



PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN KOGI STATE;

A community needs assessment report for
the “System and Structure Strengthening
Approach against Radicalisation to Violent
Extremism” (**SARVE**) Project.

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CONTENTS

Abbreviations	4
Foreword	5
1.0 Executive Summary	6
2.0 Introduction	10
2.1 Project background	10
3.0 Methodology	10
3.1 Research Method	10
3.2 Objectives and Research Questions	13
3.3 Limitation	13
4.0 Key Findings	14
4.1 What forms of violent extremism and radicalisation exist in communities if any?.....	14
4.2 Who are the perpetrators or likely perpetrators of violent extremism in the communities?.....	14
4.3 Who are the most vulnerable groups from violent extremism or potential violent extremism?	15
4.4 What are the main drivers of violent extremism and early warning signs observed in communities?	17
4.5 Who are the prominent groups in the communities promoting peaceful coexistence or resilience to violent extremism in the communities?	18
4.6 What social resources exist in the communities and gaps identified?.....	20
4.7 What the contextual issues and strategic options or entry points	22
5.0 Conclusions Recommendation	24

ABBREVIATIONS

FGD	-	Focus Group Discussion
CONA	-	Community Needs Assessment
GCERF	-	Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund
SARVE	-	System and Structure Strengthening Approach against Radicalisation to Violent Extremism

Foreword

In recent years, growing discontentment and violent agitations that have roots in deprivation and poverty has led to increased violent extremism in the Northeast, a restive insurgency in the Niger Delta region and incidence of violent extremist recruitment, coupled with new eruptions of violence (primarily rooted in ethnic and cultural differences, economic inequalities, and resource constraints). These existing conflicts, with the prevailing socio-economic conditions, create a potent mix of push, pull, and enabling factors that can lead individuals and groups to radicalisation.

This Community Needs Assessment (CONA) findings conducted in Kogi State is an overview of an operational research aimed at identifying the causes of violence and how to prevent same. The CONA presents an approach to crisis management and vision casting. The System and Structures Strengthening Approach against Radicalisation to violent Extremism (SARVE) project supported the development of the document with the hope that it will serve as a useful tool for community development.

SARVE Project is an innovation of ActionAid Nigeria (AAN) aimed at supporting communities to build resilience against violent extremism through enhanced capacity and structures to utilize available resources in preventing radicalisation, respond to, withstand and overcome impact of adverse violent extremism should it occur.

AAN is partnering with relevant stakeholders in Kogi and Nasarawa State to tackle radicalisation and violent extremism.

Tasallah Chibok
Director of Programme

1.0 Executive Summary

This section of the report gives a snapshot of the Community Needs Assessment (CONA) findings conducted in Kogi State in 12 communities during the Month of October, 2018. The project “System and Structure Strengthening Approach against Radicalisation to Violent Extremism (SARVE) Project” aims to equip communities with sustainable ability, capacity and structures to utilize available resources to prevent radicalisation, respond to, withstand and overcome impact of adverse violence extremism should it occur.

The CONA conducted was rationalized by the closure of Phase 1 of SARVE project gradually coming to an end and the given approval for the Phase 2 to scale up to more Local Government Areas and Communities in Kogi State by the donor as part of requirements for AAN partnership proposal development to inform the project design.

A rapid CONA was conducted in 12 communities of Kogi State through qualitative research adopting participatory methods and tools such as resource mapping, focus group discussion and Venn diagram.

Key findings of the assessment have been organised based on the research questions. In addition, the contextual issues based on four priority leverage points from the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) country strategy for investment in Nigeria as well as strategic entry points have been captured.

Research Questions

What forms of violent extremism and radicalisation exist in the communities if any?

According to the Wikipedia, violent extremism refers to the beliefs and actions of people who support or use of ideologically motivated violence to achieve radical ideological, religious, or political views. Furthermore, violent extremist views can be exhibited along a range of issues, including politics, religion, and gender relations. Based on the analysis of table 4, findings across the 12 communities visited established only early warning signs of violent extremisms and radicalisation to include reported cases of violence, conflicts, religious fanatic, cultism, drug abuse and existence of agitations from perceived or real forms of marginalisation, discrimination and injustice. Findings also, show that 9 out 12 communities reported cases of farmers-herdsmen’s conflicts followed by 8 out of 12 (political conflicts), 5 out of 12 (kidnapping and armed robbery) and 4 out of 5 (gender related). However, evidence is only strong to somewhat strong in 6 out of 12 communities visited in respect to incidence of farmers-herdsmen’s conflicts, followed by kidnapping and armed robbery (4), political conflicts (2) and gender related conflicts (1). Clashes over land, cultism, tussle over traditional title and religious fanaticism are only reported in fewer communities. The research team has no sufficient evidence to rationalize the presence of violent extremisms of any form in the 12 communities possibly because the community needs assessment was a rapid one.

Who are the perpetrators or likely perpetrators of violent extremism in the communities?

Table 5 analyses the perpetrators or likely perpetrators of violent extremism. Across all the 12 communities visited, perpetrators or likely perpetrators of potential violent extremism are unemployed youths. Next to unemployment is herdsmen reported in half of the 12 communities visited. Other perpetrators of radicalisation and violent extremism spread across fewer communities range from politicians and their thugs, drug abusers, cultist, women to religious fanatics.

Who are the most vulnerable groups from violent extremism or potential violent extremism?

Table 6 shows the analyses of most vulnerable groups to violent extremism or potential violent extremism. Women are identified as the most vulnerable in most of the communities visited while children, farmers and their families have been reported in appreciable number of communities visited. Other vulnerable groups spread across fewer communities include men, youth, widows, village head, old disable and non-indigenes.

What are the main drivers of violent extremism and early warning signs observed in communities?

According to Wikipedia, push factors drive individuals to violent extremism such as marginalisation, inequality, discrimination, persecution or the perception thereof, limited access to quality and relevant education, the denial of rights and civil liberties and other environmental, historical and socio economic grievances. However, contextual factors provide a favorable terrain for the emergence of violent extremist groups such as fragile states, the lack of rule of law, corruption and criminality. The main drivers of violent extremism or early warning signs are a combination of push and contextual factors. Across most communities, findings show that the push factors are mainly poverty, unemployment and lack of relevant quality education (western and religious). However, the contextual factors are social injustice, government inability to provide social services to ensure citizens' welfare and security, abuse of rule law and criminality. Among the identified push factors, unemployment is the most prominent one, followed by lack of relevant education or illiteracy and poverty. Among the identified contextual factors failure of the state to provide social services is the prominent one followed by criminality and then lack of social justice. There has not been any evidence of pull factors reported or observed as causes of the violent extremisms or its early warning signs.

Who are the prominent groups promoting peaceful coexistence or resilience to violent extremism in the communities?

Table 9 analyses prominent groups in the communities promoting peaceful coexistence or promoting resilience to violent extremism. The results show social groups and peace platforms, vigilant groups as well as traditional leaders to be most frequently reported across most of the 12 communities visited. Surprising security agents (governments) and religious were among the least mentioned. Others least mentioned were NYSC and NGOs/INGOs. With this key finding, these prominent groups offer window opportunities for engagement at the strategic entry point for the SARVE Project. Some of the key roles of these prominent groups are provided in table 10.

What are the contextual issues and strategic options or entry points?

Contextual issues based on four priority leverage points

Contextual issues based on four priority leverage points

The table below analysed the contextual issues and strategic options or entry points

Four Priority Leverage Points from the Project Strategy	Contextual Issues Based on the Findings Hinged on the Needs of the Communities	Strategic Options or Entry Points
Social Cohesion	<p>The community social cohesion might have been weakened as a result of reported cases of violence, conflicts and existence of agitations from perceived or real forms of marginalisation, discrimination and injustice premised on farmers-herdsmen clashes fueled by drug abuse as well as tribal, religious and political differences.</p> <p>Findings from resource mapping have identified prioritised key social resources in addition to determining additional desired social resources</p> <p>Perpetrators of violence groups, most vulnerable groups and prominent groups in the communities have been identified</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build tolerance by strengthening or supporting establishment of interfaith, intercultural dialogues a means of alternate conflict resolution mechanism - Provide relevant education and knowledge through prioritised resources to build tolerance against radicalisation and violent extremism in the community particularly targeting the identified perpetrators in the communities - Strengthen roles of prominent groups to promote peaceful coexistence - Strengthen collaboration between the prominent groups performing similar roles - Build community capacity in negotiation, dialogue and conflict resolution skills - Use identified perpetrators of violence groups, most vulnerable groups and prominent groups as strategic points of entry
Community Agency	<p>Though by design, the local government is the third tier of government and closest to the community, findings from resource mapping show gaps exist in the provision of social resources to ensure adequate welfare and security of the communities</p> <p>Gaps also exist in the roles of the prominent groups ranging from absence of effective collaboration with one another and lack of capacity to engage duty bearers and demand for their basic rights. For example,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize the prominent groups and institutions identified in the communities to engage, demand and influence the duty bearers on the provision of social services for the community particularly the most vulnerable - Conduct a comprehensive functional analysis of the roles of prominent groups and institutions

	in one of the communities that in their past clashes with the herdsmen, the herdsmen would brag and tell them that they are the owner of the government because the president is their tribesman	and support their strengthening. - Build capacity of the communities on right based approach
Equal access to opportunities	Findings show community agitations over perceived or real marginalisation, discrimination, injustice and exclusion as early warning signs of violent extremism. Excerpt from a community; “The community has a lot of youths who are not doing anything and have no skills that will enable them to pick a job. When they are trained on different skills, they will be able to work, based on their skills to earn money and improve their standard of living and by extension, the community”.	Provide alternative means of livelihood to communities, strategically targeting the perpetrators of violence as direct beneficiaries. These alternative means of livelihood may range from vocational and entrepreneurial skills, capital or seed stock to enabling business or trade while addressing critical issues of unemployment and poverty which are the main drivers of violence extremism
Critical thinking and live skills	The communities lack existence of critical thinking and live skills because of the absence of NGOs and donor programs in nearly all the 12 communities visited	Provide interpersonal communication skills, leadership skills to the communities particularly the prominent groups and institutions and identifies

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Project background

Action Aid Nigeria (AAN) as part of efforts towards supporting communities to build resilience against violent extremism is in partnership with other relevant stakeholders, to tackle radicalisation and violent extremism in Nigeria, has plan to extend to Kogi State in line with GCERF country strategy for investing in Nigeria.

The project “System Structure and Strengthening Approach against Radicalisation to Violent Extremism (SARVE) project in Kogi State” aims to equip communities with sustainable ability, capacity and structures to utilize available resources to prevent radicalisation, respond to, withstand and overcome impact of adverse violence extremism should it occur. The CONA conducted was rationalised by closure of Phase 1 of SARVE project gradually coming to an end and the given approval for the Phase 2 to scale up to Kogi State by the donor as part of the requirements for AAN partnership proposal development to inform the project design.

According to GCERF strategy (2017-2019), to empower community members who are vulnerable to recruitment and radicalisation that leads to terrorism, and to address the drivers of violent extremism, GCERF grantees will build on GCERF’s four priority leverage points (social cohesion, community agency, equal access to opportunities, and sense of purpose) in the following ways:

- Building tolerance, where violent extremists recruit the marginalised;
- Community agency, where violent extremists exploit weak governance;
- Positive social and economic alternatives to what violent extremists claim to offer; and
- Critical thinking and life skills to resist violent extremist recruitment.

A rapid Community Needs Assessment (CONA) was conducted in 12 communities of Kogi State through qualitative research adopting participatory methods and tools such as resource mapping, FGD and Venn diagram. Key findings of the assessment has been organised based on the research questions. In addition, the contextual issues based on four priority leverage points from the GCERF country strategy for investment in Nigeria as well as strategic entry points have been captured.

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Research Method

A rapid CONA was conducted in 12 communities of Kogi State through qualitative research adopting participatory methods and tools such as resource mapping, FGD and Venn diagram. The following are the key steps adopted in the conduct of the baseline and needs assessment

Table 1: Key Steps in conducting Baseline and Needs Assessment

Stages	Explanation
Preparatory/Planning	<p>The team of researchers and consultants were recruited</p> <p>The research tools were designed based on the objectives of the baseline and needs assessment</p> <p>One-day training was organised for the research teams on the design tools and a shared development of basic concepts of violent extremism and radicalisation was developed. The research tools were also simulated/role played during the training</p> <p>Team formation was done with 3 teams comprised of 2 members to represent a state</p> <p>12 communities per state were identified purposively and mobilised through AAN contact persons in the state</p>
Data Collection in the field	<p>One day was dedicated to a community for the data collection where data/information was collected using 3 tools (resource mapping, Venn diagram and focus group discussion). Four communities were covered by each team making a total of 12 communities covered per state.</p> <p>Data/Information was captured through field reporting template designed</p> <p>Quality assurance mechanisms were built in to the field data collection as consultant accompanied the team to observe data collection in at least one community per senatorial zone. Daily reviews were done via Skype and phone calls as well as review of field reports. In addition, the data collection tools were standardised as well as the data capturing and analytical templates</p>
Analysis	<p>First and second levels data/information gathering and analysis templates were developed and data/information aggregated at 2 levels</p> <p>Third level of analysis was done using excel template where aggregation was done based on the research questions</p>
Reporting	<p>Reporting was mainly structured along the research questions</p>

Table 2: Sample Structure and Sampling Methods

	Senatoria I Zones	LGAs	Communities				
				Venn diagram	FGD	Resource mapping	Grand total
				Participants			
	Kogi West	Lokoja	Tajimi	20	15	15	
			Agbaja	20	15	15	
		Kogi	Ete/Akpasu	20	15	15	
			Koto-Karfe	20	15	15	
	Kogi East	Igalamela/Odolu	Ugbeomogwu	20	15	15	
			Ujagba	20	15	15	
		Ankpa	Emekutu	20	15	15	
			Abache	20	15	15	
	Kogi Central	Okehi	Ukowa	20	15	15	
			Inata	20	15	15	
		Adavi	Osaragada/Aku	20	15	15	
			Osisi	20	15	15	
Total	3	6	12	240	180	180	600

The sample structure consists of 36 interview sessions held in 12 communities covering a total of at least 600 participants. The selection of 12 communities was through purposive sampling while the selections of the participants for the interview were a mixture of purposive and random sampling. The participants comprised of mixed groups of women, men and youths (boys and girls).

3.2 Objectives and Research Questions

The objectives of the baseline and needs assessment are:

1. Conduct an evaluation of the drivers of violent extremism in the communities
2. Share a report of findings, including programmatic recommendations vis-a-vis relevance of the proposed intervention to address the needs of people

While to achieve the objectives of the baseline and needs assessment, the following are the overarching research questions to be answered:

1. What forms of violent extremism and radicalisation exist in communities if any?
2. Who are the perpetrators or likely perpetrators of violent extremism in the communities?
3. Who are the most vulnerable groups of violent extremism or potential violent extremism?
4. What are the main drivers of violent extremism and early warning signs observed in communities?
5. Who are the prominent groups promoting peaceful coexistence or resilience to violent extremism in the communities?
6. What are the communities' needs in-terms of their capacity to resist violent extremism?
7. What are the contextual issues and strategic options or entry points?

Table 3: Description of the tools and target groups

Tool	Target group	Objectives of the tool
FGD	A mix group of participants comprise of men, women and youth (boys and girls)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To identify particular groups of people who are vulnerable to violent extremism 2. To identify the coping mechanisms that exist in the communities 3. To identify gaps and how they can be strengthened
Venn Diagram	A mix group of participants comprise of men, women and youth (boys and girls)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To explore prominent bodies, groups, associations, group of people that play vita role in the community resilience to radicalisation and violent extremism 2. To identify key roles, they play and gaps 3. To prioritize their strategic influence on the community 4. To identify how to strengthen the gaps
Resource Mapping	A mix group of participants comprise of men, women and youth (boys and girls)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To map and prioritise key community resources 2. To identify main users of the key resources, issues and solutions 3. To identify gaps in community key resources

3.3 Limitation

The baseline and community needs assessment was a rapid one and therefore, even though useful inferences were possible, generalisation would not have been appropriate.

4.0 Key Findings

4.1 What forms of violent extremism and radicalisation exist in communities if any?

According to the Wikipedia, violent extremism refers to the beliefs and actions of people who support or use of ideologically motivated violence to achieve radical ideological, religious, or political views. Furthermore, violent extremist views can be exhibited along a range of issues, including politics, religion, and gender relations. Based on the analysis of table 4 (annex 1), findings across the 12 communities visited established only early warning signs of violent extremisms and radicalization to include reported cases of violence, conflicts, religious fanatic, cultism, drug abuse and existence of agitations from perceived or real forms of marginalisation, discrimination and injustice. Findings also, show that 9 out of 12 communities reported cases of farmers-herdsmen's conflicts followed by 8 out of 12 (political conflicts), 5 out of 12 (kidnapping and armed robbery) and 4 out of 5 (gender related). However, evidence is only strong to somewhat strong in 6 out of 12 communities visited in respect to incidence of farmers-herdsmen's conflicts, followed by kidnaping and armed robbery (4), political conflicts (2) and gender related conflicts (1). Clashes over land, cultism, tussle over traditional title and religious fanaticism are only reported in fewer communities. The research team has no sufficient evidence to rationalize the presence of violent extremisms of any form in the 12 communities possibly because the community needs assessment was a rapid one.

4.2 Who are the perpetrators or likely perpetrators of violent extremism in the communities?

Table 5 analyses the perpetrators or likely perpetrators of violent extremism. Across all the 12 communities visited, perpetrators or likely perpetrators of potential violent extremism are unemployed youths. Next to unemployment is herdsmen reported in half of the 12 communities visited. Other perpetrators of radicalisation and violent extremism spread across fewer communities range from politicians and their thugs, drug abusers, cultist, women to religious fanatics.

Table 5: Perpetrators of violent extremism or their early warning signs

S/ no	Community	Perpetrators of violent extremism								
		Unemployed youth	Herders	Politicians and their thugs	Religious fanatics	Drug abusers among teenagers and adolescence	Tribal leaders	Kidnappers/robbers	Cultists	Women
1	Agbaja	*	*					*		
2	Ette	*								
3	Tajami	*	*							
4	Kotan Karfi	*		*	*	*				
5	Ughedomagu	*	*							
6	Ujagba	*		*						
7	Emekutu	*	*					*	*	
8	Abache									
9	Ukowa	*	*							*
10	Inata	*								
11	Osisi	*								
12	Okowa	*	*							*

4.3 Who are the most vulnerable groups of violent extremism or potential violent extremism?

Table 6 shows the analyses of most vulnerable groups of violent extremism or potential violent extremism. Women are identified the most vulnerable in most of the communities visited while children farmers and their families have been reported in appreciable number of communities visited. Other vulnerable groups spread across fewer communities include men, youth, widows, village head, old disable and non-indigenes.

Table 6: Most Vulnerable Groups

Community	All community members	Children	Farmers and his families	Wom-en	Men	Youth	Wid-ows	Villa-ge head	Old	Non - indig - enes	Di - sab - led
Agbaja	*			*	*						
Ette		*		*							
Tajimi			*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*
Kotan Karfi						*					
Ughedomagu	*		*								
Ujagba			*			*					
Emekutu			*					*			
Abache			*								
Ukowas		*		*					*		*
Inata		*		*							*
Osaragada & Aku		*		*							
Osisi		*		*					*		*
Total	2	5	5	7	2	3	1	1	3	1	4

Table 7: Most Vulnerable Groups

Most vulnerable groups	Justification
Disabled	Likelihood of being a victim is high because of various forms of impairment leading to injury and death
Children	<p>They are small and can barely do anything when there is crisis and violence rendering them orphans and in many cases furthering of education is severed</p> <p>Children are considered vulnerable because during crisis schools can be damaged and in cases where people migrate into the community, schools are used as refugee camp for them. Therefore, it affects the education of the children. Also, loss of their parents during crisis, since they cannot fend for themselves they become vulnerable and orphaned.</p>
Old people	Their strength has failed them, hence, their inability to run in times of danger
Women	Women are turned widows and they are also victims of all forms of sexual assault. The women loss their resources during crisis and stay indoors as well as remain out of business

Period of vulnerability particularly for farmers-herdsmen clashes tend to be between May and July which is usually the farming period, and also between November – December which is the harvesting period. Communities reported the coping mechanisms for the most vulnerable groups to involve:

4.4 What are the main drivers of violent extremism and early warning signs observed in communities?

Table 8: Main Drivers of Violent Extremism

	Community	Push Factors	Unemployment/illness	Lack of relevant education/illiteracy	Contextual Factors	Abuse of rule of law such as nepotism, corruption	Failure of the state to provide adequate social services such as security, grazing routes, functional grazing reserves	Society condoning criminality such as cultism, drug abuse, adultery, child abuse
1	Agbaja			*			*	*
2	Ette	*	*				*	*
3	Tajimi	*	*	*			*	
4	Kotan Karfi	*	*	*			*	*
5	Ughedomagu	*	*	*			*	*
6	Ugbaja	*	*					*
7	Emekutu	*	*	*			*	
8	Abache	*	*	*			*	
9	Ukowa							
10	Inata		*	*	*			
11	Osaragada & Aku	*	*	*				*
12	Osis		*	*				*
		8	10	9	1		8	7

According to Wikipedia, push factors drive individuals to violent extremism such as marginalisation, inequality, discrimination, persecution or the perception thereof, limited access to quality and relevant education, the denial of rights and civil liberties and other environmental, historical and socio economic grievances. However, contextual factors provide a favorable terrain for the emergence of violent extremist groups such as fragile states, the lack of rule of law, corruption and criminality. The main drivers of violent extremism or early warning signs are a combination of push and contextual factors. Across most communities, findings show that the push factors are mainly poverty, unemployment and lack of relevant quality education (western and religious). However, the contextual factors are social injustice, government inability to provide social services to ensure citizens' welfare and security, abuse of rule law and criminality. Among the identified push factors, unemployment is the most prominent one followed by lack of relevant education or illiteracy and poverty. Among the identified contextual factors, failure of the state to provide social services is the prominent one followed by criminality and then lack of social justice. There has not been evidence of pull factors reported or observed as causes of the violent extremisms or its early warning signs.

4.5 Who are the prominent groups in the communities promoting peaceful coexistence or resilience to violent extremism in the communities?

Table 9 analyses prominent groups in the communities promoting peaceful coexistence or promoting resilience to violent extremism. The results show social groups and peace platforms, vigilant groups as well as traditional leaders to be most frequently reported across most of the 12 communities visited. Surprisingly, security agents (governments) and religious were among the least mentioned. Others least mentioned were NYSC and NGOs/INGOs. With this key finding, these prominent groups offer window opportunities for engagement at the strategic entry point for the SARVE Project. Some of the key roles of these prominent groups are provided in table 10.

Table 9: Prominent Groups

Prominent groups							
Community	Security agents	Vigilante group	Social groups or peace platforms	Religious institutions	Traditional leaders	NGOs/INGOs	NYSC
Alagbaja	*	*	*		*		
Ette		*	*		*		
Tajimi		*	*		*		
Kotan Karfi		*	*		*		*
Ughedomagu		*	*				
Ujagba		*	*		*		
Emekutu	*	*	*		*		
Abache							
Ukowa	*	*	*				
Inata			*		*		
Osaragada &AKU		*	*				
Osis		*	*		*		
	3	10	11	0	8	0	1

Table 10: Prominent institutions, groups and their roles

Prominent institutions and groups	Role
Religious institutions (churches and mosques)	Religious leaders preach values through their sermons on the importance of peaceful co-existence They resolve interpersonal disputes between individuals or families.
Peace groups/platforms	They help in training some of the youths thereby getting busy and not engaging in crime. They also help in paying some school children's school fees and often provide some women with money for food.
Traditional institution	They stand as the custodian of community rules, laws and regulations. The traditional rulers make rules that bind that society; and make sure that we keep that rule. They also investigate issues where there is disagreement in order to make peace. They play advisory roles in the community
Local security operative	The vigilantes help in enforcing the laws made by the traditional rulers, settle minor disputes and arrest perpetrators of crimes

Despite the attempts by the communities through their respective structures to put efforts together in addressing issues that may lead to violent extremism, it is obvious from the study that they do not have the capacity to address them adequately. There are gaps noted in the process as they do not have the capacity to address the following:

- Unresolved farmers-herders conflicts
- Chronic poverty and unemployment
- Inadequate social facilities
- Lack of enlightenment on basic societal issues (like land ownership, human and citizens' rights, and so on)
- Poor advocacy skills to drive development
- Unprofessionalism among the vigilante groups
- Lack of expertise in negotiation and peace building
- Weak organisational capacities
- inadequate motivation for volunteers
- Weak capacity to conduct advocacy for the development of the community
- Lack of adequate knowledge and awareness on the role of the community in ensuring members' comfort.
- Lack of access to capital for investment and trade
- Inability to form cooperatives
- Absence of any skills acquisition programmes and facilities
- Few numbers of NGOs operating in the communities and with little resources.
- Slow response by security agencies to reported cases of attacks

4.6 What social resources exist in the communities and gaps identified?

This section of the report discusses the resources of the 12 communities and summarizes the needs

The resources available in the communities include:

Farmlands	Most of the communities are agrarian and depend on farmlands for their living. However, this cannot be taken for granted as there are some without farmlands. That is, they have to go to other communities to get a place to farm, this is due largely to the topography of the area and incessant farmers-herders conflicts, which make it difficult for them to go to the farms unprotected. A good example is Osi community in Adavi LGA.
Schools (Primary and Secondary)	Most of the communities have schools up to Junior Secondary level. This helps to take care of the basic education level (primary to junior secondary). However, this cannot be said of Senior Secondary Schools, as many of the students transiting from Junior to Senior Secondary schools have to go to neighboring communities to access school. Some of the communities have been able to set up Senior Secondary schools (though with limited facilities) through communal effort. An example of this is Agbaja community in Lokoja LGA, where the community established a Senior Secondary school and built some classes to help their children from going to a far distance to access the school.
Places of Worship (mosques and churches and traditional places)	Virtually all the communities have places of worship. It is also noteworthy that they live together in harmony religion-wise.
Markets	One thing that is generally lacking in many of the communities is the availability of a viable market where they can sell their produce. Many of them have to travel to the nearest headquarters of LGCs or bigger towns to sell their products, with its implications for their economic well-being.
Other resources	It is only the large communities, mostly LG headquarters (like Abache and Koton Karfe) that

Community Needs

The study sought to know the opinion of community members on what should be done to nip the possibility of radicalisation and violent extremism in the bud. Their opinions vary from community to community; below is the aggregation of their opinions.

- Provision of skills acquisition centres
- Relocation of herdsmen or provision of land for herdsmen and return of IDPs to their homes
- Provision of mobility for Vigilantes
- Establishment of markets
- Provision of jobs
- External support for the schools
- Provision of facilities by the Governments (State and LG)
- Provision of employment, loan schemes
- Women empowerment program and skill acquisition and loans
- Awareness program for girl-child education
- Community health centres. and adequate schools for communities
- Provision of relief materials to those affected by flood and farmers-herders attack
- Provision of farming implement.
- Good access roads
- Capacity building on advocacy, peace building and mediation
- Training and payment of stipends to the Vigilante groups

The communities are of the opinion that any support of empowerment should be through skills acquisition in the areas of - tailoring, computer software and repair, welding, hair dressing, catering, soap and perfume making, etc. It should also be geared towards loans to start businesses such as Garri processing Mill, Palm oil processing and maize farming.

4.7 What the contextual issues and strategic options or entry points

The table below analyses the contextual issues and strategic options or entry points

Table 7: Contextual issues and strategic options or entry points

Four priority leverage points from the project strategy	Contextual issues based on the findings hinged on the needs of the communities	Strategic Options or entry points
<p>Social Cohesion</p>	<p>The community social cohesion might have been weakened as a result of reported cases of violence, conflicts and existence of agitations from perceived or real forms of marginalisation, discrimination and injustice premised on farmers-herdsmen clashes fueled by drug abuse as well as tribal, religious and political differences.</p> <p>Findings from resource mapping have identified prioritised key social resources in addition to determining additional desired social resources</p> <p>Perpetrators of violence groups, most vulnerable groups and prominent groups in the communities have been identified</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Build tolerance by strengthening or supporting establishment of interfaith, intercultural dialogues as way a means of alternate conflict resolution mechanism -Provide relevant education and knowledge through prioritised resources to build tolerance against radicalisation and violent extremism in the community particularly targeting the identified perpetrators in the communities -Strengthen roles of prominent groups to promote peaceful coexistence

<p>Community agency</p>	<p>Though by design, the local government is the third tier of government and the closest to the community, findings from resource mapping show gaps exist in the provision of social resources to ensure adequate welfare and security of the communities</p> <p>Gaps also exist in the roles of the prominent groups ranging from absence of effective collaboration with one another and lack of capacity to engage duty bearers and demand for their basic rights. For example, in one of the communities that in their past clashes with the herdsmen, the herdsmen would brag and tell them that they are the owner of the government because the president is their tribesman</p>	<p>-Organise the prominent groups and institutions identified in the communities to engage, demand and influence the duty bearers on the provision of social services for the community particularly the most vulnerable</p> <p>-Conduct a comprehensive functional analysis of the roles of prominent groups and institutions and support their strengthening.</p> <p>-Build capacity of the communities on right-based approach</p>
<p>Equal access to opportunities</p>	<p>Findings show community agitations over perceived or real marginalisation, discrimination, injustice and exclusion as early warning signs of violent extremism. Excerpt from a community “The community has a lot of youths who are not doing anything and have no skills that will enable them to pick a job. When they are trained on different skills, they will be able to work based on their skills to earn money and improve their standard of living and by extension, the community”.</p>	<p>Provide alternative means of livelihood to communities strategically targeting the perpetrators of violence as direct beneficiaries. These alternative means of livelihood may range from vocational and entrepreneurial skills, capital or seed stock to enabling business or trade while addressing critical issues of unemployment and poverty which are the main drivers of violence extremism</p>
<p>Critical thinking and live skills</p>	<p>The communities lack existence of critical thinking and living skills because of the absence of NGO and donor programs in nearly all the 12 communities visited</p>	<p>Provide interpersonal communication skills, leadership skills to the communities particularly the prominent groups and institutions and identifies</p>



5.0 Conclusions and Recommendation

The objectives of the needs assessment are to:

1. Conduct an evaluation of the drivers of violent extremism in the communities
2. Share a report of findings, including programmatic recommendations vis-a-vis relevance of the proposed intervention to address the needs of people

The CONA has been conducted paying attention to the 7 overarching questions which have been answered including the evaluation of drivers of violent extremism. The programmatic recommendations have been provided in section 4.7 as well as while answering the overarching research questions

Annex 1: Table 4 Early Warning Signs of Violent Extremism

Early Warning Signs of Violent Extremism										Some Reported Evidence
S/no	Community	Farmer s-herders' violence	Religious violence	Political violence	Cultism	Kidnapping/armed robbery	Tussle for traditional title (Taru)	Clashes over land	Gender related violence	
1	Agbaja	***		***	*	***			*	herdsmen attack farmers and political party opposition leads to fights. The annual festivities have become grounds for retaliation and violence. There is contention on Agbaja being the headquarters of Oworo. Agaba community members are usually terrorized by other communities using their masquerades during annual inter-community festival as Agbaja has no masquerade. This breeds contempt that fuels violence. The impact of the aforementioned is the restricted movement because of the fear that herdsmen might strike anytime. The activities of the highway robbers deny community member of their livelihood because they lose their business capital. The female members of the community face rape, increased hunger and students that are robbed eventually drop out of schools
2	Ete			***			*		*	Conflict happens during the election period. The police have made unsuccessful attempt to resolve political crisis because if APC is in power, then APC's group will be supported but if PDP is in power, the PDP's group will be supported. When conflict occurs, there is destruction of property e.g. the last time it occurred, the ceiling in the chief's palace was affected. Women and children have to scramble for safety
3	Tajimi	***		*		***		*	**	Findings show that there have been cases of kidnapping and robbery. For example a woman was robbed of 300,000 Naira on the road to the market and since then she has become unemployed. Additionally, farmers are constantly attack by herdsmen and are helpless in the face of these attacks. The community has been coping with the situation by reporting the herders during the attack, rotating farms and keeping watch over the farms. Some vigilantes were employed but have been inefficient. Women and farmers have their movements restricted when conflicts occur and are afraid because of the robberies. A chief of a neighboring village was also kidnapped by the herdsmen. There has been loss of livelihood and hunger has increased. The destruction of farms by the herders has also reduced development in the community. There have been monthly contributions due to the fact that some traders are now afraid to go to the farms. The community suggests a police post in the community to strengthen security. There are also conflicts among the community women which spreads to families and the community at large and cases of adultery which can lead to physical violence.

ActionAid is a global movement of people working together to further human rights for all and defeat poverty. We prioritise works with the poor and excluded, promoting values and commitment in civil society, institutions and governments with the aim of achieving structural changes to eradicate injustices and poverty in the world.

ActionAid Nigeria is a member of ActionAid global federation. Our strategic objectives include: enhancing people's power in democratic and inclusive governance, working to protect women and girls from violence by creating opportunities for economic independence and decision making, enhancing women's leadership in accountable humanitarian and resilience system, and strengthening systems and increasing resource diversification for quality programme delivery.

ActionAid Nigeria is powered by the belief that a Nigeria without poverty and injustice is possible.

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