KENYA COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTRE



February 2026 interventions prioritized hotspot areas, deepened engagement with youth, women and religious leaders, and strengthened the responsiveness of early warning and response systems to sustain community resilience.

Throughout the month, focused efforts were made to engage women, youth, and religious leaders on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE), peacebuilding, and the promotion of respect for minority religious groups by both state and non-state actors. These engagements were conducted through radio talk shows, inter-religious dialogues, and community awareness forums, providing safe platforms for dialogue, information sharing, and community reflection.
The activities have enhanced understanding of violent extremism drivers, encouraged peaceful coexistence, and reinforced the role of community actors in early identification and response to emerging risks.

As a result, community members demonstrated increased awareness of PCVE issues, improved inter-religious tolerance, and stronger collaboration between local leaders and security structures, contributing to more inclusive and resilient communities.



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STATE ACTORS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOP JOINT ACTIONS TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS IN TANA RIVER

With financial support from GCERF through Act!, a multi-sectoral engagement forum was convened in Tarassa Sub-County, Tana River County, bringing together 34 stakeholders, including the Sub-County Security, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Agriculture Officers, the Sub-County Administrator, and community representatives, including religious leaders, youth, women, the council of elders, community structures, and persons with disabilities (PWDs).



The intervention strengthened collaboration between community leaders and local security and county government actors and improved the functionality of community early warning and response systems through increased reporting of alerts on key risks, whereby 27 reports were reported, including 10 resource-based conflicts, 8 crime and violent events, 5 SGV Cases, and 1 protest. Inclusive participation of youth, women, religious leaders, elders, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) was ensured in peace and security processes, and a jointly developed action plan and response roadmap now guides collective action. These outcomes contribute to reduced vulnerability to violent extremism and enhanced community resilience in Tarassa Sub-County.





LOCAL PEACE CHAMPIONS STRENGTHEN RIGHTS REPORTING AND RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE TANA RIVER

Conflicts are increasingly being resolved through dialogue, and reporting of human rights violations has improved. Women and youth are emerging as community peace champions by promoting religious tolerance at the community level, which has strengthened and demonstrated enhanced local capacity to safely. The peace monitors have monitored, reported abuses and promoted accountability and Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) for all.



This was achieved with support from Search for Common Ground Kenya through a review meeting with 20 beneficiaries from Tarassa and Garsen of the ToFoRB and Human Rights training, which assessed progress in documenting cases, sharing reports through the Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) system, and escalating incidents to relevant duty bearers.





COMMUNITY MONITORS DRIVE ACCOUNTABILITY TO PROTECT RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN TANA DELTA

From review and feedback meetings from the 16 peace Monitors in Tana Delta assessed progress of cases reported through the Early Warning–Early Response (EWER) system. Key risks discussed included SGBV, early marriage and FGM, land and farmer–herder disputes, police overreach, and religious tensions affecting access to education and worship.



The following are the key results achieved: early marriages were intercepted, GBV survivors were referred to formal support services, disputes were mediated, and engagement with security and justice actors was strengthened. Through reporting, radio engagement, and community barazas, the monitors have continued to promote accountability, counter harmful practices, and advance peaceful coexistence where religious freedom and human dignity are protected for all.





COMMUNITIES MOBILIZE TO PREVENT VIOLENT EXTREMISM THROUGH INCLUSIVE ACTIONS

Over 10 hotspot locations were identified in Tana River and prioritized for targeted support through collaboration with state and non-state actors to promote PCVE interventions. Three community working groups—Kina Mama, Youth, and Male Support—were established in line with the new NSPCVE. Joint action plans were developed with clear commitments to address priority concerns through media engagement and existing community platforms, strengthening local ownership and coordinated prevention efforts.



These results were achieved through a PCVE awareness forum that brought together 41 key stakeholders, including women, youth, the council of elders, community paralegals, Nyumba Kumi representatives, area chiefs, religious actors, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) to promote community-led prevention of violent extremism using a human rights–based and gender-inclusive approach. Participants were equipped with skills in scenario building, identification of push and pull factors, understanding PVE dynamics, and recognizing early warning indicators, enhancing their ability to detect and respond to emerging risks.







STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN TANA RIVER



Localized community action plans were successfully developed and key community hotspots identified in Odha Location, marking a significant step toward strengthening grassroots responses to violent extremism in Tarassa Sub-County, Tana River. The initiative enhanced coordination between community structures and security actors, fostering a more inclusive, trust-based, and community-driven approach to safeguarding peace and security in the area.

These outcomes were achieved through a sensitization workshop on preventing violent extremism, supported by GCERF through Act!, which brought together 42 participants, including Community Policing Units, Nyumba Kumi representatives, village elders, youth, women, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and the Sub-County security team led by the Deputy County Commissioner (DCC).



The workshop strengthened the capacity of community structures to discuss emerging risks, identify priority concerns, map local hotspots, and develop practical solutions. As a result, communities are now better equipped to detect early warning signs, respond to radicalization risks, and promote a safer and more resilient environment.





PROMOTING COMMUNITY SAFETY AND RELIGIOUS HARMONY THROUGH K-RADIO IN TANA RIVER COUNTY

K-RADIO talk shows have become a powerful platform for raising awareness and fostering dialogue, reaching over 10,000 listeners daily in Garsen and Tarassa Sub-Counties, Tana River. Over 12 radio talk shows and 3 radio interviews were conducted at K-RADIO Mininjila, bringing together a wide range of stakeholders, including Community Policing Committee members, chiefs and village elders, local Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), women, youth, boda boda operators, religious leaders, and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).



These discussions created a safe and inclusive space for community actors to engage on issues of community policing, security, and religious tolerance. They highlighted the importance of respecting diverse religious beliefs and promoting peaceful coexistence. Key focus areas included strengthening collaboration between communities and security agencies, improving reporting and early warning mechanisms, and encouraging dialogue to prevent religious-based discrimination and conflict. Special attention was given to protecting vulnerable groups and building trust between community members and local authorities, enhancing overall community safety and social cohesion.



STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS & PARTNERSHIPS: WITH THE US EMBASSY-KENYA





During the month, KECOSCE was privileged to host Ben Jalowsky, Human Rights Officer from the U.S. Embassy in Kenya, for a strategic engagement on preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) through rights-based approaches. The discussions focused on building community trust, protecting vulnerable groups, and promoting inclusive governance, while exploring how KECOSCE's Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) system can enhance preparedness ahead of the 2027 general elections by enabling timely information-sharing and community-led prevention.



The meeting also highlighted emerging local human trafficking trends and routes, reinforcing a shared commitment to human rights, freedom of religion or belief (FoRB), and the critical role of civil society in safeguarding peaceful coexistence and strengthening democratic processes. This engagement underscores the importance of collaboration between government, civil society, and communities in promoting security, human rights, and social cohesion.



STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS & PARTNERSHIPS: WITH NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ON PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT (NSC)





This month, KECOSCE conducted a courtesy visit to the National Steering Committee (NSC) to strengthen coordination, benchmark practices, and create structured synergy in conflict detection, information triangulation, and timely response, as Kenya enters a sensitive pre-election period—18 months before the polls.

Discussions focused on formalizing multi-source data triangulation—combining NSC monitors, peace committees, and KECOSCE's community-based analytics—to enable proactive monitoring, particularly during festive seasons and election periods, while countering political hype and divisive narratives. Emerging risks such as resource-based conflicts and technology-facilitated tensions were also examined.

Special emphasis was placed on youth, who make up 75–80% of Kenya's population, recognizing their potential to serve as peace ambassadors through digital influence and blogging. The meeting also explored sustainable peace financing, including the proposed Peace Fund, as outlined in Kenya's Peacebuilding Architecture, to ensure long-term, community-driven stability.





STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS & PARTNERSHIPS: COUNTY COORDINATION ADVANCES WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT





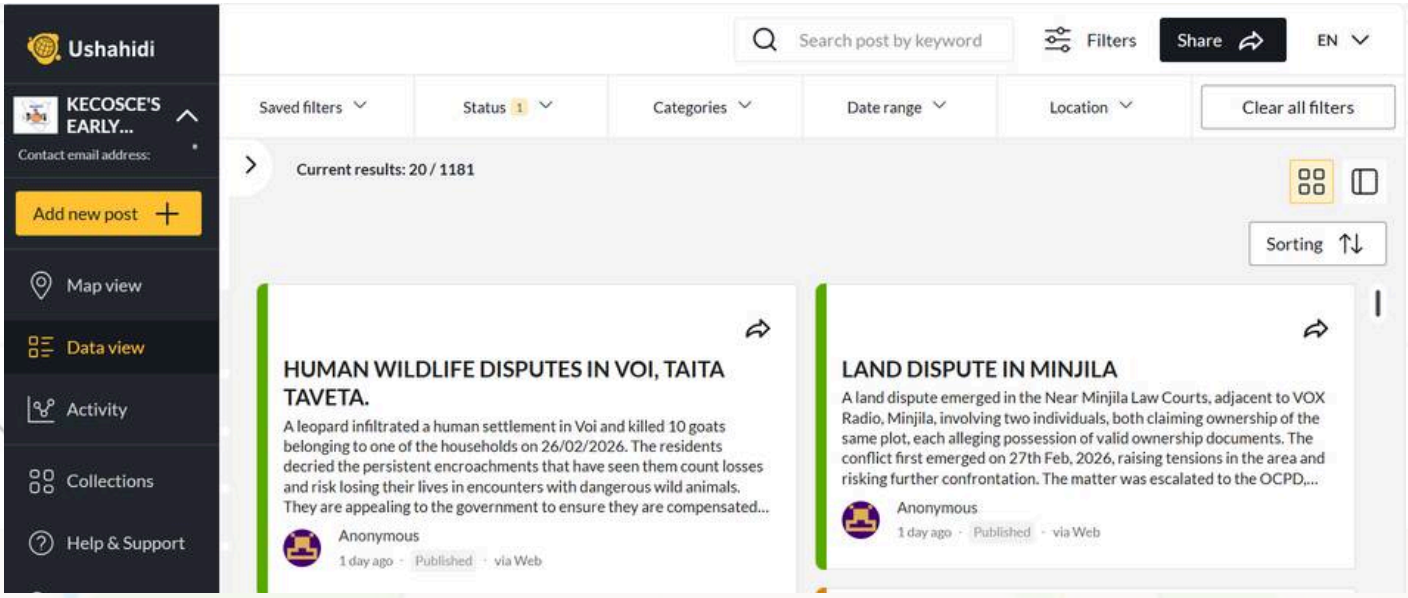
We joined key stakeholders as Mombasa County operationalized the Gender Sector Working Groups thematic areas, contributing to the design of targeted interventions to strengthen women's economic empowerment and financial inclusion. Through the Intergovernmental County Gender Technical Group, diverse actors were brought together to enhance coordination, accountability, and joint action in promoting and protecting gender rights.

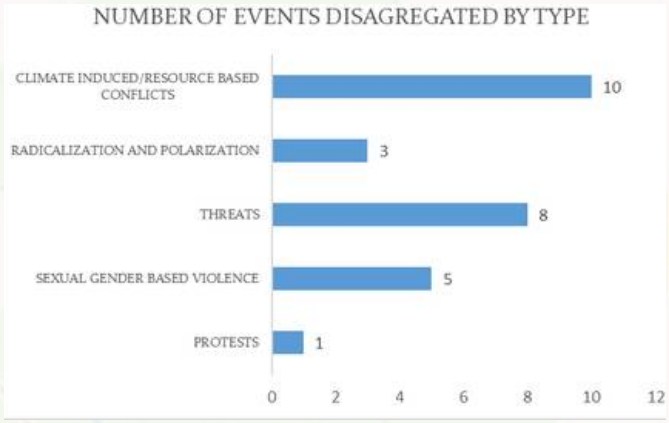


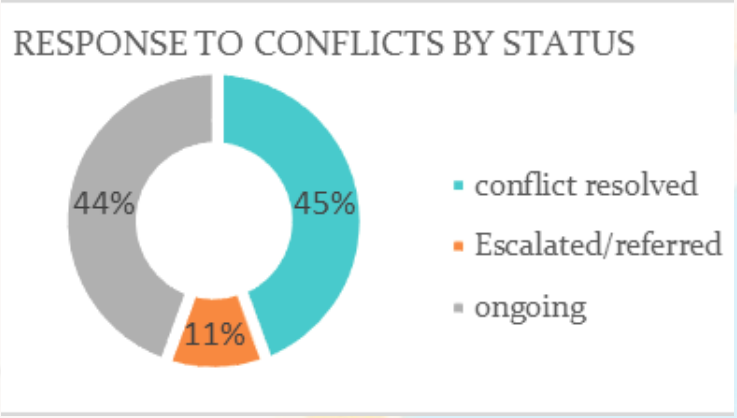
These efforts advance women's leadership in peacebuilding and conflict resolution, expand economic opportunities for women and girls, and strengthen engagement with male mentors to foster safe and secure communities. As co-convener for women in peacebuilding, we will continue to mobilize partners across all sectors to promote the meaningful participation and leadership of women and girls in peace and security processes.



STAYING AHEAD OF RISKS: POWERING PREVENTION THROUGH KEWER HUB





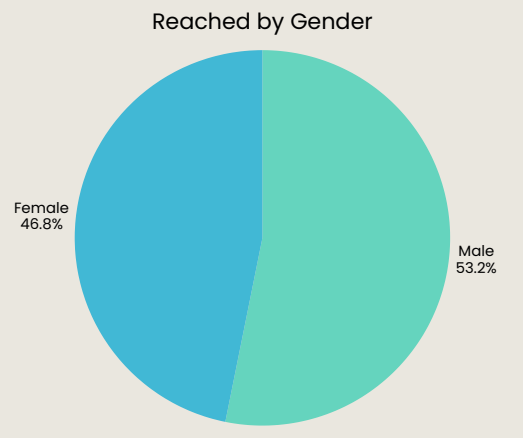


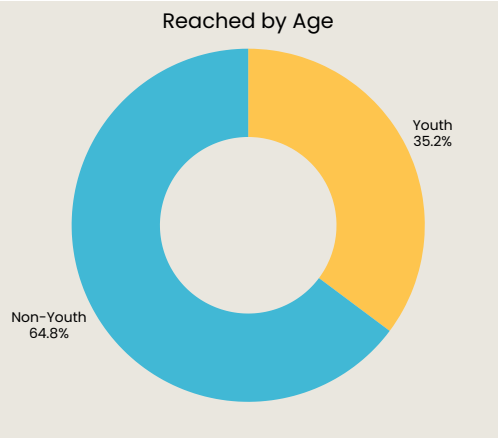
During February 2026, a total of 27 events were disaggregated through the EWER system across the Coastal region counties of Mombasa, Kilifi, Kwale, Tana River, Lamu, and Taita Taveta. Climate-induced/resource-based conflicts were the most prevalent, reflecting sustained pressures arising from farmer–herder disputes, human–wildlife conflict, and drought-related livelihood stress affecting communities in both rural and peri-urban areas of the region. Threats to security-related incidents highlighted ongoing insecurity concerns including criminal activity, intimidation, and localized tensions that continue to generate early warning signals requiring monitoring and response by both state and non-state actors.

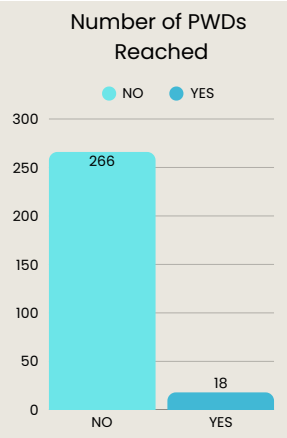
Additionally, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (5) cases recorded during the month underscore persistent protection challenges affecting vulnerable groups across the region, while Radicalization and polarization indicators (3) reflect underlying social cohesion risks, including identity-based narratives and tensions that may contribute to community division and susceptibility to extremist messaging. Meanwhile, Protests (1), though limited in number, remain important escalation indicators demonstrating how localized grievances can rapidly translate into public mobilization if not addressed early. Overall, the February data illustrates a complex and interconnected risk environment across the Coast, where livelihood stressors, insecurity dynamics, and social protection gaps intersect to heighten vulnerability to conflict escalation and create conditions that may be exploited by criminal or violent extremist actors if underlying grievances remain unresolved.

Stay Informed: Join our Community Alert Network on https://kecosces.ushahidi.io/feed?mode=PREVIEW

FEBRUARY MILESTONE AT A GLANCE:







284 (151M, 133F, 100 Youth, 18PWD) Beneficiary directly reached through training and sensitization workshops, community awareness forms, engagement forums with law enforcements officers, coalition dialogues and review meetings

LEARNING AND FORWARD OUTLOOK

The month's interventions demonstrated the effectiveness of community-led platforms such as radio talk shows and dialogue forums in promoting Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) and peacebuilding. Engagement of religious leaders, women, and youth strengthened trust, improved inter-religious tolerance, and encouraged early identification of emerging risks.

In the coming month, efforts will focus on expanding radio and dialogue outreach, strengthening the capacity of women, youth, and religious leaders on early warning and peaceful conflict resolution, and enhancing coordination with local authorities and security structures to sustain community resilience.

OUR PARTNERS

GCERF Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund

Search for Common Ground

Act! act change transform

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Where we work:

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- Kilifi
- Tana River
- Kwale
- Lamu
- Taita Taveta