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Kenya NiWajibu Wetu  
NIWETU



A CHIEF FROM GARISSA TOWNSHIP (RIGHT) DANCES WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS AT THE GARISSA CVE COUNTY ACTION PLAN LAUNCH. NIWETU PROMOTES INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE CVE SOLUTIONS THAT STRENGTHEN BONDS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE. PHOTO CREDIT: HANK NELSON/NIWETU

## A SYSTEMS-BASED APPROACH TO CVE IN KENYA

USAID's Kenya NiWajibu Wetu (NIWETU) activity uses a systems-based approach that is particularly suited to countering violent extremism (CVE) work in Kenya. By working within systems, NIWETU strengthens existing networks and supports and bolsters the skills and activities of current and emerging CVE actors. Through this approach, NIWETU reinforces the CVE capacity of its partners, while also advocating for these partners to commit to continuing CVE activities without direct support from the U.S. Government.

### NIWETU's Conceptual Framework in Practice

NIWETU's research in Isiolo County shows how the systems-based CVE approach works in practice. Key findings from NIWETU activity participants include:

- Integration between different stakeholder groups happens organically—as well as deliberately—through the way that activities are set up and complement each other.
- Supporting junior-level security agents (those who work with communities on a day-to-day basis) is most effective at building trust with communities and is likely more sustainable.
- For local CVE decision-making forums to be most effective, they must be representative of the community and have strong community engagement.

NIWETU’s conceptual framework (see figure below) captures the *Why* (NIWETU’s goal to improve CVE capabilities to identify and respond to VE threats), the *Who* (government, civil society organizations [CSOs], influencers, and communities), the *How* (NIWETU’s specific tasks), and the *What* (NIWETU’s four result areas) of NIWETU’s unique, systems-based approach to CVE. It demonstrates how specific NIWETU interventions are applied to four carefully chosen entry points in the CVE system in Kenya, and how these targeted interventions contribute to NIWETU’s four result areas. The framework stresses the importance of taking stock of the interconnectedness of CVE stakeholders and solutions, and ensuring that NIWETU interventions contribute to and strengthen existing networks. Finally, the framework demonstrates the importance of learning in NIWETU’s approach, with research and learning underpinning NIWETU’s decision-making.

NIWETU strengthens the capacity of local CSOs, communities, influencers, and national and county government CVE stakeholders in a number of ways. First, NIWETU co-creates CVE activities and provides technical support to CSO and government actors through partnerships and training activities. For example, NIWETU’s local partners have used the NIWETU CVE Facilitation Guide to train 63 local facilitators, who in turn have used their new skills to lead CVE conversations with more than 1,200 participants across Kenya. Second, NIWETU supports and advocates for locally grown CVE plans and initiatives. NIWETU is supporting the Kenya School of Government to develop a center for the study of VE, as well as a CVE curriculum used to train incoming Kenyan civil servants, mainstreaming CVE knowledge and skills across the Kenyan public sector. Finally, NIWETU works to link a broad spectrum of government and nongovernment CVE actors together through enduring networks and partnerships for financing and implementation. Through these capacity-building efforts, NIWETU is laying the groundwork for locally-sustained CVE activities to succeed and continue in the future.

### NIWETU’S CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

