



CONFLICT SNAPSHOT

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2025

MWANAMKE IMARA- STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN P/CVE AMONG STATE SECURITY AND JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS ACROSS COASTAL KENYA



Executive Summary

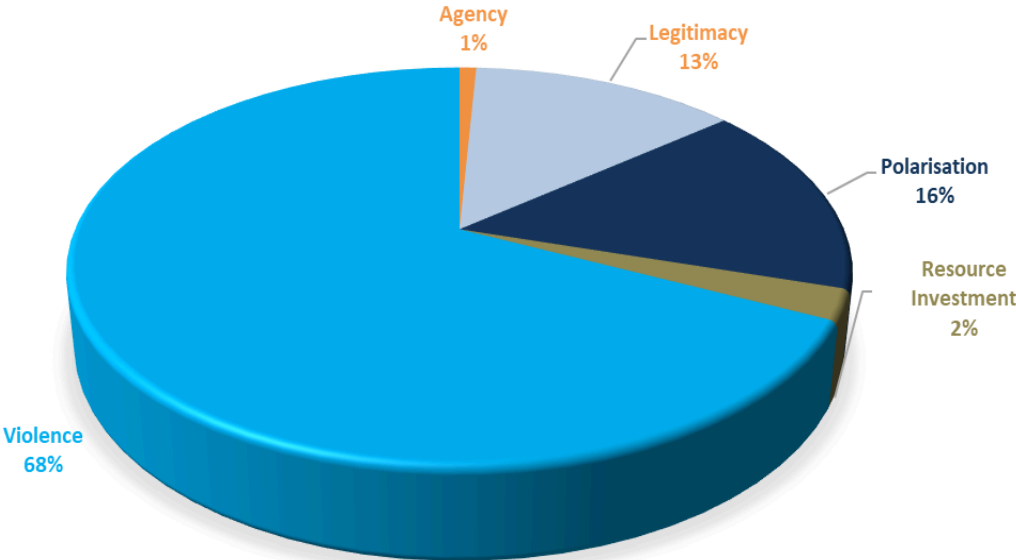
Search for Common Ground (Search), in partnership with Action Life and YOWPSUD, is implementing the ‘Mwanamke Imara’ project to strengthen women’s leadership in advancing P/CVE within state security and justice institutions across coastal Kenya.

The initiative focuses on Kilifi, Lamu, Tana River, and Kwale counties, addressing the critical need for women’s active leadership in security and justice. It recognizes that women’s perspectives and community influence are essential for building trust and tackling gender-specific drivers and impacts of violent extremism (VE).

Through embedded community observation, the project conducts contextual monitoring and continuous conflict tracking to capture evolving conflict and VE dynamics. These insights guide community engagement strategies and capacity-building efforts, ensuring that interventions remain adaptive and responsive to emerging risks.

Overall Conflict Dynamics

CONFLICT DYNAMICS BY THE VITAL SIGNS OF PEACE



Between October 4 and November 30, the project documented 122 conflict dynamics, including tracking incidents of conflict as well as other dynamics that are influencing the conflict ecosystem across the four implementation counties (54 in October, 68 in November)

These incidents were analyzed using the

Peace Impact Framework’s¹ five vital signs of peace—Violence, Institutional Legitimacy, Polarisation, Resource Investment, and Agency. However, while the conflict dynamics are categorized across five broad vital signs, these categories are not mutually exclusive, and overlap between dynamics and incidents is inevitable.

¹<https://cnxus.org/peace-impact-framework/?emci=df3a16ab-13f9-ee11-aaf0-7c1e52017038&emdi=cffc1e93-49fb-e11-aaf0-7c1e52017038&ceid=14151122>

Findings reveal a strong concentration of conflicts linked to **Violence**, which accounts for 83 reported incidents (68%), manifesting as direct harm, threats-both physically and digitally, and physical insecurity as dominant drivers of instability in the monitored areas.

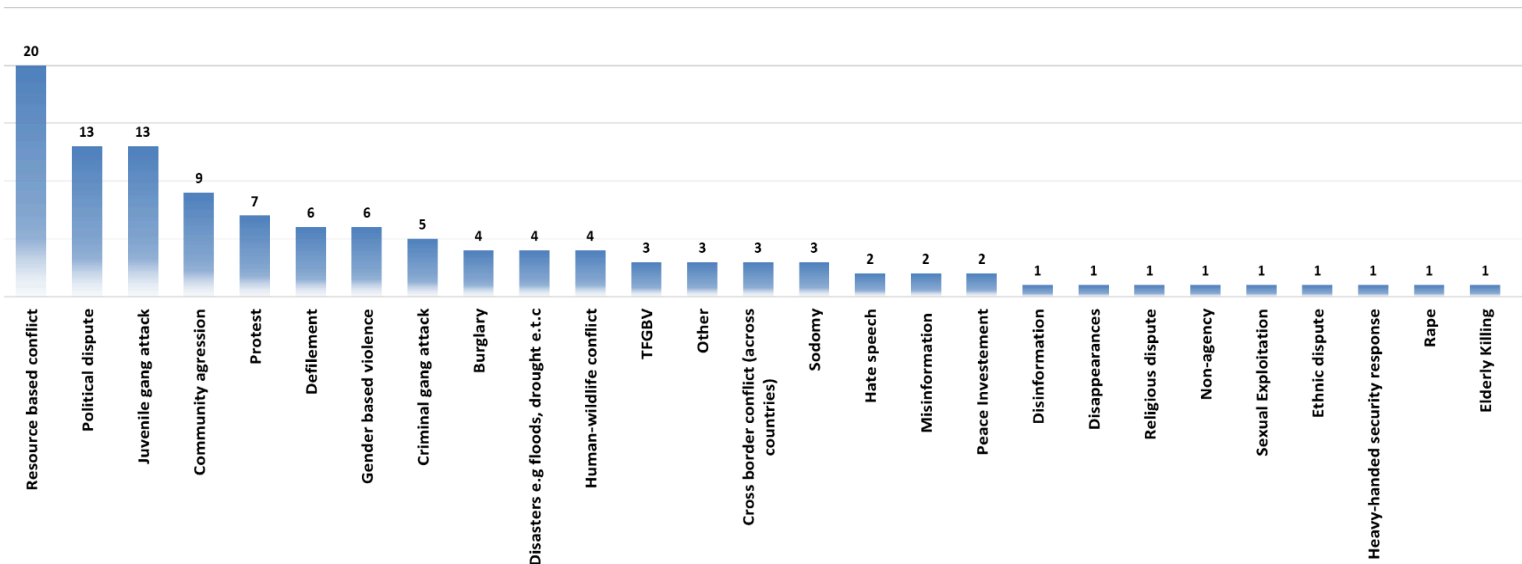
Polarisation emerges as the second most significant theme, with 19 incidents (16%), manifesting as growing divisions along identity, political, resources and ethnic lines, divisions that often exacerbate mistrust and can escalate into violence if left unaddressed.

Legitimacy accounts for 16 incidents (13%), manifesting as grievances around governance, justice, and the perceived fairness of key local institutions and actors. **Resource Investment** appears in 3 incidents (2.5%), manifesting as positive peace investments in peace processes while non-**Agency** was represented in 1 voter apathy incident (0.5%), pointing to limited community-drive and confidence in political processes to influence decisions.

Resource based conflicts are the leading source of friction (14%) in the project implementation sites. Disputes over land, water access, grazing corridors, and marine dominate the caseload of reported resource based conflicts.

Youth linked (juvenile) violence follows at 12% across the four counties, manifesting as machete assaults, retaliatory cycles around weddings, sports tournaments, funerals, and hot-spot roads.

CONFLICT DYNAMICS OBSERVED ACROSS THE FOUR COUNTIES



Political dynamics remain a driver of conflict across the four counties, manifesting through confrontations during by-election campaigns in Tana River and Kilifi, while in other counties, political based disputes manifested both online through highly charged political discourse in closed digital spaces as well as offline in politically organised events.

Community aggression accounted for 10 reported incidents, positioning it among the mid-range conflict category in this reporting period. The reported cases typically involved localized unrest and confrontational behavior within communities, often triggered by grievances around community disputes, perceived injustices in resource allocation, demands for accountability and administrative decisions. Unlike organized violence or political disputes, community aggression manifested as road blockages, mob justice, revenge actions, and disruptions of social events, creating ripple effects on public insecurity.

Violence targeting women and children ranked as the fifth most reported conflict category, manifesting as intimate partner abuse, sexual violence including rape and defilement and cases of sodomy—some involving child-to-child incidents during playtime.

However, there is a clear geographic variation of the conflict dynamics across the four counties. Tana River and Lamu are primarily affected by resource-based conflicts, driven by disputes over land, water, grazing, and marine access. In contrast, Kilifi and Kwale recorded few resource-related incidents, with conflict dynamics shaped instead by localized community aggression and youth-linked criminal violence. In Kilifi, unrest was largely tied to boda-boda disputes and mob violence while Kwale was marked by recurrent juvenile and criminal gang violence. These patterns highlight distinct county-level risk profiles and the need for context-specific response approaches.

Cross-cutting across all four counties, communities voiced dissatisfaction with the 2025 police recruitment process, citing systemic gender bias. Stakeholder interviews and informal conversations revealed that, at grassroots recruitment centers, female candidates were largely excluded, despite official statements emphasizing deep commitments to the constitutional requirements of gender equality and inclusion. This exclusion underscores entrenched barriers women face in accessing security-sector careers, perpetuating a cycle of underrepresentation that limits their future participation and leadership in security.

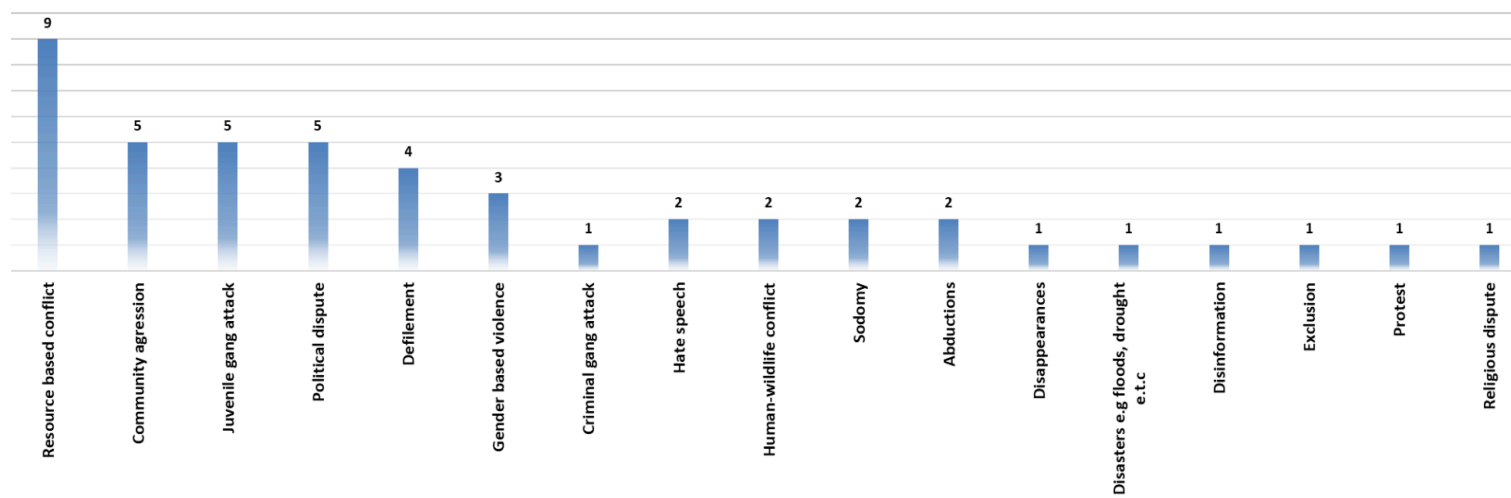
Further to this, the Kenya digital space manifested negative perceptions against women in leadership roles following the outcome of Tanzania's presidential election where narratives that portray women in governance as overly authoritarian dominated. These perceptions risk shaping how communities, especially young people, view women in leadership roles, reinforcing patriarchal biases rather than dismantling them.

Below is a comprehensive analysis of the key localized trends observed across the four counties.

LAMU

Across the entries shared for Lamu (46), the incidents reports cluster around resource-based disputes (land, fisheries, farmer–herder grazing), youth-linked violence (juvenile, political contention (event-related aggression, heckling, public confrontations), and protection risks (GBV/defilement/sodomy).

CONFLICT DYNAMICS OBSERVED IN LAMU COUNTY



A smaller, but important, set of cases reflect technology-facilitated harms (hate speech, disinformation), human–wildlife conflict (elephant incursions), and rights/legitimacy concerns (nurse strike, contested leadership appointments). The category distribution is outlined below:

Resource Based Conflicts: The most prevalent drivers of tension in Lamu, recording a total of 9 cases, spanning from land, water and marine spaces disputes. Below are the nine cases illustrating how these conflicts manifest on the ground:

- Three separate incidents of farmer–herder clashes over pasture and water were recorded: one in Wetemere, Bahari Ward, Mpeketoni on 9 October; another in Kakathe across three consecutive days (15–17 October); and a third in Witu on 22 October. Each case was intervened by local chiefs, peace mediators, police, and the Deputy County Commissioner’s office. Despite these responses, stakeholders emphasize the urgent need for sustainable solutions that address the structural drivers of such conflicts.
- 3 separate incidents of marine resources disputes, manifesting as disputes amongst fishermen across Lamu East and wider county over the use of traditional (preferred by the local Beach Management Units) versus modern fishing techniques (Marine Conservation organisations); dispute between local fishermen and mobile fishermen from other areas, mostly from the neighbouring island of Pemba, competing for the

shared marine resources; and dispute between fishermen and boat or vessel operators navigating shared ocean spaces. A long term response for these conflicts is underway amongst local and national stakeholders, through the creation of a marine spatial plan², an initiative supported by the Government of Kenya and the World Bank through the Kenya Marine Fisheries and Socio-Economic Development (KEMFSED) Project.

- 2 land ownership disputes in Mpeketoni, manifesting as unclear title deed processing and alleged land-grabbing attempts. The matters were filed in Mpeketoni law courts for action.
- 1 land boundary dispute at Kitumbini, Witu, manifested as encroaching onto another's property. Although the local security actors intervened to resolve the immediate altercation, clear boundaries have not been established.

Community aggression: 5 cases of public discontent and agitation, with grievances manifesting in both online and offline spaces as recorded below:

- Opposition to an administrative plan to transfer a chief from Witu Division to Baharini Location upon the retirement of the current chief. No response has been observed for this conflict.
- Residents in Katsaka-Kairu are preparing to protest against National Police Reserve (NPR) officers and headmen, accusing them of misconduct. No response has been observed for this conflict.
- Hidden advertising and unclear procedures (to the community) to replace a chief who had been verbally interdicted for misuse of office. No response has been observed for this conflict.
- Politicians and senior county administrators are accused of colluding to impose a previously suspended chief (linked to land related corruption) on Baharini community. Residents interpreted the move as a corrupt deal designed to quietly reinstall a compromised official. This perception provoked online resistance, with social media users openly discussing plans to protest against his appointment. No response has been observed for this incident.
- Post-accident misunderstanding following a fatal accident between the perpetrator and a victim's family, leading to heated exchanges. The case was positively addressed and closed.

Juvenile gang attacks manifested through organized assaults involving pangas and machetes. Two incidents targeted members of the public in Amu Island, while three others in Tchundwa involved revenge attacks between rival youths. Security agencies responded promptly in all cases, successfully containing and resolving the situations.

² Government Advertising Agency, [Kenya navigates sustainable Blue Economy with Marine Spatial Plan](#), October 2025

Political disputes: 5 incidents of political instigated polarisation were reported manifesting in both online and offline spaces as outlined below:

- Politicization after a fatal road incident involving the county senator, opponents rapidly politicized the tragedy, using it to damage the senator’s reputation and mobilize sentiment in social media platforms
- Supporters of the incumbent county administration and its critics engaged in on-air verbal confrontations on 18th October, trading harsh words on a local radio program.
- On social media platforms, a prominent critic of the county administration are circulating inflammatory content, including hate speech and dehumanizing language aimed at delegitimizing local leadership. Several illustrative examples of high risk content have been documented below, with all personally identifiable information³ withheld for safety and confidentiality.

"XX Nakwambia ukweli, afadhali umbwa kuliko uongozi wako. Ukitaka niuwe ama nifunge jela but wewe sio binadamu. Hauna tofauti na umbwa..." Social media user, Facebook

"Mimi nikaambiwa nichagua baina ya XX na umbwa, ninachagua umbwa..." Social media user, Facebook

"Je, mwajua serikali ya XX inampokonya shamba pastor mmoja kutoka Mpeketoni juu ni Mkikuyu? [...] Anataka kumpokonya shamba hili ile ajenge msikiti [...] XX anawachukia wakikuyu kama mbwa. Ndio maana hata wafuasi wake kutoka Mpeketoni wanatumiwa kama choo [...] XX ni mpinga kristo..." Social media user.

- The county Women Representative was heckled during a funeral on 1st November, triggering a competition of words between her supporters and a declared 2027 aspirant online.
- Stone-throwing at the Governor’s Cup held in Witu Primary Grounds, resulting in injuries to one spectator.

Multiple **Sexual and Gender Based violence** incidents were observed in the reporting period, manifesting as defilements (4), intimate partner violence (2), rape (1) and sodomy (1) including child to child sodomy (1) reported in Juakali village, where boys under 10 years were reportedly engaging in this vice as a form of peer exploitation. The reported defilement cases have received little attention, with local security authorities accused of issuing threats and intimidations to the victims and families; "*atakayetoa hii habari kwa mtu yeyote atakiona*" (anyone who shares this information will face consequences).

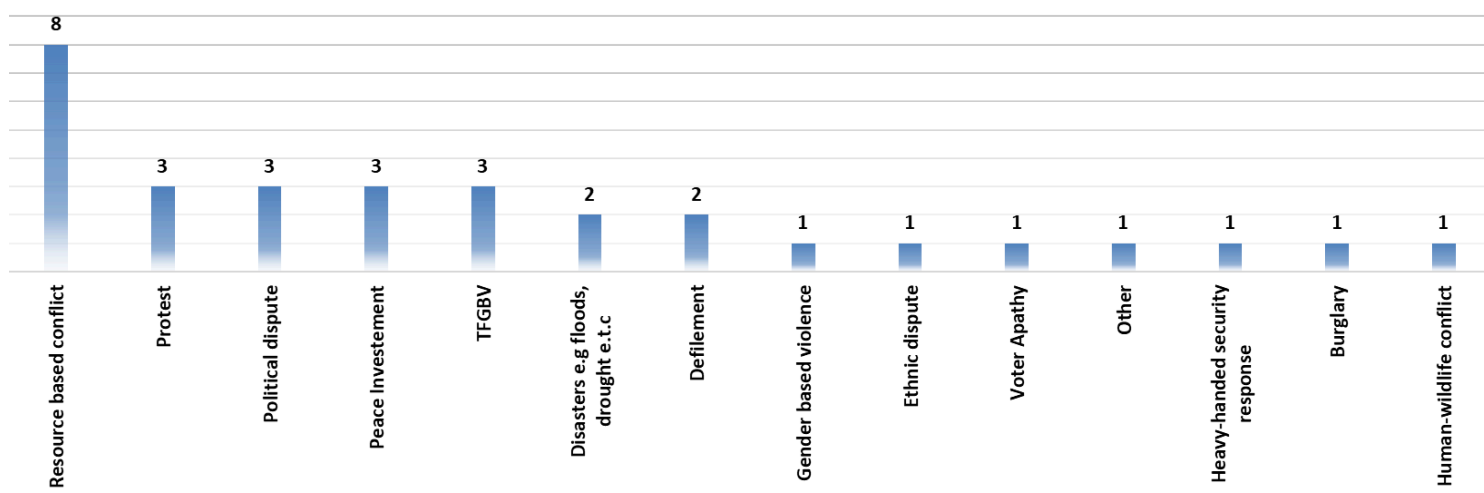
On Lamu Island, informal conversations with community members indicate growing concern among them—particularly women—over missing sons whose whereabouts remain unknown. While the exact number has not been verified yet through formal reporting channels, this

³Code XX refers to the same individual targeted in the documented dehumanising speech, identified as a senior official within the county administration.

informal reporting points to a troubling pattern that warrants urgent investigation. In Kiunga, anxiety is mounting following alleged abductions, with three individuals reportedly taken within a single month by unidentified persons, fueling fear across the community.

TANA RIVER

CONFLICTS DYNAMICS OBSERVED IN TANA RIVER COUNTY



Across the entries shared for Tana River (31), the incident reports cluster around resource based conflicts, linked to competition over land, water, fisheries, herder–herder, political contention over the by-election (campaign-related aggression, supporters clashes), and digital protection risks manifesting as technological facilitate gender based violence (TFGBV). A smaller but important set of cases reflect human rights concerns (heavy-handed security response, community disappointment with police recruitment), defilement and protests. The detailed category distribution is outlined below:

Resource based conflicts: The most prevalent driver of tension in Tana River, recording a total of 8 cases in the reporting period, spanning land, water, pasture and fisheries disputes. Below are the detailed manifestations:

- Land disputes: The disputed ownership of Lutheran Church land in Hola, Kalaule area escalated into protests, house demolitions, and arson attacks directed at the church property. The enforcement of court orders intensified tensions instead of easing them, heightening the risk of inter-religious conflict. Greater involvement from elders and religious leaders is anticipated to provide a more conciliatory and stabilizing response.
- Officials from the County Department of Lands have been accused of abusing their positions to unlawfully appropriate land from local residents.
- Water scarcity: Diversion of River Tana has created severe water shortages, leading to clashes between pastoralists, farmers, and fishermen in Ngao village. On 20 October,

fishermen from the Pokomo community were threatened by Orma youth while attempting to fish in stagnant ponds.

- Marine resource conflict: Similar to Lamu, mobile fishermen from other areas, particularly Pemba, have been reported to be fishing in the Kipini waters, sparking confrontations with local fishermen.
- Inter-tribal clashes: Orma and Degodia communities engaged in renewed violent clashes over grazing and water resources, in four retaliatory incidents, in which 4 people lost their lives in the reporting period, and more than 20 people dead over a period of the last 16 months, loss of several livestock and displacements. Elders and leaders from both communities, and from the neighboring Wajir county where a majority of the Degodia community stem from, were involved in a series of reconciliatory dialogues⁴, and committed to immediate cessation of hostilities, a return of all raided animals and for elders from both communities to spearhead ongoing consultations aimed at achieving a lasting resolution.

Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence (TFGBV): Two cases of non-consensual sharing of intimate images (NCII) and videos were recorded in the month, occurring on whatsapp groups. The content quickly spread across social platforms and escalated into public shaming and tribalized targeting when the women involved were identified as belonging to a specific sub-clan. One incident was never formally reported; only public trolling was observed. In the other case, a formal report was filed at Hola Police Station through third parties and forwarded to the County Criminal Investigation Office (CCIO). However, the investigation faced a jurisdictional barrier as the crime (suspect disclosure happened in Mombasa/Nairobi) did not occur in Tana River, authorities advised the victim/third party to report the case at the nearest station where the crime took place. This requirement has significantly delayed action, leaving the case unresolved and highlighting critical gaps in cross-jurisdictional response mechanisms.

A social media user published private telephone contacts of Tana River politicians and mobilized their followers via Facebook and WhatsApp groups to pressure the politicians regarding the stalled Bursary & Scholarship Bill 2025, which had been pending between the County Assembly and the Governor's office as of 5th November 2025. These forms of digital mobilization are increasingly gaining traction in the country and have normalized privacy violations. Ahead of the election period, they pose a significant risk of escalating harassment-both online and offline and undermining personal security.

Political disputes: Two incidents of clashes between supporters of contesting MCA candidates in Chewani Ward (November 2025) were recorded. In one case, rival groups engaged in stone-throwing, while in another, supporters invaded the home of a candidate's parents, demanding payouts and causing the loss of several household items. The by-election

⁴ Kenya Digital News, [Tana River and Wajir leaders convene in Bura Town for peace meeting over Degodia & Orma clashes](#), November 2025

recorded low voter turnout, indicating depressed participation. In some areas, voters were observed demanding payments or bribes in exchange for casting their votes. While the final outcome was accepted by the other contestants, it was marred by allegations of rigging. Additionally, on 19th November, a disagreement between neighbors over political differences escalated into a knife attack, leaving one person injured. The perpetrator was arrested, and the victim received medical treatment.

Protests: Incidents of community demonstrations were recorded in Tana Delta as outlined below:

- In Tana Delta, Garsen North Ward, Sera Village Dispensary, 4th October, residents protested over removal of security police from Sera Dispensary citing heightened insecurity vulnerability.
- On 29th November 2025, residents of Shirikisho Village in Tana Delta staged protests over alleged corruption in the registration process for social assistance. Community members accused a local chief of engaging in corrupt practices during the registration exercise. Following this, they demanded that Shirikisho and neighboring villages be granted location status (an administrative unit) to ensure closer access to government services.

Sexual and Gender based violence: Multiple SGBV incidents were observed in the reporting period, the manifestations outlined below:

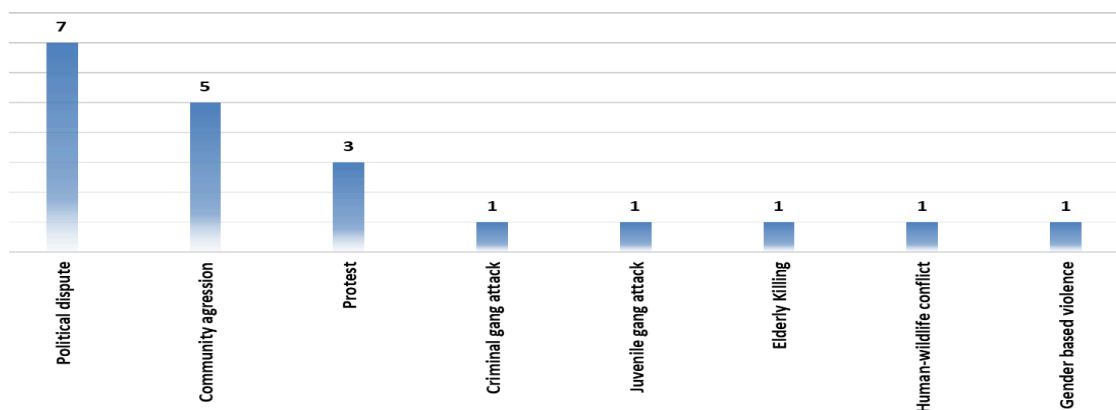
- Defilement of a schoolgirl on her way to Kipao Secondary (Ngao Sub-Location, 1 Oct 2025). The schoolgirl was attacked by masked assailants en route to school and sexually assaulted, sustaining head injuries and requiring hospitalization. This incident has sparked fear between the two villages; Ngao and Kipao villages, keeping in mind the past history (clashes) between them. The case was reported at Tarasaa Police Station with the area chief and MCA actively following it up.
- Intimate partner violence involving a local community security actor in Handampia, 17 Oct 2025. The survivor reported prolonged deprivation of basic items and neglect but misuse of religious authority who advised the survivor to persevere and family image pressures limiting the survivor's agency. The case was peacefully resolved by the Assistant County Commissioner.
- Allegations of defilement by a religious leader in Jua Kali area, 2 Nov 2025. The incident sparked heated community debates and victim shaming, with some members demanding justice while others defended the accused leader. Police and human rights defenders intervened, and the case is currently under investigation.

Heavy handed security response: In Peponi Village, Garsen North Ward, 18 Oct 2025, a fatal shooting of a male resident by police officers was reported during what was supposed to be a

routine arrest operation, sparking outrage among residents⁵. The three officers involved in the operation were disarmed as part of the probe into the incident.

KILIFI

CONFLICT DYNAMICS OBSERVED IN KILIFI COUNTY



Across the reported entries for Kilifi County (20), incidents primarily cluster around political disputes linked to the Magarini by-election and ongoing political alignments and

rivalries. Additional trends include community aggression manifested through mob and retaliatory violence, criminal and juvenile gang activity, protests, killings of elderly persons, and human-wildlife conflict. A detailed breakdown of these categories is provided below:

Political disputes: 7 incidents of political instigated conflicts were reported manifesting in both online and offline spaces as outlined below:

- On 15th November, a physical altercation occurred between a former Cabinet Secretary and a senior official from the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAF), reportedly linked to differing political positions regarding the 2027 elections. The matter was reported to the Kilifi County Commissioner.
- In the days that followed the above physical altercation, the incident spilled over into online spaces, fueling misinformation, trolling, and propaganda targeting both leaders.
- On 16th November, political supporters clashed over the distribution of handouts in Magarini.
- The parliamentary by-elections in Magarini saw clashes between ODM and DCP agents, bribery allegations, and physical assaults.
- On the parliamentary by-election day, a politician accused of voter bribery was denied entry into Kinagoni Polling Station, creating heated exchanges and later a forceful removal of the politician from the station by angry locals.
- A fight broke out at Mtangani polling center among community members, triggered by allegations that an agent representing one of the candidates was bribing voters. The

⁵ The Eastleigh Voice, [Senator Mungatana decries misuse of firearms by police officers in Tana River](#), October 30, 2025

tension escalated into physical violence and contributed to heightened unrest across other polling centers, as candidates and their agents were accused of causing similar chaos.

- The presence of politicians affiliated with various parties at Magarini polling stations, despite not being registered voters in those locations, led to accusations of political interference and obstruction of the voting process.

Community aggression: 5 cases of public discontent and agitation centered around the bodaboda (motorcycle taxi) economy and mob violence were recorded, with grievances manifesting in both online and offline spaces as recorded below:

- On 13th October in Mkoroshoni area, following the killing of a bodaboda driver, community members conducted searches for suspected gang members and initiated mob justice. Police intervened to rescue suspected thieves from an angry mob; however, during the confrontation, one individual was shot.
- On 13th October in Kichinjioni, Kilifi, a group of bodaboda riders attempted to lynch a man accused of stealing a motorcycle from one of their colleagues. Police intervened and rescued the suspect. However, frustrated by their inability to capture him, the riders set fire to the suspect's house.
- On 17th October in Malindi, Milano area, bodaboda riders blocked a funeral procession of a fellow rider insisting that the burial should take place in Milano where the deceased had worked. The family opposed this demand, leading to a tense standoff. Police later dispersed the crowd, allowing the family to proceed to Taita Taveta. The situation was eventually contained.
- On 11th November, the detention of human rights defenders and journalists over their objections to ID checks at the Sabaki Bridge checkpoint in Malindi—conducted by security officers wearing balaclavas—triggered widespread online debate. Critics argued that the defenders were disregarding community safety measures intended to protect residents, while supporters maintained that the road checks were illegal and amounted to intimidation.
- A public service vehicle driver on the Chonyi–Kilifi road caused an accident in Chasimba on 27th November, fatally injuring a toddler who was standing by the roadside. In retaliation, an angry mob attacked the driver, inflicting severe injuries that later proved fatal. The incident has fueled animosity between the driver's community and the toddler's family, raising concerns of retaliation.

Criminal and juvenile gang attacks: 2 cases were recorded as outlined below:

- A confrontation between bodaboda riders and police during an attempt to lynch a suspected gang leader resulted in the accidental killing of a civilian by police on 14th October in Kilifi town.

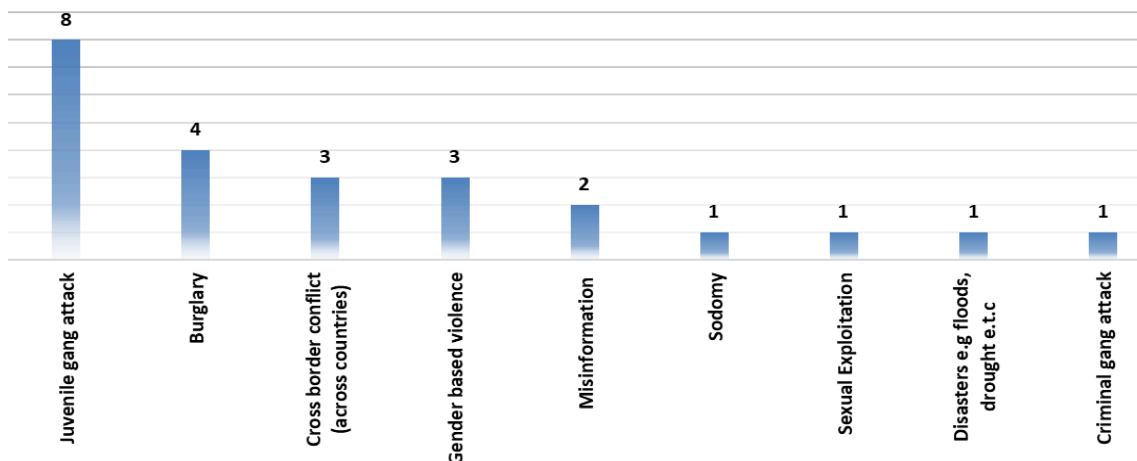
- On 29 Nov 2025 in Muyeye, two minors armed with pangas attacked a man, triggering retaliatory mob violence.

Elder killing: On 22 October 2025, an elderly woman was killed in Kijiji cha Reserve, Majajani Sub-location, Kilifi County following accusations of witchcraft. This incident underscores the persistence of harmful cultural beliefs and the vulnerability of elderly persons in Kilifi. Police intervened, and investigations are currently ongoing.

Human-wildlife conflict: On 17 November 2025, a middle-aged woman was killed by a hippopotamus near Sabaki Bridge, Burangi area, Sabaki Ward, Magarini Sub-county. The attack occurred at approximately 6:00 PM while the victim was crossing the river.

KWALE

CONFLICTS DYNAMICS OBSERVED IN KWALE COUNTY



Across the entries shared for Kwale County (25), the incident reports cluster around criminal and juvenile gang attacks, property

crime (burglary & livestock theft), cross-border tensions (movement, fees, and fishing zones), misinformation, sexual and gender based violence and a fatal aviation disaster. A detailed breakdown of these categories is provided below:

Juvenile gang attacks: The highest number of incidents in the reporting period, manifesting as violent confrontations, often linked to territorial disputes, retaliatory violence, and opportunistic crime as outlined below:

- Mvinden, Lofta Road, 09 Oct 2025: Two groups of “rungu boys” were spotted blocking and disrupting traffic flow on Lofta road. While no weapons were visibly seen, their baggy clothing appeared to have bulges on the sides, suggesting possible concealed-carry. Community members identify building clothes with unusual shaped sides as a common modus operandi used by armed youths to conceal weapons, and it

is therefore routinely referenced in community to flag elevated risks prior to the visible display of weapons.

- Buga Skim, Magutu Village Unit, Ukunda Ward, 19 Oct 2025: A juvenile gang attacked a young man during an afternoon wedding reception, causing commotion and halting the event. Four people were injured during the attack.
- On 26th October 2025 in Mvuakani, Kwale County, juvenile youths attacked their peers on a football field using rungas and machetes, injuring six people. The violence was linked to rivalry between youth groups associated with Buga and Kona ya Musa. The conflict escalated after the match, where some youths that were seen cheering for a team that the rival youth group did not support, identified as coming from Ng’ombeni area, were followed to their location and attacked.
- Ukunda ward, Ratinga area, 28 Oct 2025: a group of juvenile attackers, locally known as panga boys, attacked a commuter at 7:24 pm. The community mobilized and rescued the victim, who sustained serious machete injuries.
- Pwani Secondary School (Likoni Dimbwini), 04 Nov 2025: A juvenile rivalry spilling into school spaces, specifically manifesting at Pwani Secondary School in Likoni where a brawl occurred between two opposing groups, each referencing their neighbourhood pride.
- Waa, Ng’ombeni Ward, 20th November: A group of youths fatally attacked a boy with a panga while he was walking home after a football match. This has heightened inter-community tension between Matuga and Waa with informal conversations with community members reporting retaliation threats tied to the next match.
- Kona Musa, Diani: A gang of three youths armed with machetes attacked a woman in the morning hours of 3rd December, inflicting injuries.
- In Kidomaya B village, a minor road incident escalated into violence when a youth involved in the collision sought retaliation through a local gang. The gang attacked the other party, causing severe injuries. When the victim attempted to report the matter through local community structures, the case was not pursued due to close family ties with the perpetrator.

Under similar insecurity conditions, four cases of burglary (3) and criminal attacks (1) were reported, involving property break-ins and theft.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence: 5 incidents of sexual and gender based violence were recorded in the reporting period, its manifestations across domestic spaces and economic contexts detailed below:

Date	Sub-type	Location	Manifestation	Response
2025-10-12	Intimate Partner	Golini	Domestic conflict between partners over woman’s right to work; The	Local administration

	Violence		husband forbade her from working as a househelp; The woman died by suicide following distress after the incident	engaged; family mediation noted.
2025-10-29	Intimate Partner Violence	Diani	Foreign national assaulted his partner; arraigned and charged for multiple offences	Arrest and arraignment; charges filed;
2025-11-13	Gender based violence	Chikwakwan, Kinango.	A 17-year-old female was subjected to physical assault by her parents; Incident occurred after she spent an extended period while fetching water from a river; The parents alleged that the minor had eloped with a suitor; Parents restrained the minor by tying her hands to her back and subjected her to corporal punishment.	Arrest of parents and boyfriend; child placed in safe care.
2025-11-02	Sodomy	Gopha, Tsimba Golini Ward, Matuga Sub-county	Boys engaged in child to child sodomy in exchange for bicycle rides; injuries reported.	Injury management; awareness raised; child protection engagement.
2025-11-17	Sexual exploitation	Vanga, Lungalunga	Women who own fishing boats at Vanga landing site reportedly face coercion by fishermen, who demand sexual favors before agreeing to use their boats.	Advocacy initiated; wide exposure of practice in media spaces; no formal sanctions recorded.

Cross border conflicts: Kwale County's southern border with Tanzania recorded three cross border challenges related to border governance, economic survival, and political sensitivity during election periods as outlined below:

Date	Sub-type	Location	Manifestation	Response
2025-10-14	Border crossing fees conflict	Vanga	Community members crossing the Vanga bridge reported mandatory fees of 1,000 Tanzanian Shillings (TSh) when entering Tanzania and 50 Kenyan Shillings (KES) when entering Kenya.	Complaints were escalated to the Vanga Chief's office.

			<p>The fee is perceived a burden and caused repeated confrontations, with residents demanding clarity on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who controls the bridge? • Which government is responsible for fees? 	
2025-11-10	Maritime fishing border conflict	Vanga	Kenyan fishers crossed into Tanzanian waters due to unclear maritime boundaries. The Tanzanian Marine Police confiscated and destroyed their fishing gear	Incident was reported to the Fisheries and the DCC's office
2025-10-31	Election-related cross border tension	Hororo, Lungalunga	Amid heightened political tension in Tanzania due to the general elections, a Kenyan-based reporter was arrested by Tanzanian police officers ⁶ in Hororo, Lungalunga. The journalist was in the company of civil society members conducting a fact finding mission into reports of rights violations following heavy deployment of Tanzanian security personnel along the border.	No update observed

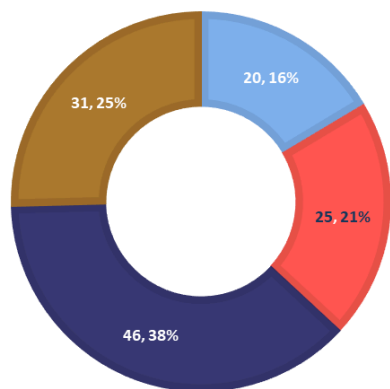
Misuse of digital technology through **AI manipulated images** circulated on social media in late October 2025, notably portraying the County Governor as sliding on a muddy Kinango Road in contexts meant to amplify dissatisfaction over the road infrastructure and service delivery, but escalated to ridicule and insults targeting her.

⁶ K24, [Tension at Hororo border as Kenyan journalist is arrested by Tanzanian officers](#), October 31, 2025

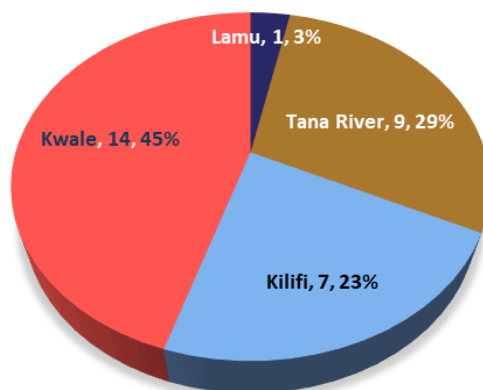
Risks and Opportunity Analysis

DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTED CONFLICT INCIDENTS BY LOCATION

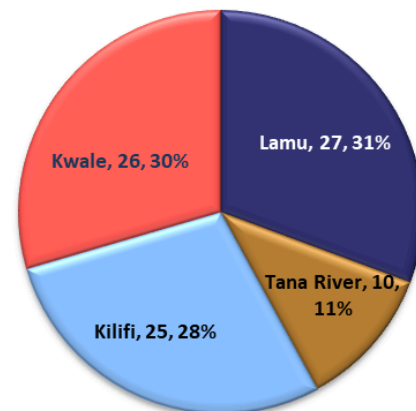
■ Kilifi ■ Kwale ■ Lamu ■ Tana River



of Conflict Related Deaths



of Conflict Related Injuries



Lamu recorded the highest proportion of reported conflict incidents (38%), followed by Tana River (25%), Kwale (21%), and Kilifi (16%). However, the human impact reveals contrasting patterns. While Lamu experienced the most incidents, it accounted for only 3% of conflict-related deaths (one fatality), indicating lower lethality during the reporting period. In contrast, Kwale registered the highest number of deaths (14, or 45%) attributable to a single catastrophic event (fatal plane crash) that resulted in the deaths of 11 passengers, with Tana River (9, 29%) and Kilifi (7, 23%) following closely. Injury data tells a different story: Lamu leads with 27 cases (31%), Kwale reports 26 (30%), and Kilifi 25 (28%), while Tana River records 10 (11%). Tana River accounts for fewer incidents but a disproportionately high share of deaths (29%), suggesting episodic yet severe events, while Kilifi’s lower incident share (16%) still yields sizable injuries (28%) and notable fatalities (23%).

Conflict Risk Profile Heat Map by County (Incidents %, Deaths, Injuries)
Reporting period: Oct-Nov 2025

County	Incident_%	Deaths	Injuries
Lamu	38	1	27
Tana River	25	9	10
Kwale	21	14	26
Kilifi	16	7	25

These patterns imply different risk profiles across counties with injury-heavy dynamics in Lamu and Kwale, higher-lethality flashpoints in Tana River, and persistent harm in Kilifi despite fewer incidents.

Early warning risks:

- Retaliation cycles (youth/gangs, herder–herder, political rivals) recur and intensify where justice is perceived as delayed or partial, and rumor/disinformation circulates unchecked.
- Administrative service delivery gaps feed community aggression and protest mobilization.
- Weak governance and declining institutional trust continue to weaken public trust, reducing confidence in fair, transparent, and accountable leadership.
- Digital amplifiers (rumors, hate speech, misinformation) are increasingly front-end triggers, with offline consequences around politics, local leadership and women safety.
- Gendered exclusion in police recruitment and hostile narratives against women leaders undermines women leadership in P/CVE the project aims to strengthen.

Despite these risks, the monitoring findings reveal significant opportunities for strategic peacebuilding investment. Communities across all four counties consistently identify most respondents, especially religious leaders, community elders, and local administrators as trusted actors. However, they are often engaged only after violence has occurred. Supporting structured, anticipatory engagement mechanisms offers a high-return opportunity for prevention.

Ongoing initiatives, such as marine spatial planning in Lamu and reconciliatory elder dialogues in Tana River, reflect ongoing investments aimed at managing shared resources more collaboratively in order to address conflicts.

There is a growing acknowledgment, particularly among youth and civil society, of the harm emerging from both physical and digital spaces, including misinformation, online violence, and retaliation cycles. This awareness opens a timely opportunity to advance digital peacebuilding ahead of the 2027 electoral pressures. At the same time, despite the high levels of youth-linked and gang-related violence across counties, efforts of positive youth engagement are beginning to take shape. Young people are increasingly interested in safer digital environments, constructive expression, and greater accountability, creating a promising entry point for youth-focused prevention efforts. Their active presence in community spaces such as sports activities, boda-boda networks, and informal mobilization structures also provides practical platforms for peer-to-peer influence, targeted peace messaging, and leadership development. While these opportunities are nascent against a huge youth bulge, they offer meaningful potential to strengthen positive youth agency and reduce vulnerabilities to recruitment into violent or retaliatory networks.

Finally, dissatisfaction with gender-biased police recruitment, alongside backlash narratives targeting women in leadership, presents an opportunity for institutional reforms through advocacy that can reposition women as credible security and peace actors, strengthening both legitimacy and effectiveness of P/CVE efforts.

Recommendations

Project Specific Actions

- Establish women-led early cross jurisdictional response teams composed of Mwanamke Imara-trained women and male allies serving in the police, judiciary, probation, children’s services, and local administration. They constitute an existing resource for the project, having already undergone capacity building in key areas including safeguarding, conflict sensitivity, and human rights-based approaches to response, among others.
- Further to the early response teams, the project should strengthen community–security accountability forums as a platform for dialogue, trust-building, and collaborative action to prevent and respond to conflicts.
- Use Mwanamke Imara platforms and collaborative partnerships to document and elevate gender-bias concerns into policy dialogue with National Police Service (NPS) and county security committees.
- Incorporate digital peacebuilding initiatives that focus on strengthening awareness of cyber-related harms, including the legal implications for influencers, social media community moderators and administrators; establishing cross-jurisdictional referral pathways for effective response to online violence; and promote survivor-centred approaches to digital safety and protection
- The project can support community gender-based violence interventions to expand child-safe spaces, promote positive parenting awareness, and strengthen school-based identification and referral mechanisms, with strict confidentiality measures to encourage disclosure. Efforts should also support survivor-centred reporting pathways, independent case management, and community sensitization initiatives that challenge norms protecting perpetrators, including those associated with local community security structures.