

CHRICS

Centre for Human Rights and Policy Studies

KNOWLEDGE FOR ACTION: Bridging Research and Policy ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Providing policy solutions to pertinent security challenges in Africa

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Providing policy solutions to pertinent security challenges in Africa



The Centre for Human Rights and Policy Studies

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Acknowledgement

CHRIPS gratefully acknowledges the financial and technical support of our core donors, whose unwavering commitment has ensured the continuity and effectiveness of our programs. We also extend our appreciation and recognise the CHRIPS staff and partners. Their work and support reflect a shared vision for a more just and equitable society. We also appreciate the immeasurable contribution of the entire CHRIPS team to this report.

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March 2025

Concept and text compilation: Victoria Oballa



A black and white photograph of a group of people, likely at a protest or public gathering. In the foreground, a person's head is visible on the left, and another person's face is partially visible on the right, looking upwards with a hand near their head. In the background, a person's raised fist is visible. A large, semi-transparent yellow circle is centered over the image, containing the text.

Overview

The Annual Report offers a comprehensive overview of the Centre for Human Rights and Policy Studies (CHRIPS) activities and achievements from 1 January to 31 December 2024. It is prepared to fulfil our accountability commitments to stakeholders, partners, and supporters while providing insight into CHRIPS' ongoing initiatives and contributions to the field of security.

List of Abbreviations

AIIL	African Institute of International Law
ALEPH	African Regional Conference on Law Enforcement and Public Health
CAPs	County Action Plans
CHRIPS	Centre for Human Rights and Policy Studies
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CVE	Countering Violent Extremism
FGHR	Fund for Global Human Rights
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
KSG	Kenya School of Government
NCTC	National Counter Terrorism Centre
NSCVE	National Strategy to Violent Extremism
PBO	Public Benefits Organisations
PCVE	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
SGBV	Sexual Gender Based Violence
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VE	Violent Extremism
WoG	Whole-of-Government
WoS	Whole-of-Society



■ About us

CHRIPS is a leading African research institution that conducts cutting-edge, policy-relevant research on human rights, security, terrorism and counter-terrorism, violence, crime, and policing.

Since its inception, CHRIPS has remained steadfast in its mission of engaging academics, policymakers, and key stakeholders in generating and disseminating new knowledge frontiers that drive innovative and effective policy solutions to Africa's most pressing security challenges.

In 2024, CHRIPS continued to enhance its reputation as a centre for excellence through impactful, evidence-based research collaborations with leading institutions locally and internationally. These partnerships have advanced knowledge and contributed to significant policy changes across the continent. CHRIPS reaffirmed its commitment to fostering the next generation of globally competitive African researchers. Through training programmes, mentorship initiatives, and collaborative fellowships, the Centre has empowered emerging scholars to engage in the evolving discourse on security and human rights in Africa.

This report highlights our milestones, reflections, and the transformative work undertaken in 2024 as we continue advocating for policies that promote justice, security, and human dignity across the continent.





Our Vision

A secure and Just Africa



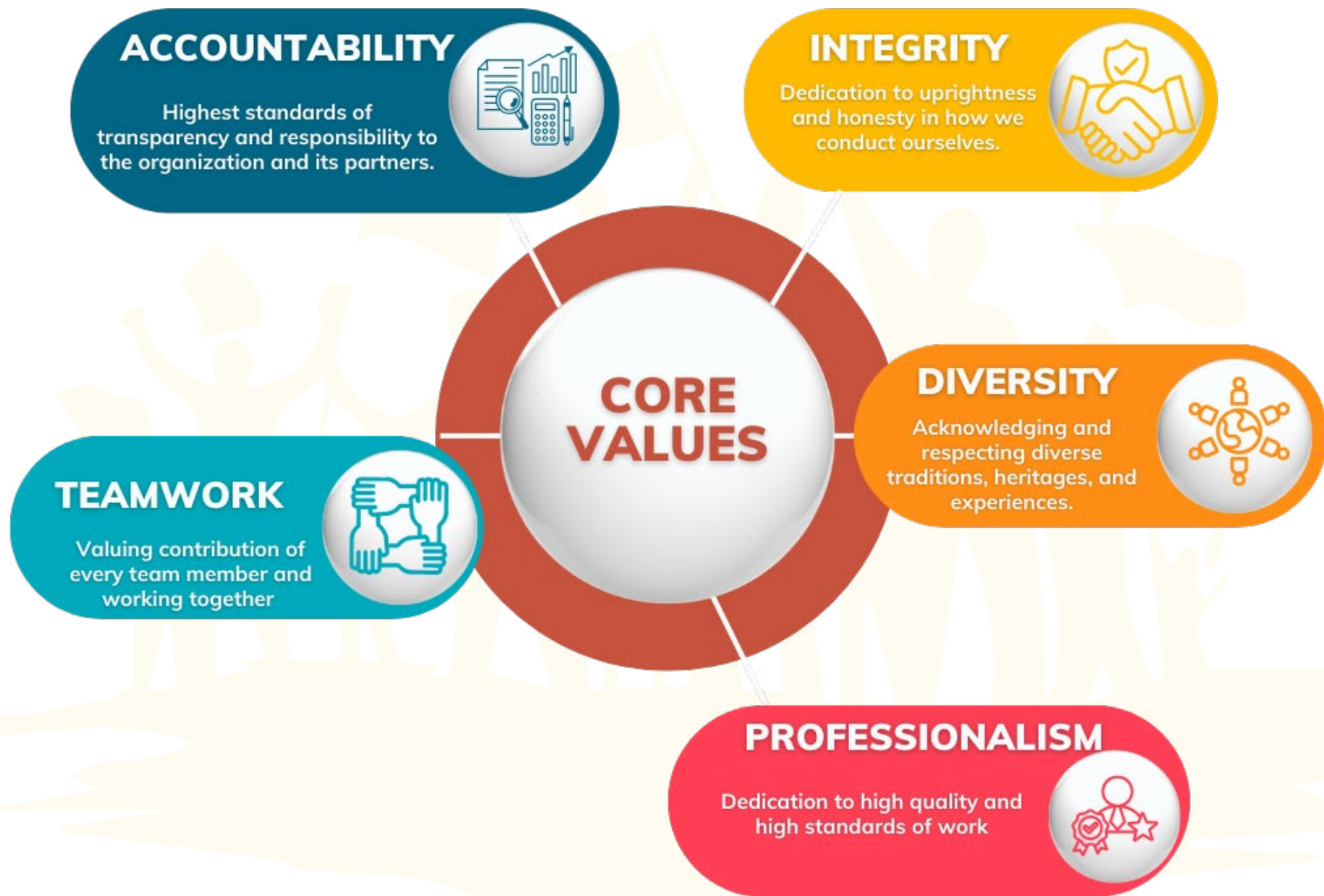
Mission

To provide policy solutions to pertinent security challenges in Africa through generation and dissemination of knowledge, policy influence, and capacity development.



Focus

We cannot address Africa's complex security and human rights challenges without robust, evidence-based research. That is why we produce reliable data and insights that inform policy decisions and contribute to sustainable solutions. Our approach ensures that research not only highlights critical issues but also fosters effective change.



FOREWORD

Driving Change Through Evidence-Based Research

In 2024, CHRIPS continued to achieve significant progress in advancing our strategic goals amidst a tapestry of complex challenges and notable achievements, each thread interwoven with implications for security, human rights, governance, and policy development. For CHRIPS, these moments highlighted the importance of our mandate and the need to keep anchoring our work in evidence-based research and informed advocacy. The year was marked by substantial accomplishments across our core pillars: security and sector reforms; terrorism, countering violent extremism (CVE), and transnational crimes; and technology and security, conflict, and stability. As we reflect on the year's progress, it is essential to recognise and acknowledge the collective efforts of our donors, development partners, and stakeholders, whose support has been crucial in driving these achievements.

Through its rigorous, data-driven research and advocacy, CHRIPS plays a pivotal role in addressing critical security challenges at the intersection of human rights, policing, and governance. By shedding light on the underlying causes of insecurity and the socio-political dynamics shaping these challenges, we have contributed to informed policymaking and strengthened dialogue among key stakeholders. Our work on countering violent extremism has provided actionable insights into community-driven approaches, while our focus on technology and security has highlighted the need to safeguard digital rights in an increasingly interconnected world.

Our commitment to producing high-quality research outputs saw CHRIPS publish impactful studies that have significantly influenced policy and practice. In total, the centre produced 15 publications in 2024 addressing issues on security sector reforms, youth inclusion, governance, and preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE). These publications offered actionable recommendations that informed national and regional dialogues. By providing evidence-based data insights, our research empowered stakeholders to implement effective, rights-based interventions while fostering collaboration among policymakers, practitioners, and civil society.

As the leading research and learning partner for the USAID *Sauti Yako, Amani Yako* Programme, CHRIPS played an active role in the inaugural USAID *Sauti Yako, Amani Yako* National Conference. We have also engaged Kwale, Mombasa, Kilifi and Lamu County partners in robust debates on critical issues surrounding the implementation and integration of whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches to preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE). The discussions at the national and local levels emphasised strategies to mainstream knowledge and skills across state and non-state institutions, as well as the private sector, to create a cohesive response to the challenges of preventing and countering violent extremism.

In 2025, CHRIPS is poised to build on the past year's successes and the opportunities that lie ahead while adapting to the evolving and emerging national and regional security challenges. As we approach the final year of the current strategic plan, the organisation remains committed to assessing progress, reflecting on lessons learned, and adapting to evolving contexts.

For more details on our strategic focus, download the document using the link: [Strategic Plan 2021-2025](#). Our focus remains on quality research, advocacy, and policy interventions that lay the foundation for a just and secure society with the aim of distributing knowledge and research to a wider audience.

Thank you for being a part of this journey.

Prisca Kamungi,

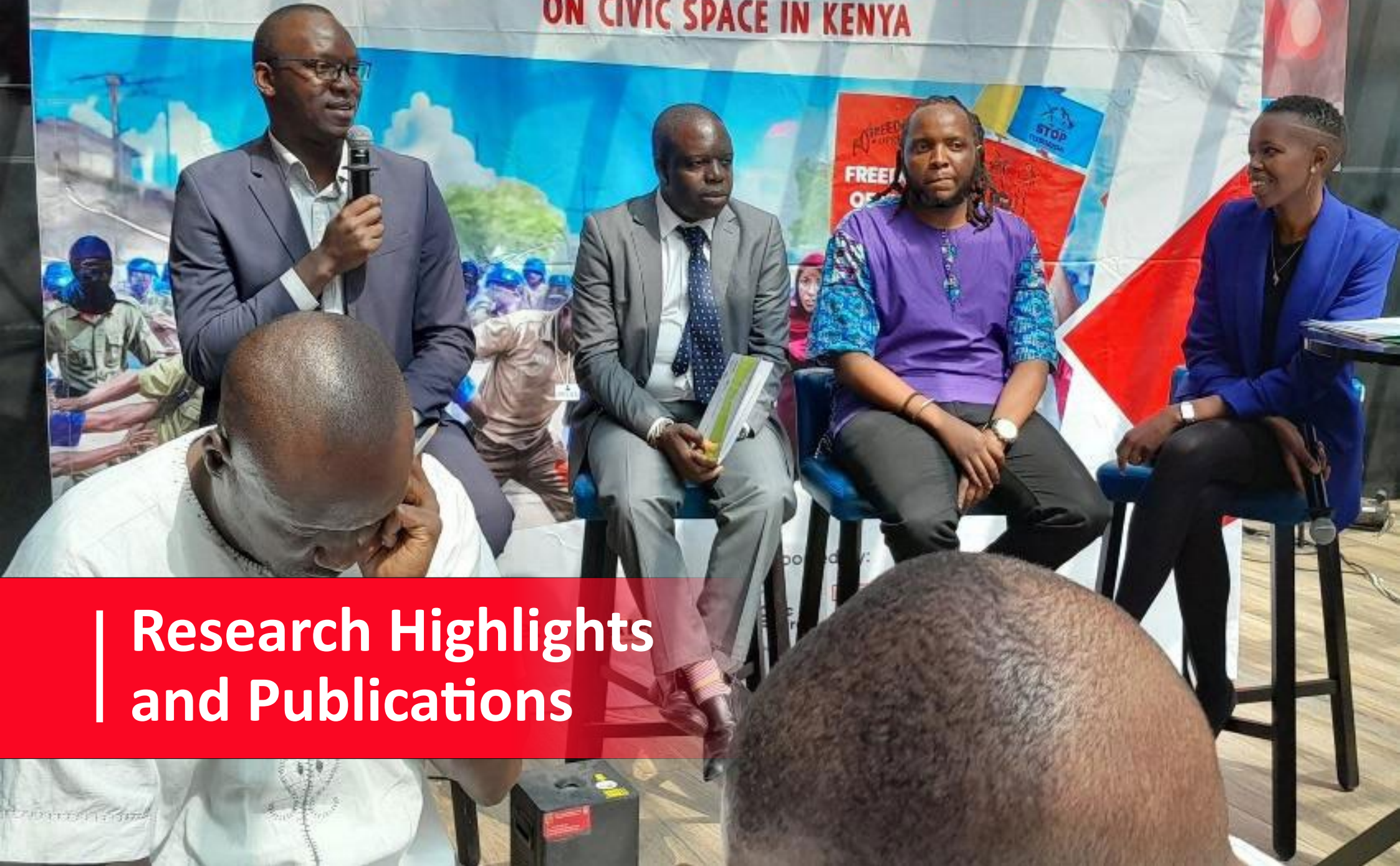
Chair

2024 in Focus

Our Year in Numbers



THE IMPACT OF PREVENTION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM, COUNTER-TERRORISM, AND NATIONAL SECURITY MEASURES ON CIVIC SPACE IN KENYA



| Research Highlights
and Publications

Trends in Violent Extremism: Attacks and Arrests in Kenya

CHRIPS released its seventh observatory report on **Trends of Violent Extremist Attacks and Arrests in Kenya**, which analysed incidents that occurred between January and December 2024. The report revealed a 6.5% decrease in the number of terrorist attacks in the country, dropping from 77 reported cases in 2023 to 72 in 2024. Download the full report [here](#).

The CHRIPS Terrorism Observatory (CVE hub) remains a cornerstone for monitoring and analysing data on terrorism-related attacks and arrests across the country. It serves as an essential resource for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners, providing evidence-based information to inform strategies for countering violent extremism. By tracking and reporting these trends, the Observatory promotes a deeper understanding of the impact of terrorism and the effectiveness of interventions aimed at enhancing security and governance.



The Security Playbook: Counterterrorism and Civic Space Restrictions in Kenya

This study examines restrictions on civic space in Kenya and illustrates the permissive space allowed by counterterrorism narratives, laws, and measures. Click [here](#) to read and download the full study. These constraints have had far-reaching impacts on civil society organisations, human rights defenders, and citizens, curtailing their ability to engage in advocacy, activism, and participation in democratic processes.



Ensuring Civic Freedoms: A Holistic Path Forward

CHRIIPS research shaped policies and actions on strategic issues affecting human security and civic space in Kenya. It proposes a holistic approach, incorporating various strategies by CSOs to confront the security playbook towards increased civic space promotion and protection.

Click [here](#) to read the report.



Photo: Panel discussion sharing findings and highlights from the research



Community Centred Collaboration to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism

This brief examines the progress and barriers to implementing whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) in the counties of Kwale, Kilifi, Mombasa, and Lamu. It draws on discussions from the USAID Sauti National Conference held on March 12th and 13th, 2024, where stakeholders- including government representatives, civil society organisations, and community leaders- shared insights and experiences regarding PCVE initiatives. Key reflections include addressing trust deficits between communities and security agencies, co-creating intervention programmes, ensuring sustainability, incorporating gender and youth, and prioritising mental health to tackle the psychological impacts of violent extremism on affected communities.

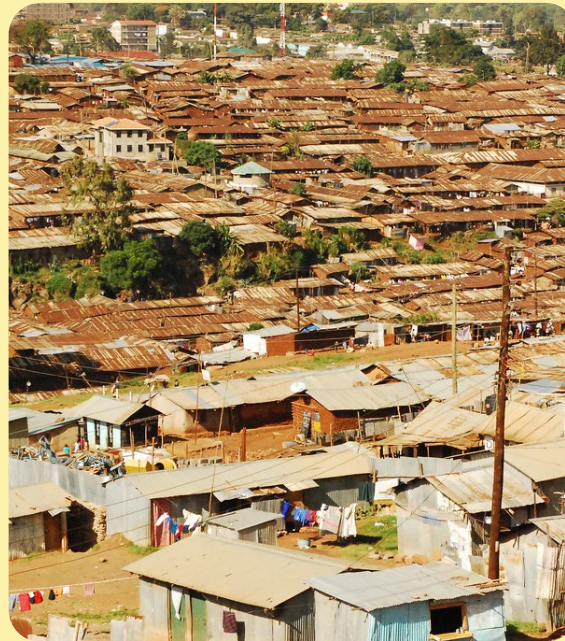
Download the Policy brief [here](#).



Insecurity and Conflict Management in Informal Settlements

CHRIPS, in collaboration with **Uppsala University** completed a study on Insecurity and Conflict Management in Informal settlements of Kawangware and Korogocho in Nairobi.

Click [here](#) to download the full report.



History Rhymes: Reflections on the Civic Space in Kenya 1963-2024

This paper examines the concept of securitisation within various legal and policy frameworks and its impact on civic space in Kenya. It contributes to knowledge on securitisation and the future of civic space in the country.

Access the publication [here](#).





What emerges is that the lack of opportunities for personal and professional growth can contribute to feelings of hopelessness and resentment, making individuals susceptible to radicalisation

Workshop Note 04 09/24 | pg 2

Chiefs and Resilience to Violent Extremism in Mombasa County

This note explores the unique and significant role of chiefs in preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE) in Mombasa. It is tailored to state and non-state development actors working on PCVE, peacebuilding, security and governance.

Download the full workshop note [here](#).

Blue Economy and PCVE in Kilifi County

This workshop note focuses on the role of the blue economy in preventing and countering violent extremism. It also reflects on the progress and challenges the state and civil society actors encounter in creating an enabling environment for a more coordinated Whole-of Government (WoG) and Whole-of-Society (WoS) approach to PCVE efforts in Kilifi County.

Download the full workshop [note here](#).

Engaging Youth in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) in Kwale County

This note focuses on youth involvement in preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE) in Kwale County, identifying barriers to their engagement, and suggesting evidence-based recommendations for policy and practice.

Download the full workshop note [here](#).

Lessons for localising PCVE Interventions in Lamu County

This workshop note explores potential strategies to design and implement context-specific policies and programmes to comprehensively prevent and counter violent extremism (PCVE) in Lamu county.

Click [here](#) to download the full workshop note.



| Institutional Highlights and Policy Engagements

To further our mission to influence policy and generate and disseminate knowledge, our team participated in various forums highlighting our work on security. We also forged new partnerships.



Photo: Dr Simon Kinyanjui, Director, IGAD Centre of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism speaking during the USAID Sauti Yako National Conference

USAID Sauti Yako, Amani Yako National Conference

The conference on 12-13 March 2024 reflected on the impact of research, policy, and programming in enabling Whole-of-Government (WoG) and Whole-of-Society (WoS) responses to violent extremism in Kenya. Discussions identified gaps in research and knowledge related to PCVE in Kenya and assessed the impact of existing strategies, including the National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism and County Action Plans (CAPs). The forum endorsed the promotion of improved understanding and dialogue on mainstreaming and localization approaches to sustainable PCVE action in Kenya.



Roundtable with Canada's Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Greg Fergus

On 3 April 2024, CHRIPS presented its work on youth governance and inclusion in a high-level meeting hosted by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and bringing together Canada's Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Greg Fergus, several Canadian Members of Parliament, and representatives from the Canadian High Commission in Kenya. We highlighted key insights and their implications for policy and programming in Kenya and the broader region.



Group Photo: Canadian delegation alongside IDRC implementing partners during a meeting held on 3 April 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya

Development NGO Responses to Address Violent and Hateful Extremism (VHE) in Kenya symposium

Co-hosted by CHRIPS and Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia, the one-day symposium explored the issues of responses to address Violent and Hateful Extremism (VHE) by international development-humanitarian NGOs (INGOs) in Kenya, particularly in the Coast Province. The insights shared during the symposium serve as a foundation for fostering collaborative approaches to building resilient communities and advancing global security.



Photo: Participants attentively following discussions during the symposium

USAID Sauti Yako Programme Strengthens PCVE Efforts Through Workshops and Capacity-Building Activities

CHRIPS facilitated a series of impactful workshops and capacity-building activities in Lamu, Kilifi, Kwale, and Mombasa Counties. The workshops focused on assessing the impact of research, policy, and programmes on PCVE.



Photo: Participants attentively listening to the facilitator during the capacity-building session in Kilifi County



Photo: Participants during the Kwale County Workshop



Photo: CHRIPS Brian Kimari facilitating a session in Lamu County



Photo: Participants in Mombasa County Workshop in July 2024

Women and youth voices in refreshed National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism (NSCVE)

CHRIPS participated in discussions held by the NCTC Kenya in a (X)Twitter Space on the reviewed National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism (NSCVE). The review aims to ensure the strategy translates into actionable, grassroots-level interventions that drive impactful and sustainable change in the fight against violent extremism.

JOIN US FOR AN X SPACE DISCUSSION ON . . .

**WOMEN AND YOUTH VOICES IN THE
REFRESHED NSCVE: WHAT ARE THE
KEY CONSIDERATIONS?**

MARCH 28, 2024 @ 4PM

EDNA OMIWENO
Head of Media & Communications,
NCTC

KEVIN OSIDO
Executive Director,
County Governance
Watch

RAUHAT SADDAM
Programs Officer,
The Peace
Center/CSCR

SUSAN SINDANI
Gender Expert, Women
Against Terrorism

LUQMAN AHMED
Programs Manager,
RPPL

RAHMA RAMADHAN
Junior Research
Fellow, CHRIPS

JULIAN MACHARIA
MODERATOR

#NSCVEREVIEW @NCTC_Kenya

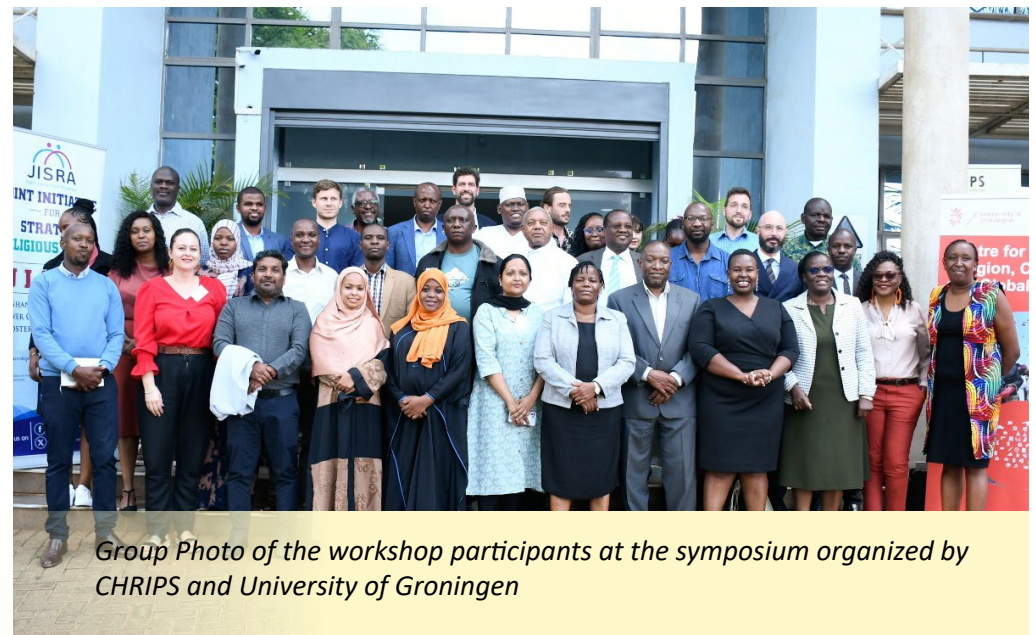


CHRIPS Partners with MIDRIFT to Strengthen Approaches to Security

CHRIPS, in collaboration with MIDRIFT, successfully submitted a comprehensive policy brief to the Ministry of Interior advocating for the establishment of regional, county, and sub-county coordination and collaboration forums on security. The policy brief underscores the importance of enhanced coordination among state and non-state actors and highlights the necessity for inclusive forums that bring together security agencies, local government officials, civil society organisations, and community representatives. Consequently, the Ministry of Interior issued a circular on 25 July 2024, formally endorsing the creation of these coordination forums.

Reimagining the role of Religion in Building Peaceful, Just and Inclusive societies in East Africa and beyond

The workshop hosted in collaboration with the University of Groningen gathered 100 participants, both in person and in a hybrid format, including scholars, policymakers, and community leaders. It examined the role of religion in security and peacebuilding across various African contexts, discussing its importance in preventing and countering violent extremism and highlighting the urgent need to build and enhance a peaceful and inclusive society.



CHRIPS Joins the African Institute of International Law in Combating Violence Against Women in Africa

As part of the Annual 16 Days of Activism for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, CHRIPS participated in a 5-day workshop organised by the African Institute of International Law in Arusha, Tanzania, focused on combating violence against women in Africa. During the event, Joy Christine, a CHRIPS Research Fellow, presented a case study on Kenya titled *“Building Capacity for Prevention and Response: Strengthening the Health Sector and Social Services,”* which emphasised the importance of collaboration among civil society organisations (CSOs) and other stakeholders to address sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

Click [here](#) to read about the African Institute of International Law (AIIL).

Africa Regional Conference on Law Enforcement and Public Health (ALEPH) 2024

The ALEPH 2024 Conference, held from 1 to 4 December 2024 under the auspices of the University of Pretoria, brought together 139 delegates from 25 countries under the theme “Aligning Policing and Public Health: Working Together for Community Wellbeing (De)criminalizing Public Health.” Research Fellow Ms. Maureen Nyarangi contributed to the workshop on “Harm Reduction Policing and Public Health Partnerships.” The conference highlighted innovative approaches to aligning policing and public health to promote community well-being.

Read more about the key takeaways from the conference Communique’ [here](#).



Photo: Joy Christine, CHRIPS Kenya Research Fellow, presenting a case study at the African Institute of International Law in Arusha, Tanzania



Group Photo: The Kenyan delegation attending the ALEPH 2024 Conference paid a courtesy visit to the Kenya High Commission in Pretoria, South Africa.

December 4, 2024 07:11 AM



| **Communications**

MEDIA PUBLICITY AND VISIBILITY

Our research outputs informed wider audiences through the media.

19 February 2024: The East African Newspaper features sentiments from The Outcome Report from the West, East, and Central Africa Civil Society highlighting the misuse of surveillance technologies to suppress dissent and control media narratives in the region:

28 February 2024: Capital FM publication of CHRIPS research report on Insecurity and Conflict Management in Informal Settlements of Kawangware and Korogocho: https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/business/2024/02/new-survey-exposes-harsh-realities-of-insecurity-in-kawangware-korogocho-slums/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=new-survey-exposes-harsh-realities-of-insecurity-in-kawangware-korogocho-slums

3 April 2024: Capital FM features on CHRIPS Observatory report 2023 noting a decrease in terror related attacks by 5.2 per cent, a testament to the government's intensified efforts to combat violent extremism: <https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2024/04/nairobi-based-think-tank-reports-rise-in-terror-related-deaths/>

5 April 2024: The CHRIPS Observatory report was featured in an opinion piece by Demas Kiprono, originally published in *The Standard*: <https://x.com/kipdemas/status/1776227140456907039>

18 July 2024: Star Newspaper cited CHRIPS book on Policing protests in Kenya on what police, protesters can learn from the anti-government protests: <https://www.the-star.co.ke/opinion/2024-07-18-elcana-what-police-protesters-can-learn-from-the-anti-government-protests>

27 July 2024: CHRIPS research policy brief on Community-centred Collaboration to prevent and counter violent extremism received a feature in the Eastleigh



Voice: <https://eastleighvoice.co.ke/counter%20violent%20extremism-violent%20extremism/62297/trust-deficit-hinders-prevention-of-violent-extremism-at-the-coast>

31 July 2024: Publication by CHRIPS on Kenya's justice system and drug trafficking cases was featured on ENACT Africa: <https://enactafrica.org/enact-observer/kenya-s-courts-must-deal-with-drug-cases-with-a-dash-of-speed>

15 August 2024: ISS Africa published CHRIPS Op-ed piece - A look into gains and misses 8 years after adoption of the National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism: <https://issafrica.org/iss-today/kenya-s-court-backlogs-keep-drug-lords-on-the-streets>

26 August 2024: The Nairobi Law monthly published CHRIPS article on policing riots and mismanagement of 2024 Anti-Finance bill 2024: <https://online.fliphtml5.com/skrtei/mpta/#p=31>

9 December 2024: Capital News Fm featured CHRIPS publication of terror attacks and arrests observatory report 2023 release: <https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2024/12/mandera-dci-officer-killed-in-suspected-al-shabaab-attack/>

9 December 2024: Eastleigh Voice sampling CHRIPS 2016 research in discussions surrounding scrutiny of the National Intelligence Services (NIS) operations and calls for transparency and accountability: <https://eastleighvoice.co.ke/national/95918/kenya-to-form-complaints-board-to-hold-nis-accountable-for-its-actions>

9 December 2024: The Weekly Vision featured CHRIPS 2016 research in discussions surrounding scrutiny of the National Intelligence Services (NIS) operations and calls for transparency and accountability: <https://theweeklyvisionnews.net/2024/12/09/the-national-intelligence-service-nis-faces-scrutiny-new-complaints-board-promises-accountability/>



OUR PARTNERS





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