentivise youth (male and female) to engage in VE in Uganda and Kenya?

4.1.2   What are the mechanisms, infrastructure and resources available for engaging and empowering youth in CVE interventions in Kenya and Uganda?

4.1.3   How can policies and practices related to CVE enhance the creation of space for male and female youth to participate?

5.   Proposed Research Methodology

5.1   Research Design

The project will use a longitudinal survey design to combine quantitative and qualitative approaches, in order to provide in-depth data, and to generate practical findings to influence policy change, through lessons learnt during the three years of this project intervention. It will therefore be an action research generating evidence for immediate action to engage the policy makers and create dialogue among the community members to transform the general gendered stereotypes associated with male and female youth. This research project will go through a series of consultative meetings both at individual and group levels to benefit from the participatory approaches. The process will also benchmark with international best practices obtained from the literature on CVE and Youth.

While the qualitative information will provide the country specific case studies, the quantitative measurement will focus on the information that will allow delineation of fine differences between youth based on the characteristics of the research questions. The second measure is to provide consistent device for making distinction and gauge differences. The third measurement is the correlation

analysis (provision of precise estimate of the degree of relationship between CVE concepts and inequality in youth). For example, in job-related factor amongst youth, a correlation with ideological stress that induces youth to be recruited will be measured if it exists or not. The correlation will also form part of the bigger triangulation methods with the qualitative information.

This design will be appropriate because it accommodates the use of multiple-indicator measures of VE including series of questions that will be part of a structured interview schedule or self-completion questionnaire. Records of behaviours will also form part of the indicator-measurements, use of official statistics and by examining the mass media contents. Where possible, the Likert scale will be used to generate the gender-based preferences using statements of the youth as may be derived from the main research questions. This will also help to understand how and if VE relate to the youth's occupation, organisation, ethnic groups, unemployment, religion, sentenced offenders, or to explain how they are involved by age, gender, religion or locational contexts.

5.2   Study Approach

The approach adopted for this study shall be essentially bottom-up in the sense that it takes into account the knowledge based practices and perceptions of the target beneficiaries by gender and age especially the youth from high risk areas in Kenya and Uganda. This approach will help in generating data on experiences and understanding of the specific tactics used to recruit, coerce, indoctrinate and socialise young people into violence. By targeting the different stakeholders, it will elicit the role of charismatic leaders, group dynamics and peer influence in these processes (Vertigans, 2008).

The study will be a multi-stakeholder survey taking into consideration gender roles, age factors, location specific factors and social status in understanding and addressing violent extremist. The multi-stakeholder perspective shall triangulate the use of political, religious and other identity-based ideologies to provide explanatory frameworks for grievances and powerful discourses to mobilise young people into violence (Juergensmeyer, 2003), or how they can be involved as agents of change. It may also help to understand the role of trigger events whether at a societal (e.g. elections, political events, security force abuses, sudden policy change) or individual level (e.g. personal loss and trauma) and how these scenarios can be changed through inclusive interventions in the governance and justice processes. This shall take on board practices and perspectives of the youth, state and non-state actors in enhancing equal participation of male and female youth, of different economic and social status, in countering violent extremism. The project therefore takes into account the perspectives of the local communities and

case stories relevant for meeting the set outcomes with a view of making recommendations on what exists and works best in each local context.

The benefit of this bottom-up approach is that it is based on an enhancement (capacity building), rather than a deficit (assumptions) approach to beneficiary participation in the process that is promoted in the reflect methods for data collection and interventions.

In the course of conducting this research project a nexus ascribed within the longitudinal method will integrate multi-disciplinary, inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary research approaches. The incorporation includes the Participatory Appraisal Research that is action-oriented and will engage stakeholders and beneficiaries from the beginning to the end. This will be realized in a stepwise procedure starting by building the capacity of the research team in focused research methods in CVE interventions.

6.   Expected Impacts from the research

6.1   Policy processes on CVE interventions actively take cognisance of youth issues in gender-sensitive ways;

6.2   Programming on CVE is informed by critical consideration of youth inputs, interests and voices;

6.3   Youth are actively engaged in decision-making process to directly inform policies and debates on CVE.

7   Expertise required (2 positions)

The consultant/s is required to have the following expertise:

- PhD and MA in areas of research methods, terrorism, extremism, radicalisation, peace and security;
- Professional competence and solid technical experience in training of qualitative and quantitative research methodology,
- Professional expertise in conducting research that involve vulnerable grounds like women and youth, and whose backgrounds may reflect the sensitive issues of radicalisation, extremisms and terrorism;
- Professional competence and solid technical experience in areas of countering/preventing violent extremism;
- Professional competence and solid technical experience in areas such as conflict, peace and security issues;
- Knowledge of CEWARN/IGAD, its mandate and its operations;
- Preferably prior experience working in the IGAD region (added advantage);

- Higher and many years of ranked and recognised police, and/or military background in gathering sensitive, and classified information with purpose of conducting research;
- Many years of academic background in how sensitive and classified information can be conducting research;
- Many years of working with government policies in areas related to youth, VE,
- Language skills – fluent spoken and written English.

8.   Key Deliverable

The Consultant(s) – as per the TOR – shall be expected to train the technical team from OSSREA, PeaceNet officials from Kenya and Uganda based on the objective below:

- **Refine the above methodology that deploys both qualitative and quantitative research design;**
- **Sharpen up the current research tools;**
- **Streamline research analysis and**
- **Suggest mechanisms by which reporting of findings containing sensitive information is done.**
- **Train the team on skills required to collect sensitive information from various sources**

9.   Training Schedules and Place

The training will take place in Kenya from 10th April to 15th April 2017. The consultancy duration will be 5 days and following time frame will define the implementation of the work:

- **Consultancy One:** 2 Days of training on skills regarding sensitive information Consultancy;

- **Consultancy Two:** 3 Days of academic training on qualitative and quantitative research methods specifically geared towards violent extremism.

10.   How to apply
   - Please send a motivation letter and short CV with three references indicating your experience on the required skills stated above to the email address info@ossrea.net with a copy to truphena@ossrea.net and sokelloangoma@gmail.com on or before April 02, 2017. The shortlisted applicant will be notified by email on April 04, 2017.

11. **Coordination:**
- OSSREA secretariat in Addis Ababa posts this TOR on its website (www.ossrea.net) for wider dissemination.
- OSSREA secretariat will commission the appropriate consultant/s,
- The participating partners are IGAD-CEWARN and PeaceNet (Kenya and Uganda)
- Key and relevant Government officials of Kenya and Uganda.