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United Nations Development Programme - UNDP
Fatalities from terrorist attacks in Africa – 2000 - 2016

Number of fatalities/locations of attacks resulting in fatalities
- Red: Attacks carried out by terrorist groups associated with religious ideologies
- Yellow: Attacks by other terrorist groups

The size of circles correspond to the number of fatalities in a single attack with smaller sizes reflecting lower number of fatalities.

The number of fatalities during the time period range from 1 to 400. A single attack with the highest fatality took place in Nigeria in January 2015.

2000–2001
- Attacks: 136
- Killed: 655
- Wounded: 428
OBJECTIVE
METHODOLOGY
DEMOGRAPHICS OF SAMPLE
OBJECTIVE

- Create an evidence-based approach to better understand the drivers and incentives for recruitment in Africa

- Guide policy and programmatic responses and gauge their effectiveness and impact

- Bring clarity to what a development approach to PVE entails
METHODOLOGY

• A political socialisation approach

RESEARCH QUESTION

What are the key drivers and incentives for individuals joining the continent’s deadliest violent extremist groups?
METHODOLOGY

Administered surveys to both target and reference samples
200+ questions

- Personal background
- Geographic movement
- Socio-economic circumstances
- Religious and political perspectives
- Process and catalysts for joining
DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY CATEGORY

TOTAL SAMPLE: 718
Voluntary recruits: 495
Forced recruits: 78
Reference group: 145
DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER

- Male: 81%
- Female: 19%

Voluntary:
- Male: 12%
- Female: 53%

Forced:
- Male: 53%
- Female: 25%

Reference:
- Male: 25%
- Female: 25%
INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED WITH AL-SHABAAB AND BOKO HARAM MAKE UP THE MAJORITY OF THE SAMPLE, AT 52% AND 27%, RESPECTIVELY.
METHODOLOGY

• Descriptive analysis
• Econometric analysis

CAVEATS

• Sample not random
• Gender and country imbalance
KEY FINDINGS
KEY FINDING 1

The majority of recruits come from borderlands or peripheral areas that have suffered generations of marginalization.
KEY FINDING 2

Majority of recruits have lower levels of secular education
16% of voluntary recruits have 2 or fewer years of education

39% have only 5 to 10 years of education

Number of years of secular education
KEY FINDING 3
Recruits have low levels of religious literacy
More than \( \frac{1}{2} \) of voluntary recruits cite religious reasons for joining an extremist group – yet 57% of respondents admit that they either don’t read or have little to no understanding of the religious texts or interpretations.

**Reading compared to the understanding of Quran**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do you read the Quran by yourself?</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>31%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Yes, I can interpret the meaning**
- **More often**
- **Prefer a more educated person explain the meaning**
- **Less often**
- **No, cannot understand**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do you always understand what you read?</th>
<th>YES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KEY FINDING 4

Employment was the most frequently cited need at the time of joining
Most immediate need at time of joining the organization (or at time of interview)

Many answer question. Shows individuals (percent of respective category) who selected the need.

- Access to water/electricity: 77% (25% voluntary, 21% forced, 19% reference)
- Education: 19% (23% voluntary, 34% forced, 25% reference)
- Employment: 23% (22% voluntary, 25% forced, 43% reference)
- Healthcare: 15% (22% voluntary, 25% forced, 43% reference)
- Housing: 34% (22% voluntary, 25% forced, 43% reference)
- Security: 15% (22% voluntary, 25% forced, 43% reference)
- Wife/husband: 15% (22% voluntary, 25% forced, 43% reference)
KEY FINDING 5

Limited confidence in institutions and the democratic system
78% place limited or no trust in politicians or in the state security apparatus

Community and religious leaders are held in relatively high regard

**Rating of trust in the following people and institutions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Not at all/poor</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Improving/Excellent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Top political leadership</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National government</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local government</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politicians</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intelligence agencies</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prison authorities</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious leaders</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
<td>66% 63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community leaders</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td></td>
<td>43% 63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KEY FINDING 6

Speed and age of recruitment
80% of recruits joined within a year of being introduced to the group

48% joined in less than one month

Period between introduction and joining the organization

- Less than a month: 48%
- Between a month and a year: 32%
- More than a year: 9%

Total percentages do not add up to 100 due to missing responses.
Most likely to be between 17 and 26 years old at the time of recruitment

Age when recruited
KEY FINDING 7

Despite the highly personal aspects of the journey to extremism, community-level social networks are influential.
Recruitment is ultimately a **highly localized process**, influenced though it may be by globalized ideas.

Multiple-answer question. Shows percent of individuals who selected the source of introduction.

‘Who introduced you to the organization?’ VOLUNTARY GROUP

- **FRIEND 50%**
- **RECOMMENDED BY GROUP 3%**
- **FAMILY MEMBER 8%**
- **OTHER 2%**
- **COMMUNITY MEMBER 1%**
- **APPROACHED BY GROUP 3%**
- **JOINED ON OWN 17%**
- **RELIGIOUS FIGURE 17%**

[Diagram showing percentages of sources for recruitment introduction]
KEY FINDING 8
The Tipping Point
Specific incident that finally motivated respondent to join the organization.
IMPLICATIONS FOR
POLICY AND PROGRAMMING
POLICY IMPLICATION 1

Urgent reexamination of how security interventions are applied to ensure human rights compliance, rule of law and overall improved governance performance.
POLICY IMPLICATION 2

Development solutions are essential in addressing incentives and drivers of violent extremism. Military solutions alone will not deliver.
POLICY IMPLICATION 3
Clarifying tiers of relevance between ODA and PVE and resisting the temptation to repackage mainstream development as PVE
Framework for clarifying relevance of ODA to PVE

**P/CVE-SPECIFIC**
Disrupts recruitment/
Rehabilitates former recruits

**PVE-RELEVANT**
Adjusts ODA interventions across key
sectors to ensure mutually reinforcing and
measurable development and PVE outcomes

Key axes of relevance are geography, beneficiary
selection and state/citizen relationships

**PVE-CONDUCTIVE**
Long-term benefits through ODA in
reducing overall climate in which VE flourishes
POLICY IMPLICATION 4

It’s not the Internet (yet). Potential for VE growth with better connectivity
Frequency of internet use

- NEVER
- EVERY MONTH/ONCE IN A WHILE
- EVERY DAY/EVERY WEEK

**CATEGORY**
- VOLUNTARY
- FORCED
- REFERENCE

**COUNTRY OF INTERVIEW**
- KENYA
- NIGERIA
- SOMALIA
- SUDAN

- NEVER
- EVERY MONTH/ONCE IN A WHILE
- EVERY DAY/EVERY WEEK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Voluntary</th>
<th>Forced</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEVER</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVERY MONTH</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVERY DAY</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Kenya</th>
<th>Nigeria</th>
<th>Somalia</th>
<th>Sudan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEVER</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVERY MONTH</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVERY DAY</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
POLICY IMPLICATION 5
Create viable exit pathways
‘Looking back, what changes would you want to make?’ VOLUNTARY GROUP

CHANGE THE TACTICS OF THE ORGANIZATION (NOT RESORTING TO VIOLENCE)
NOT GET CAUGHT
NOT JOIN THE ORGANIZATION

CURRENT MEMBER
(4%)

UNDER FORMAL PROCESS (55%)

NOT PART OF/ATTENDING FORMAL PROCESS (41%)

Anonymity
Rehabilitation programme
Surrendered
Other
In detention
Arrested

80% 55% 100% 100% 37% 62% 3%
12% 12% 25% 20% 28% 24% 12%
PROGRAMME IMPLICATION 1

Catch-up development in peripheral and borderlands
PROGRAMME IMPLICATION 2
Go local. The counter-extremist messenger is as important as the counter-extremist message
PROGRAMME IMPLICATION 3

Support the resilience of religious institutions