

## Assessing the Effectiveness of Local-Based Approaches Adopted Towards Addressing Terrorism in Lamu County, Kenya and Baadadhe District, Somalia

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### ABSTRACT

*In the global context, terrorism has evolved into a complex and transnational threat. Al-Shabaab posed significant threats, particularly to East African countries, due to its capacity for numerous attacks in Somalia and neighboring nations. Despite employing alternative strategies, such as a multiagency and comprehensive government approach to tackle terrorism in Lamu and Baadadhe, acts of terror persisted in the region. The study explored the efficacy of a populace-centered approach in curbing terrorism in Somalia and Kenya. The populace-centered approach aimed to actively involve the local population in Lamu County, Basuba Ward, in socio-economic development initiated by security personnel to address the root cause of insecurity problems. The approach was guided by the Securitization theory, System theory, and Power theory, which held a significant relationship with the terror threats and insecurity challenges in Lamu County and Baadadhe district. The study employed a descriptive research design with stratified sampling, with target population 4506 and a sample size of 363 obtained through Slovin sampling formula. It gathered stakeholders' perspectives through questionnaires, interviews, and group discussions. Both quantitative and qualitative analyses. Quantitative data was analyzed through statistical analysis while qualitative data was analyzed thematic analysis. The analysis revealed community responses to terrorism, including physical and cyber threats, through initiatives like neighborhood watch groups and religious collaborations. The study highlighted the importance of strengthening existing structures like neighborhood watch groups and enhancing collaborations with religious leaders and schools. The study concluded that the populace involvement in countering terrorism in Lamu, Kenya and Baadadhe, Somalia reflects a vigilant and multifaceted approach encompassing various aspects, from physical to cyber threats. Further, the research concluded that populace-centered approach is effective in curbing terrorism through information sharing. The study recommended for active involvement of community leaders in security committees and advocated for a legal framework supporting a populace-centered approach to counter-terrorism. Policymakers and security agencies should consider diverse economic and environmental contexts in Lamu County, Kenya, Baadadhe, Somalia.*

**Keywords:** Anti-Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Efficacy

### I. INTRODUCTION

Terrorism has no definite definition but its illegal use or threat of using force or violence against persons or property to compel or frighten governments or society to accomplish political, religious or ideological goals. In the global context, terrorism has evolved into a complex and transnational threat. Al Qaeda and ISIS have been at the forefront of this global menace, carrying out attacks in various countries and regions (Chuang, *et al.*, 2019). The post-2017 landscape of terrorism has witnessed new developments and adaptations by these groups, making it crucial to understand the dynamics and consequences of their activities (Smith, 2018). The ability of these organizations to attract recruits and carry out attacks in different parts of the world underscores the need for a comprehensive analysis of their operations and their impact on local communities (Mwangi, 2023).

Terrorism has inflicted severe repercussions on Africa, with prominent groups like Boko Haram in West Africa and Al-Shabaab in East Africa posing substantial threats. Boko Haram, centered in Nigeria, has expanded its reach into neighboring nations like Cameroon and Niger (Iroanya, 2019). Al-Shabaab, originating in Somalia, has carried out attacks in countries including Kenya and Ethiopia (Tadesse, 2018), leading to regional instability marked by displacement, economic decline, and widespread fear among local populations. Counter-terrorism operations in response to these threats have raised humanitarian concerns, manifesting as human rights abuses, with the risk of torture when handling suspected individuals linked to terrorist organizations (Institute for Security Services, 2013). This highlights the need for alternative, rights-preserving counter-terrorism strategies to mitigate the socio-economic costs and human suffering associated with global terrorism (Global Extremism Monitor(GEM)).

Somalia has undergone political turmoil, destabilizing the government, including the ouster of the previous ruler Siyad Barre (Muhammed, 2014). As a result, the international community has tried various intervention mechanisms to assist the Somali government in stabilizing the region and bringing peace. In particular, Somalia received worldwide attention in 2008 owing to increased piracy and challenges in the global shipping sector along the Somali coast (Muhammed, 2014). Among the external actors in the Somali crisis include neighboring countries such as Ethiopia and Kenya. The biggest concern was about Somalia's instability and the extremist elements of the al-Shabaab Islamic organization. International organizations, such as United Nations operations in Somalia, have had a role in supporting efforts to counter-terrorism.

Ras Kiamboni is Somalia's southernmost small town in the Baadhadhe district of Somalia's Lower Juba region, located on a peninsula near the Kenyan border. Ras Kiamboni (Cape Kamboni) is the name given to the peninsula's tip. On the other hand, Kismayo lies 274 kilometers south of the town. The population of the town is around 79,000 people (Institute for Security Services, 2013). According to American sources, Ras Kamboni has operated as a training camp for radicals with Al-Qaeda ties; al-Sharq al-Awsat stated in May 1999 that al-Qaeda was building sophisticated communications equipment in the camp.

Following the 9/11 attacks, U.S. security apprehensions in the Horn of Africa increased, notably at Ras Kiamboni. The U.S. met with Somali officials to survey possible escape routes for Al-Shabaab and Al Qaeda operatives. On March 2, 2002, a Pentagon meeting was summoned to evaluate the potential use of Ras Kiamboni by Islamic terrorist groups such as Al-Shabaab and Al Qaeda. The United States formed the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) in December 2002 to monitor regional events and educate local troops on counter-terrorism (Mali, 2021).

Lamu has acted as a hotspot for Al-Shabaab terrorist attacks, mainly because of the vast Boni forest that serves as a training ground for the Militia before crossing to Somalia, where young men are recruited and radicalized into the terrorist organization (Nyagah *et al.*, 2017). The Kenyan war on terror with al-Shabaab resulted in the insecurity problems experienced in Lamu County due to its proximity to the Somalia territory along the Boni forest (Mali, 2021). For instance, in 2014, Mpeketoni town was attacked by armed men who later killed at least 48 people, primarily non-Muslim men from the immigrant ethnic communities living in the city (Ronoh, 2017; Nyagah *et al.*, 2017). The Militia vandalized the town, including burning several vehicles, homes, and buildings, instilling fear in the local populace.

Al-Shabaab was recruiting and radicalizing Kenyan youth to join the organization by using the socio-economic problems experienced in the country, such as unemployment and identity politics, to entice them into their belief system (Mali, 2021; Mwangi, 2022). Lamu County attacks were characterized by ethnic and religious profiling whereby the non-Muslim men populations were the primary targets for the attacks to profile and evict them for their lands and for political reasons. The Al-Shabaab militia capitalized on the County's internal problems to radicalize the marginalized youth and recruit them into the organization's terrorist agenda (Mwangi, 2022). In response to the attacks witnessed in Lamu County, the Kenyan government sought military intervention measures, which have yielded mixed reactions both positive and negative from the local communities (Otieno, 2019).

Terrorism negates efforts of African union in attainment of Africa vision 2063 of a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. Africa vision 2063 goal 13 and 14 on peace, security and stability preservation and a stable and peaceful Africa respectively. It negatively impacts sustainable development goals (SDGs) through hindering countries growth by raising the cost of doing business in terms of higher wages, larger insurance premiums, and greater security expenditures (Stojanovic, *et al.*, 2016).

The current body of research shows that Kenya is among the countries hit by the threat of terrorism, specifically from Al-Shabaab (Mali, 2021). Terrorism is a severe threat to global peace, political stability, and prosperity of nations; thus, effective interventions are needed to combat the adverse effects of terrorism at the local, regional, and international levels (Mwangi, 2023). Lamu has acted as a hotspot for Al-Shabaab terrorist attacks, mainly due to the vast Boni forest that serves as a training ground for the Militia before crossing to Somalia, where young men are recruited and radicalized into the terrorist organization (Nyagah *et al.*, 2017). For instance, between 2008 and 2016, at least 1000 Kenyans died owing to the Al-Shabaab terrorist attacks (Nyagah *et al.*, 2017). The attacks were chiefly driven by Operation Linda Nchi's invasion in 2011, which significantly affected the Al-Shabaab ports operation, particularly the port of Kismayu, which acted as a strategic center for terrorist activities (Otieno, 2019). The Kenyan war on terror with al-Shabaab resulted in the insecurity problems experienced in Lamu County because of its proximity to the Somalia territory along the Boni forest (Mali, 2021). In 2014, for instance, Mpeketoni town was attacked by armed men who later killed at least 48 people, primarily non-Muslim men from the immigrant ethnic communities living in the town (Ronoh, 2017) and (Nyagah *et al.*, 2017). The Militia vandalized the town, including burning several vehicles, homes, and buildings, instilling fear in the local populace.

Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for the terrorist attacks for various reasons, including the Kenyan military intervention in Somalia that destabilized their terrorist activities (Otieno, 2019). Counter-terrorism measures, especially military intervention, are a high-risk alternative in stabilizing the region, mainly due to human rights abuse under military rule (Wanjiku, 2020).

In addition to understanding the detailed description of terrorism acts, it is imperative to examine counter-terrorism strategies that have been implemented to address these threats. Over the years, various approaches have been employed by governments and international organizations to combat terrorism, ranging from military operations to intelligence gathering and legislative measures. However, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of engaging the local populace in counter-terrorism efforts. This approach acknowledges that communities affected by terrorism often possess invaluable insights, resources, and relationships that can contribute to preventing and countering extremist ideologies and activities (Otieno, 2019). By involving local communities in the design and implementation of counter-terrorism strategies, authorities can harness their trust, cooperation, and understanding of local dynamics to identify and address vulnerabilities, disrupt radicalization processes, and promote resilience against terrorist threats. Moreover, a local populace approach fosters inclusivity, empowerment, and ownership, ensuring that counter-terrorism measures are culturally sensitive, contextually relevant, and sustainable in the long term. Therefore, emphasizing the need for a local populace approach in counter-terrorism efforts is essential for enhancing effectiveness, legitimacy, and community resilience in the face of evolving terrorist threats.

The recent research underscores the pivotal role of community leaders and local populations in fostering peace within war-torn areas, exemplified by the specific case of Lamu County, Basuba Ward, as highlighted by Micah et al. (2023). The approach advocated in this research, known as the local populace-centered approach, signifies a departure from traditional counter-terrorism strategies. It emphasizes the collaboration between security personnel, such as the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and National Police Service (NPS), and the local populace, including community leaders, to cultivate peace. This collaborative effort involves a spectrum of activities ranging from humanitarian initiatives to forging partnerships with county leaders, as well as engaging in open dialogues with community members.

The populace-centered approach intends to mitigate negative impacts of terrorism in Kenya's attainment of vision 2030, Sustainable development goals (SDGs), Africa agenda 2063 and Kenya Kwanza regime bottom up economic model (BETA). Terrorism negates efforts of African union in attainment of Africa vision 2063 of a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. Africa vision 2063 goal 13 and 14 on peace, security and stability preservation and a stable and peaceful Africa respectively. It negatively impacts sustainable development goals (SDGs) through hindering countries growth by raising the cost of doing business in terms of higher wages, larger insurance premiums, and greater security expenditures.

### 1.1 Statement of the Problem

The current body of research shows that Kenya is among the countries hit by the threat of terrorism, specifically from Al-Shabaab (Mali, 2021). Terrorism is a severe threat to global peace, political stability, and prosperity of nations; thus, effective interventions are needed to combat the adverse effects of terrorism at the local, regional, and international levels (Mwangi, 2022). Lamu has acted as a hotspot for Al-Shabaab terrorist attacks, mainly due to the vast Boni forest that serves as a training ground for the Militia before crossing to Somalia, where young men are recruited and radicalized into the terrorist organization (Nyagah *et al.*, 2017). For instance, between 2008 and 2016, at least 1000 Kenyans died owing to the Al-Shabaab terrorist attacks (Nyagah *et al.*, 2017). The attacks were chiefly driven by Operation Linda Nchi's invasion in 2011, which significantly affected the Al-Shabaab ports operation, particularly the port of Kismayu, which acted as a strategic center for terrorist activities (Otieno, 2019). The Kenyan war on terror with al-Shabaab resulted in the insecurity problems experienced in Lamu County because of its proximity to the Somalia territory along the Boni forest (Mali, 2021). In 2014, for instance, Mpeketoni town was attacked by armed men who later killed at least 48 people, primarily non-Muslim men from the immigrant ethnic communities living in the town (Ronoh, 2017) and (Nyagah *et al.*, 2017). The Militia vandalized the town, including burning several vehicles, homes, and buildings, instilling fear in the local populace.

The approach recognizes the importance of involving the local populations in combating the terrorist threats; thus, the rationale behind the study is empowering the locals to provide crucial information concerning suspected al-Shabaab residing within the community. Previous research studies have focused on the multi-agency approach's effectiveness and military intervention's role in combating terrorism threats (Muthee, 2022). Despite implementing a multi-agency approach, Lamu County has experienced multiple terrorism threats, including kidnappings of foreign tourists and the murder of local residents hence the need for more research on alternative non-militaristic counter-terrorism strategies such as the local populace-centered approach. Despite employment of several approaches specifically multi-agency and whole of government approaches, terrorist attacks are still registered within Lamu county, Kenya and Baadadhe district in Somalia hence the need for this study.

## 1.2 Research Objectives

The specific objectives included to:

- i. Examine the nature and extent of terrorism activities in Lamu County, Kenya, and Baadadhe District, Somalia.
- ii. Assess the effectiveness of local-based approaches adopted towards addressing terrorism in Lamu County, Kenya, and Baadadhe District, Somalia.
- iii. Investigate the challenges and opportunities for addressing terrorism in Lamu County, Kenya, and Baadadhe District, Somalia.

## 1.3 Research Questions

The study aimed to address the following questions;

- i. What is the nature and extent of terrorism in Lamu County, Kenya and Baadadhe District, Somalia?
- ii. What is the effectiveness of local-based approaches adopted in addressing terrorism in Lamu County, Kenya, and Baadadhe District, Somalia?
- iii. What are the challenges and opportunities for addressing terrorism in Lamu County, Kenya, and Baadadhe District, Somalia?

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Theoretical Review

#### 2.1.1 Securitization Theory

Securitization Theory, conceptualized by Ole Waever in 1995, represents a critical paradigm in security studies, emphasizing the intricate process of framing specific issues as existential threats demanding urgent and extraordinary measures. In this theoretical framework, security is not regarded as an objective and inherent condition but, instead, as a socially constructed concept. The theory posits that political actors play a pivotal role in this construction, strategically labeling certain issues as "security issues" to legitimize the implementation of measures that go beyond the realms of conventional politics. By challenging the notion of security as an inherent quality, Securitization Theory highlights the malleability of the security discourse, suggesting that the identification and securitization of issues are deliberate acts shaped by political actors to advance particular agendas and consolidate power (Buzan, 1998).

Securitization Theory holds significant relevance within this study for various compelling reasons. It provides an analytical framework that allows a deep exploration of how terrorism in Somalia and Kenya has undergone securitization – a process where it is framed and presented as an imminent security threat necessitating extraordinary measures. This comprehension becomes pivotal in the evaluation of the credibility and appropriateness of populace-centered strategies in the context of the perceived security exigencies (Buzan, 1998).

The theory offers a lens to scrutinize whether the adoption of local-based approaches can be understood as a direct response to the securitized perception of the issue. It facilitates an assessment of whether these approaches garner legitimacy from governmental bodies, international stakeholders, and the general populace as means to effectively counteract the perceived menace of terrorism. Moreover, the theory enables a nuanced examination of the policy implications arising from the securitization process. It provides a vantage point for dissecting whether counterterrorism measures are enforced due to the reclassification of terrorism as a security concern, as opposed to a conventional political matter (Buzan, 1998).

#### 2.1.2 The System Theory

The system theory is based on a holistic and interdisciplinary approach to understanding how complex systems work and how the parts of a system relate to the whole (Hynes *et al.*, 2020). The proponent of the System Theory is Ludwig von Bertalanffy in 1920. He introduced the theory in the 1920s and further developed it in the 1950s and 1960s. The theory states that complex systems are composed of interconnected and interdependent parts, and changes in one part can have ripple effects throughout the entire system. This theory applies to a wide range of disciplines, including biology, ecology, sociology, and management, making it valuable for understanding the dynamics of counterterrorism efforts within complex sociopolitical environments.

The System Theory allows researchers to view terrorism as a complex system with various interconnected components, including the socio-economic conditions, political factors, historical context, and the motivations of terrorist groups. By understanding these interactions, researchers can better analyze the root causes and contributing factors of terrorism in both countries.

Applying the System Theory, you can analyze how local-based approaches fit into the larger counterterrorism system. You can examine the interactions between community engagement, intelligence sharing, security operations, and government policies. This approach helps in evaluating how changes or interventions at the local level impact the overall effectiveness of counterterrorism strategies.

### 2.1.3 The Power Theory

The Power Theory, rooted in the works of influential realist thinkers like Thucydides, Niccolò Machiavelli, and Hans Morgenthau, traces its origins to classical political philosophy. While evolving over time with various contributors, its foundations lie in seminal texts such as Morgenthau's "Politics Among Nations," published in 1948 (Gaibulloev et al., 2013). This work is widely recognized as a cornerstone of realist thought, solidifying the Power Theory's intellectual underpinnings. Morgenthau's exploration of power dynamics and political realism has had a lasting impact, influencing scholars and shaping the discourse on international relations. The Power Theory, stemming from historical perspectives and enduring through scholarly contributions, continues to be a significant lens through which analysts interpret and understand global political interactions (Gaibulloev et al., 2013).

One of the primary contributions of the Power Theory lies in its ability to decipher the power dynamics specific to the region under scrutiny. It facilitates an exploration of how different actors, such as governments, insurgent groups, and international entities, vie for influence and control. Understanding these power dynamics is crucial for unraveling the root causes of terrorism, as it sheds light on the motivations, grievances, and strategic calculations that drive various actors to resort to terrorist activities. The theory acknowledges that terrorism often emerges in contexts where power imbalances, political instability, and conflicting interests prevail.

Concerning the effectiveness of local-based approaches, the power theory facilitates the evaluation of the efficacy of locally grounded strategies. It accomplishes this by examining how power is apportioned and harnessed within these communities. This perspective enables an exploration of the capacity of local actors, such as tribal leaders or local governance structures, to influence the security landscape and anti-terrorism initiatives.

## 2.2 Empirical Review

Past studies by Allen (2022) discuss the theory and practice of interactive peacekeeping, centering the role of people in making peace. Similarly, studies by Wasike and Odhiambo (2016) converse the role of theories in guiding the thrust of academic studies. They emphasize the importance of theories in offering compelling and incisive causal explanations with calculated precision. Stojanovic, McNae, Tett, Potts, Reis, Smith and Dillingham collectively in their work asserts that theories play the role of predicting, prescribing and evaluating socio-political phenomena thereby corroborating Wasike and Odhiambo's argument hence they cannot be ignored (Stojanovic et al., 2016).

The Counter Extremism Project draws attention to the severe threat posed by extremist groups in Somalia, emphasizing the implications for regional and international security. The findings stress the urgency of evaluating and enhancing current efforts by the Somali government and its allies to effectively counter and neutralize these extremist groups, underlining the importance of international cooperation. Githigaro (2015) study delves into the vulnerability of Somalia and Kenya to terrorism, shedding light on multiple contributing factors that make these regions susceptible to terrorist activities. The identified factors could encompass political instability, porous borders, illegal arms trade, and the influx of refugees. The findings of Githigaro's study imply a pressing need for both Somalia and Kenya to conduct a thorough assessment of their existing counterterrorism measures (Githigaro, 2015).

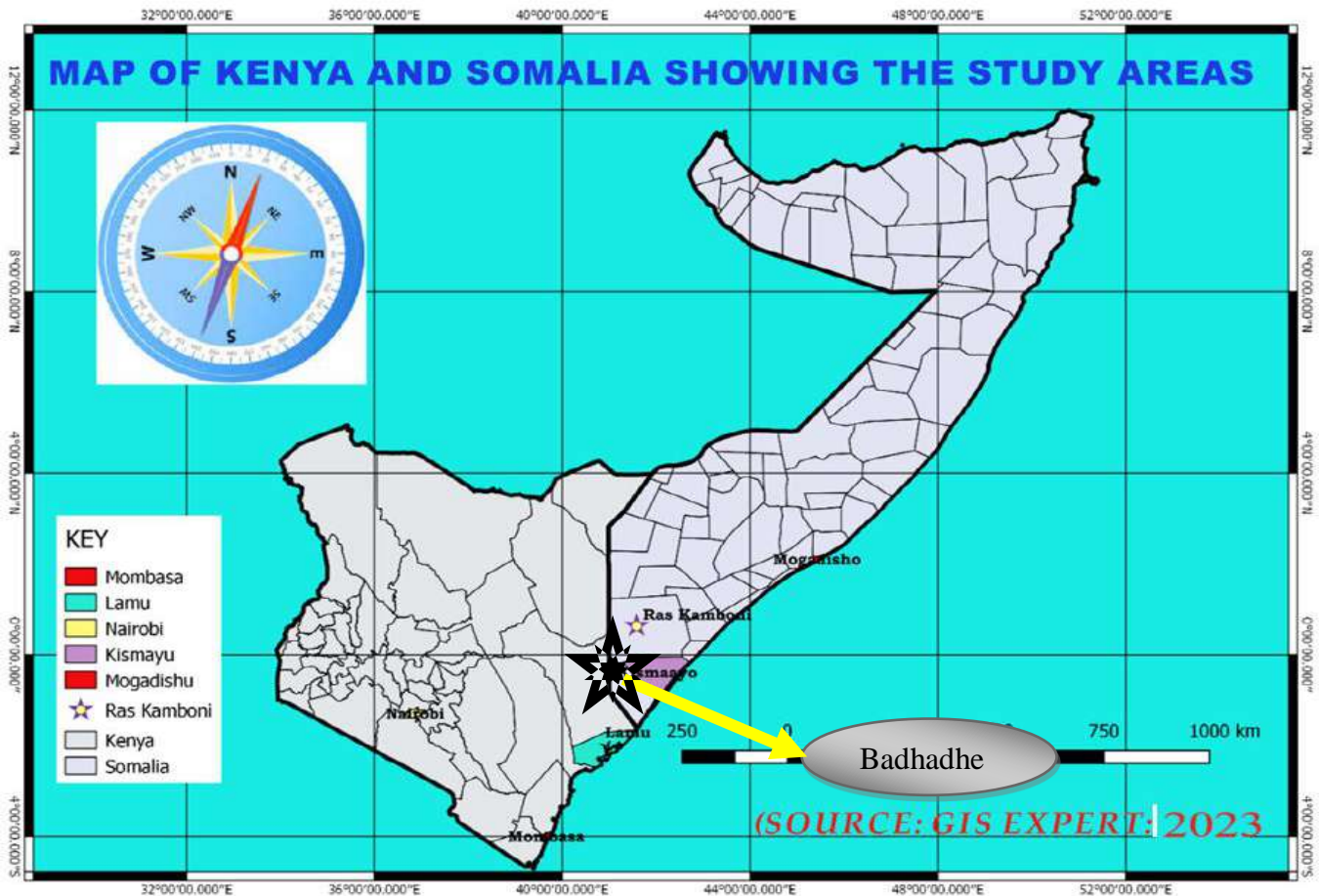
The NATO-developed civil-military cooperation concept, applied initially in the Balkans, serves as a model for integrating various elements in peacebuilding, peacekeeping, conflict resolution, and the stabilization of conflict-ridden areas (Kimonye, 2019). The study suggests that this approach is crucial in gaining local support and fostering cooperation between security forces and civil agencies. This insight is particularly relevant for regions like Somalia and Kenya, where conflicts have become intricate and require a holistic approach beyond military action (Githigaro, 2015).

The role of External Actors in the Somali conflict includes help from neighboring states such as Ethiopia and Kenya. The main concerns involved the extreme lawlessness in Somalia and the extremist forces of the al-Shabaab Islamic movement (Ndjio, 2020). International organizations such as U.N. missions to Somalia have played a considerable role in the fight against the al-Shabaab movement and the humanitarian crisis. According to the New York Times, the U.S. has depended chiefly on proxy troops in Somalia to combat al-Shabaab and has engaged private contractors to equip some of them (Adekunle & Oluwaniyi, 2021). Washington has spent billions of dollars in training and equipping AMISOM and Somali security forces, while funding to most Somali units was delayed between 2017 and 2019 due to corruption allegations.

### III. METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Study Area

The study was conducted in Lamu County, Kenya, and Baadadhe in Somalia. Lamu County which is located on Kenya's Northern Coast (Latitude: 1° 40' and 2° 30' S Longitude: 40° 15' and 40° 38' E) at an elevation: 308 m (1010 ft) (Otieno, 2019), and is one of the country's six coastal counties.



**Figure 1**  
*Map of Showing Baadhadhe District, Somalia*  
**Source: Google Earth (2023)**

#### 3.2 Research design

The study used a descriptive research design to gather and evaluate crucial information from the research participants, thus avoiding the problems associated with bias and misrepresentation. The descriptive research design pursued answers to critical questions, including when, where, what, and how of a phenomenon, precisely the counter-terrorism measures, and their effectiveness.

#### 3.3 Target Population

The study population comprised a diverse range of individuals and groups from specific areas in both countries. The study population was categorized into Somalia and Kenya for clarity. The target population was 4506 household heads, comprising 3796 households/ residents, 60 chiefs/sub-chiefs, 50 local political leaders, 100 religious leaders, 60 senior security officers, 500 youths with a history of extremism, and 30 civil society representatives.

#### 3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Procedure

Simple random sampling approach was used to pick research participants in Lamu County and Somalia, including village elders, ward administrators, and religious elders. Purposive sampling was employed to choose KDF, NYS, and NPS personnel in Lamu County who participated in the current study. The respondents were specifically chosen based on their information about the issue, particularly on counter-terrorism measures. The sample size was determined by randomly selecting respondents from various institutions in Somalia and Kenya, including ward

administrators, county commissioners, chiefs, Council of Elders, religious leaders, and gazette officials. As a result, during the study period, sample size of 363 obtained through Slovin sampling formula..

### 3.5 Data Collection

The study employed open-ended and closed-ended questionnaires, interviews, and focused group discussions that were subjected to rigorous validity and reliability test for their effectiveness when collecting crucial data during the study period. Moreover, secondary data was collected from specific sources, including books on counter-terrorism strategies, journals, and electronic materials relevant to the research objectives and variables.

### 3.6 Data Analysis

The study yielded both quantitative and qualitative outcomes. The closed-ended questions in the questionnaire provided quantitative data that was organized and cleaned using version 27 SPSS computer program databases, with any anomalies resolved. Quantitative data from the surveys were subjected to statistical analysis. Descriptive statistics (frequencies, means, and percentages) were used to summarize and present the responses to closed-ended questions. Inferential statistical techniques such as Pearson correlation analysis and regression analysis were employed to examine relationships and associations between variables. The study's findings were visually presented through the use of tables and charts.

## IV. FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Nature and Extent of Terrorism Activities

The reported cases highlighted the community's vigilance, with concerns ranging from suspicious individuals and packages to activities suggesting potential radicalization. Awareness about cyber threats and online radicalization indicates recognition of evolving forms of extremist influence. The diverse nature of reported cases suggests that communities are attuned to both physical and virtual threats, reflecting a comprehensive approach to security concerns. Some of the responses were as follows.

*There are instances of potential extremist activities and threats in our vicinity, such as suspicious individuals, packages, gatherings, meetings, propaganda, views, and cyberattacks. There are reports of extremist propaganda circulated within the community. We witness strange gatherings, raising concerns about potential radicalization - (Key Informant interview at Lamu on 11/05/2024)*

According to the Observation checklists, In Lamu County, the types of terrorist activities might include bombings, ambushes, and occasional kidnappings targeting both civilians and security personnel. In Baadadhe District, activities could be more varied and frequent, including bombings, armed attacks, and kidnappings, given the region's proximity to terrorist strongholds.

### 4.2 Effectiveness Of Local-Based Approaches Adopted

Table 1 shows the descriptive statistics for four items that measure the local-based approaches adopted toward addressing terrorism in Lamu County, Kenya, and Baadadhe District, Somalia. The items are rated on a five-point Likert scale, where 1 means strongly disagree and 5 means strongly agree.

**Table 1**

*Local-Based Approaches Adopted Towards Addressing Terrorism*

	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Dev.
The community leaders are part of security committees	363	1.00	5.00	3.6946	1.08434
The community members' local knowledge /information is considered before the conduct of any security operation.	363	1.00	5.00	3.5772	1.07422
The community members freely share information with security agencies.	363	1.00	5.00	3.5604	1.09393
The security agencies participating in the operation engage community members in counter-terrorism efforts.	363	1.00	5.00	3.6812	1.06476
Valid N (listwise)	363				

In the assessment of Community Leaders' Participation (Mean = 3.6946), the obtained average score reveals a positive perception regarding the active involvement of community leaders in security committees. This suggests a widespread acknowledgment of the importance of integrating local leaders into counter-terrorism efforts. This observation corresponds with the conclusions drawn from a parallel study conducted in Kenya (Mwangi, 2022), which underscored the pivotal role of community leaders in enhancing overall security measures.



Moving on to the Consideration of Local Knowledge (Mean = 3.5772), the calculated mean score indicates a significant recognition of the value of incorporating local insights into security operations. This finding aligns seamlessly with the outcomes of the study by O’Kane (2021), proposing that the utilization of indigenous knowledge contributes to the heightened efficacy of counter-terrorism strategies.

The examination of Community Members' Information Sharing (Mean = 3.5604) reveals a positive trend, suggesting a willingness among community members to share information with security agencies. This cooperative dynamic is paramount for intelligence gathering and resonates with the discoveries of Nyaga et al. (2017), who analyzed the role of community policing in preventing and responding to terrorist attacks in Kenya. They found that community policing has been largely ineffective and undermined by the lack of trust, accountability, and coordination between the police and the communities. They recommended that community policing should be reformed and strengthened to enhance the security and human rights of the citizens.

Lastly, the evaluation of Security Agencies' Engagement (Mean = 3.6812) portrays a perceived active involvement of security agencies with community members in counter-terrorism efforts. This finding aligns cohesively with the research conducted by Mwangi (2023), emphasizing the efficacy of collaborative approaches between security forces and local communities.

The results imply that the respondents have a moderate level of agreement with the local-based approaches adopted towards addressing terrorism. The mean scores range from 3.56 to 3.69, which indicates that the respondents neither strongly agree nor strongly disagree with the statements. The standard deviations range from 1.06 to 1.09, which suggests that there is some variation in the responses, but not too much.

The results can be compared to a related study in Kenya by Otieno (2019), who examined the community's resilience to violent extremism in Kenya. They found that the community leaders and members have a low level of trust and cooperation with the security agencies and that the security operations often ignore or violate the local norms and values. They argued that the hard military and security approaches to countering violent extremism are ineffective and counterproductive and that there is a need for more community engagement and empowerment in the counter-terrorism efforts.

### 4.3 Effectiveness of Local-Based Approaches Adopted Towards Addressing Terrorism

Table 2 presents the findings from a survey conducted to assess the effectiveness of local-based approaches in addressing terrorism within a community context.

**Table 2**

*Local-Based Approaches Adopted Towards Addressing Terrorism*

	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Dev
The local-based approaches have led to significant arrests of individuals involved in terrorist activities.	363	2.00	5.00	3.94	0.90
The approaches have resulted in notable improvements in security reforms	363	2.00	5.00	3.95	0.89
The level of community engagement in counter-terrorism efforts has increased as a result of local-based approaches.	363	2.00	5.00	3.90	0.85
The approaches have fostered effective partnerships and collaborations between community members and security agencies.	363	2.00	5.00	4.03	0.86
The local-based strategies have enhanced trust and cooperation between law enforcement agencies and community stakeholders.	363	2.00	5.00	3.88	0.83
The community feels more empowered and involved in decision-making processes related to counter-terrorism efforts.	363	2.00	5.00	3.94	0.83
Local-based initiatives have effectively countered extremist narratives and ideologies within the community.	363	2.00	5.00	3.96	0.89
The implementation of local-based approaches has contributed to a greater sense of security and safety among community members.	363	2.00	5.00	3.98	0.83
There is a noticeable reduction in radicalization and recruitment of individuals into terrorist groups due to the effectiveness of local-based approaches.	363	2.00	5.00	3.92	0.87
The community perceives local-based approaches as instrumental in addressing terrorism and promoting peace and stability within the region.	363	2.00	5.00	3.95	0.89
<b>Valid N (listwise)</b>	<b>363</b>				

The mean scores obtained from the survey reflect a generally positive perception of the effectiveness of local-based approaches toward addressing terrorism within the community. Each statement indicates a high level of agreement among respondents regarding the impact of these approaches on various aspects of counter-terrorism efforts. For instance, the mean score for the statement "The local-based approaches have led to significant arrests of individuals





involved in terrorist activities" is 3.9430, indicating a strong consensus among respondents that these approaches have been successful in facilitating arrests and disrupting terrorist activities within the community.

Similarly, the mean score for the statement "The implementation of local-based approaches has resulted in notable improvements in security reforms within the community" is 3.9497, suggesting that respondents perceive these approaches as contributing significantly to enhancing security measures and reforms. This finding resonates with previous studies conducted in Kenya, such as the research by Mwangi (2023), which highlighted the role of community engagement in driving security reforms and fostering collaboration between law enforcement agencies and community stakeholders.

Moreover, the mean scores for statements related to community engagement, partnerships, trust-building, and empowerment all fall within the range of 3.8826 to 4.0268, indicating a consistent belief among respondents that local-based approaches have been effective in promoting these aspects of counter-terrorism efforts. These findings are consistent with a study by Omeje (2020) on community-based approaches to addressing terrorism in Kenya, which emphasizes the importance of involving communities in decision-making processes and fostering trust and cooperation between security agencies and local stakeholders.

Overall, the results suggest that local-based approaches are perceived as instrumental in addressing terrorism and promoting peace and stability within the region. However, it is essential to interpret these findings with caution, considering potential biases in respondent perceptions and the need for further research to validate the effectiveness of these approaches over time. Additionally, future studies could explore specific mechanisms through which local-based approaches contribute to counter-terrorism efforts and identify areas for improvement to enhance their effectiveness in the long term.

#### 4.3.1 Impact of Populace-Centered Approaches on Security Dynamics in Lamu and Baadhadhe

Table 3 shows the results of a survey on the effectiveness of local-based approaches adopted towards addressing terrorism in Lamu County, Kenya, and Baadhadhe District, Somalia. The survey asked 363 respondents to rate their agreement with 12 statements on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). The mean and standard deviation of each statement are reported in the table.

**Table 3**

*Effectiveness of Local-Based Approaches adopted towards Addressing Terrorism*

	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Dev
The populace-centered approach has resulted in a decline in terrorist activities.	363	1.00	5.00	3.6040	1.06565
The involvement of community members has led to security stability in Lamu /Baadhadhe?	363	1.00	5.00	3.6577	1.08725
The Security agencies have become more efficient and effective in responding to terrorists' infiltration into Lamu County.	363	1.00	5.00	3.6544	1.05313
The education sponsorship by security agencies has enhanced security collaboration between security and the community.	363	1.00	5.00	3.6779	1.07163
The security agencies are more supportive of the use of a populace-centered approach in curbing terrorism between Lamu and Baadhadhe.	363	1.00	5.00	3.6678	1.07326
Community early warning mechanisms are established and effective.	363	1.00	5.00	3.6309	1.06268
Civil-military activities are conducted to enhance security agencies' community cooperation	363	1.00	5.00	3.6107	1.04260
Approaches adopted towards addressing terrorism have effectively contributed to increasing the number of arrests made for terrorist activities.	363	1.00	5.00	3.6812	1.07107
The approaches have led to significant improvements in security reforms aimed at mitigating terrorist threats within the community.	363	1.00	5.00	3.6174	1.01236
The level of community engagement facilitated by local-based approaches has been instrumental in fostering trust, cooperation, and resilience against terrorist ideologies.	363	1.00	5.00	3.6812	1.06160
The partnerships and collaborations established through local-based approaches have effectively enhanced coordination and information sharing among relevant stakeholders in the fight against terrorism.	363	1.00	5.00	3.6544	.96295
<b>Valid N (listwise)</b>	<b>363</b>				

The results show that the populace-centered approach has resulted in a decline in terrorism activities. The mean score of this statement is 3.60, which indicates a moderate level of agreement among the respondents. The standard deviation is 1.07, which indicates a moderate level of variation in the responses. This result implies that the respondents perceive the populace-centered approach as having some positive impact on reducing the frequency and intensity of terrorist attacks in Lamu County and Baadhadhe District. However, the result also suggests that there is room for

improvement in the effectiveness of the approach, as some respondents may not have witnessed or experienced a significant decline in terrorism activities.

The involvement of community members has led to security stability in Lamu /Baadhadhe? The mean score of this statement is 3.66, which indicates a moderate level of agreement among the respondents. The standard deviation is 1.09, which indicates a moderate level of variation in the responses. This result implies that the respondents recognize the importance of community participation in enhancing the security situation in Lamu County and Baadhadhe District. The result also implies that the respondents appreciate the efforts of the security agencies in engaging and involving the community members in the counter-terrorism initiatives. However, the result also suggests that there may be some challenges or barriers that prevent the full and effective involvement of the community members, such as lack of trust, communication, or resources.

The Security agencies have become more efficient and effective in responding to terrorists' infiltration into Lamu County. The mean score of this statement is 3.65, which indicates a moderate level of agreement among the respondents. The standard deviation is 1.05, which indicates a moderate level of variation in the responses. This result implies that the respondents acknowledge the improvement in the performance and capacity of the security agencies in detecting and preventing the entry of terrorists into Lamu County. The result also implies that the respondents are satisfied with the responsiveness and professionalism of the security agencies in dealing with terrorist threats. However, the result also suggests that there may be some gaps or weaknesses in the security system that allow some terrorists to infiltrate and operate in Lamu County, such as corruption, collusion, or intelligence failure.

The education sponsorship by security agencies has enhanced security collaboration between security and the community. The mean score of this statement is 3.68, which indicates a moderate level of agreement among the respondents. The standard deviation is 1.07, which indicates a moderate level of variation in the responses. This result implies that the respondents value the education sponsorship program by the security agencies as a way of building trust and cooperation between the security and community sectors. The result also implies that the respondents believe that the education sponsorship program has contributed to the development and empowerment of the local youth, who are often the target of terrorist recruitment and radicalization. However, the result also suggests that there may be some limitations or challenges in the implementation and sustainability of the education sponsorship program, such as funding, eligibility, or quality.

The security agencies are more supportive of the use of a populace-centered approach in curbing terrorism between Lamu and Baadhadhe. The mean score of this statement is 3.67, which indicates a moderate level of agreement among the respondents. The standard deviation is 1.07, which indicates a moderate level of variation in the responses. This result implies that the respondents appreciate the support and endorsement of the security agencies for the populace-centered approach as a strategy to counter-terrorism in Lamu County and Baadhadhe District. The result also implies that the respondents trust and respect the security agencies as partners and allies in the fight against terrorism. However, the result also suggests that there may be some issues or concerns that affect the level and quality of support from the security agencies, such as coordination, accountability, or transparency.

Community early warning mechanisms are established and effective. The mean score of this statement is 3.63, which indicates a moderate level of agreement among the respondents. The standard deviation is 1.06, which indicates a moderate level of variation in the responses. This result implies that the respondents recognize the existence and usefulness of the community early warning mechanism as a tool to alert and inform security agencies and community members about potential or imminent terrorist activities. The result also implies that the respondents are confident and willing to use the community early warning mechanism to report and share information about terrorist threats. However, the result also suggests that there may be some factors or challenges that hinder the establishment and effectiveness of the community early warning mechanism, such as reliability, accessibility, or protection.

Civil-military activities are conducted to enhance security agencies' community cooperation. The mean score of this statement is 3.61, which indicates a moderate level of agreement among the respondents. The standard deviation is 1.04, which indicates a moderate level of variation in the responses. This result implies that the respondents are aware and supportive of the civil-military activities that are conducted by the security agencies to foster security collaboration and cooperation with the community members. The result also implies that the respondents benefit from and participate in civil-military activities, such as medical camps, sports events, or cultural festivals. However, the result also suggests that there may be some constraints or difficulties that affect the conduct and impact of civil-military activities, such as frequency, coverage, or evaluation.

The results of the study address the literature gap identified on research on specific nature of terrorism in Lamu county, Kenya and Baadadhe district, Somalia, effectiveness of involving local population in curbing terrorism, opportunities and challenges realized. The study reveals the effectiveness of involving community in security policy and strategies but identifies a challenge in legal modalities of the approach.

The responses to the question, Have the security operations been inclusive in curbing terrorism in Lamu – Kenya & Baadhadhe- Somalia was as follows.

Inclusivity is a challenge, and efforts are being made to involve all relevant agencies and communities. In Lamu, the coordination with local leaders has improved inclusivity, but challenges persist in Baadhadhe. Ensuring inclusivity requires constant adaptation to the evolving nature of terrorism and community dynamics.

The results align with those in a study by O’Kane (2021), which discovered that multi-agency collaboration leadership successfully reduced insecurity in Lamu County. Further aligns with Kimonye (2019) study that found that collaboration between the police and the local community in security matters has resulted in fewer cases of terrorism and reduced cases of youth radicalization. It also found that there is an increased trust level and effective information flow between law enforcement and the community.

#### 4.3.2 Challenges Hindering the Effectiveness of Populace-Centered Approaches to Counter-Terrorism in Lamu County and Baadhadhe

The table presents mean scores obtained from a survey assessing the challenges faced by populace-centered approaches in curbing terrorism in Lamu County and Baadhadhe.

**Table 4**  
*Challenges Hindering the Effectiveness of Populace-Centered Approaches to Counter-Terrorism in Lamu County and Baadhadhe*

	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Dev
Lack of resources is a key challenge hindering the attainment of the populace-centered approach objectives in curbing terrorism	298	1.00	5.00	3.6812	1.07107
Lack of confidence in security personnel by the community across Lamu County & Baadhadhe challenges the efforts of a populace-centered approach.	298	1.00	5.00	3.6174	1.01236
There is no integration of the civilians and the security agencies	298	1.00	5.00	3.6812	1.06160
Intimidation by terrorism sympathizers hinders the effectiveness of the population centered approach.	298	1.00	5.00	3.6544	.96295

The mean scores obtained from the survey highlight several challenges hindering the effectiveness of populace-centered approaches to curbing terrorism in Lamu County and Baadhadhe. The statement "Lack of resources is a key challenge hindering the attainment of the populace-centered approach objectives in curbing terrorism" received a mean score of 3.6812, indicating that respondents perceive resource constraints as a significant obstacle to implementing effective counter-terrorism strategies. This finding is consistent with prior research by Mali (2021), which identified limited resources as a major impediment to community-based initiatives aimed at addressing security challenges in similar regions.

Moreover, the statement "Lack of confidence in security personnel by the community across Lamu County & Baadhadhe challenges the efforts of populace-centered approach" garnered a mean score of 3.6174, suggesting that trust deficits between security agencies and the community undermine the success of populace-centered approaches. This aligns with the findings of a study by Ndjio (2020), which emphasized the importance of building trust and confidence between security personnel and residents to enhance the effectiveness of community-based security initiatives.

Additionally, the statement "There is no integration of civilians and security agencies" received a mean score of 3.6812, indicating that respondents perceive a lack of coordination and collaboration between civilians and security agencies. This echoes the findings of research by Kimonye (2019), which highlighted the need for greater integration and cooperation between civilian populations and security forces to address security challenges effectively.

Furthermore, the statement "Intimidation by terrorism sympathizers hinders the effectiveness of the populace-centered approach" obtained a mean score of 3.6544, indicating that intimidation tactics employed by terrorism sympathizers pose significant obstacles to community-based efforts to combat terrorism. This finding underscores the importance of addressing security threats and providing protection to communities engaged in counter-terrorism activities. It also aligns with studies by Iroanya (2019), which discussed the challenges faced by communities in confronting intimidation and threats from terrorist groups.

According to the Observation checklists, the following were observed. Challenges faced by local-based approaches included lack of resources, mistrust between community and authorities: Common challenges in Lamu County included resource shortages, community mistrust of authorities, and the threat of terrorist reprisals. In Baadadhe District, these challenges could be exacerbated by ongoing conflict, poverty, and deeply rooted distrust in government efforts.

Opportunities for addressing terrorism in Lamu County and Baadhadhe arise amidst the challenges faced by populace-centered approaches. One notable opportunity lies in community resilience and solidarity. Despite the challenges posed by resource constraints and mistrust, local communities exhibit resilience in their determination to

combat terrorism. Through community cohesion and collective action, residents can mobilize resources and support mechanisms to mitigate the impact of terrorism and strengthen their defenses against extremist infiltration. This resilience is evident in the strong bonds forged among community members, enabling them to withstand external threats and work together towards a common goal of peace and security.

Another opportunity lies in leveraging local knowledge and expertise. Communities in Lamu County and Baadhadhe possess invaluable insights into the social, cultural, and geographical dynamics of the region, which can inform the development of targeted and context-specific counter-terrorism strategies. By actively involving local stakeholders in decision-making processes and incorporating indigenous knowledge systems, authorities can enhance the relevance and effectiveness of counter-terrorism interventions.

Moreover, opportunities for addressing terrorism extend to the utilization of diverse communication channels and technological innovations. In today's digital age, social media platforms and mobile technologies offer powerful tools for disseminating counter-narratives, raising awareness, and fostering community engagement. By harnessing the power of social media campaigns, online forums, and mobile applications, authorities can amplify their outreach efforts and empower communities to actively participate in counter-terrorism activities. Additionally, the integration of modern surveillance technologies and geospatial mapping tools can enhance situational awareness and support targeted interventions in areas prone to terrorist infiltration, such as the Boni forest region.

The findings of the study relate to an empirical analysis of counter-terrorism measures Micah et al. (2023) in Kenya, which examined the effectiveness of various counter-terrorism policies and laws in Kenya, with examples from the United States and Israel. The study found that coherent counter-terrorism policies and laws have a positive effect on reducing terrorist attacks, but also face some challenges such as human rights violations, corruption, and lack of coordination. The study also recommends some measures to improve the counter-terrorism efforts in Kenya, such as enhancing intelligence sharing, strengthening regional and international cooperation, and addressing the root causes of terrorism.

## V. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1 Conclusion

The results indicate a generally positive perception regarding the active involvement of community leaders in security committees, recognition of the value of incorporating local insights into security operations, a willingness among community members to share information with security agencies, and a perceived active involvement of security agencies with community members in counter-terrorism efforts. The results suggest a moderate level of agreement with statements such as the populace-centered approach resulting in a decline in terrorism activities, community involvement leading to security stability, security agencies becoming more efficient, and education sponsorship enhancing collaboration between security and the community. The study concludes that there is a positive perception of community leaders' involvement in security committees, the value of incorporating local insights into security operations, and a willingness among community members to share information with security agencies.

### 5.2 Recommendation

Efforts to improve communication channels and inclusivity should be further strengthened, particularly in areas where challenges persist. To address ongoing challenges such as a lack of resources and confidence in security personnel, it is recommended that community leaders work collaboratively with security agencies to secure additional resources and implement initiatives to build confidence. Community leaders should continue educational programs to address terrorism-related intimidation and emphasize the importance of community involvement in fostering security stability.

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