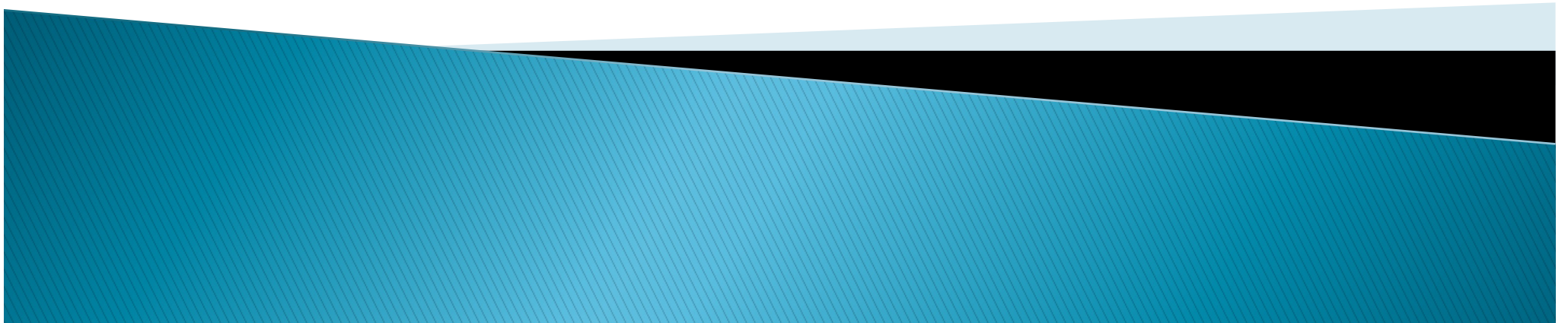


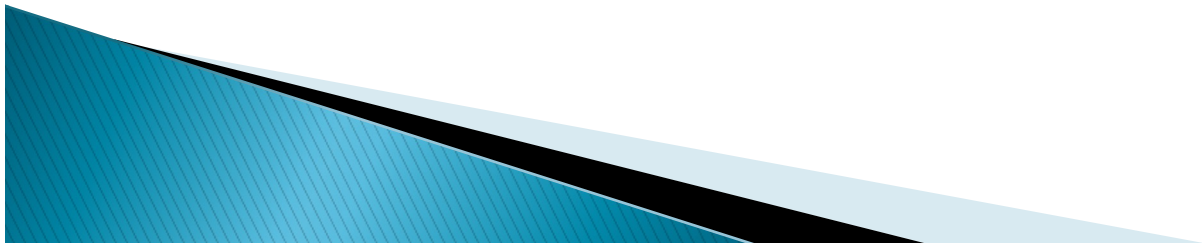
Youth Radicalization in Somalia: Causes, contributors and interventions

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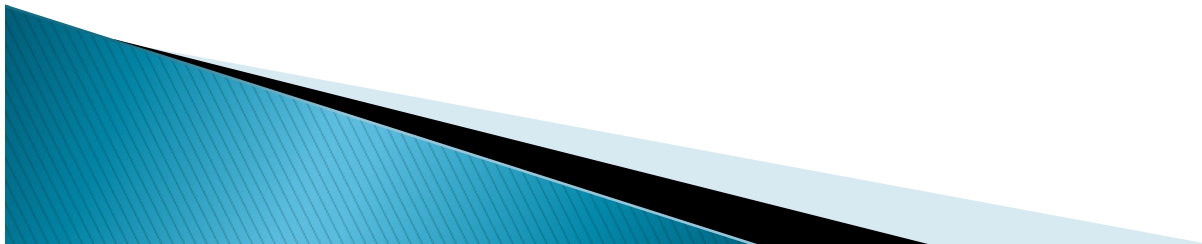
Brief overview

- ▶ Radicalization is undermining Somalia's peace, stability and development prospects. Religious extremism in the country has also become pertinent security concern for the region and for the world over. Young, uneducated Somalis who never left the country and their well-educated Diaspora peers – who grew up in an affluent life in the west – have both become foot soldiers and suicide bombers for Somalia's extremist insurgency, Al-Shabaab. An Intertwined array of factors has rendered Somali youth susceptible to the seductive ideologies of this extremist outfit. Both internal and external factors have evidently contributed to the rise of what has transpired one of the most lethal insurgency in the world.



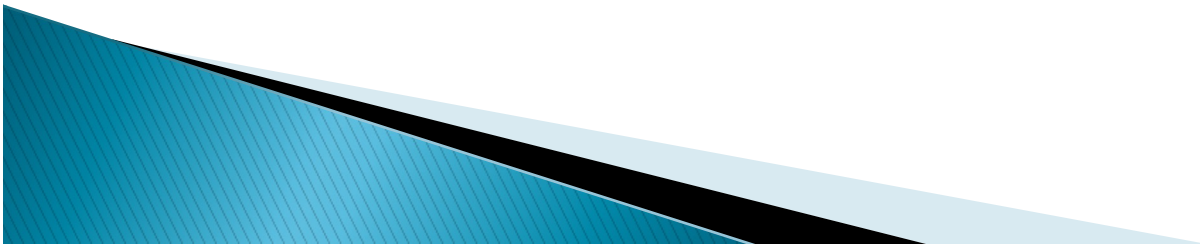
Brief overview

- ▶ The emergence and evolution of Al-Shabaab has thus been primarily facilitated by the fracturing and dissolution of the Somali state and unchecked external meddling. The group's resilience is further perpetuated by widespread injustices and political malfeasances perpetrated by national political leaders and local power brokers. Failure by mainstream Islamists to counter the Al-Shabaab narrative, widespread unemployment, destructive external actors' policies, presence (and ineffectiveness) of an African Union force in Somalia (AMISOM), as well as complacency and tacit collaboration with the insurgency by critical segments of society – namely the business community – has all made Al Shabaab a potent and powerful destabilizing force in Somalia.



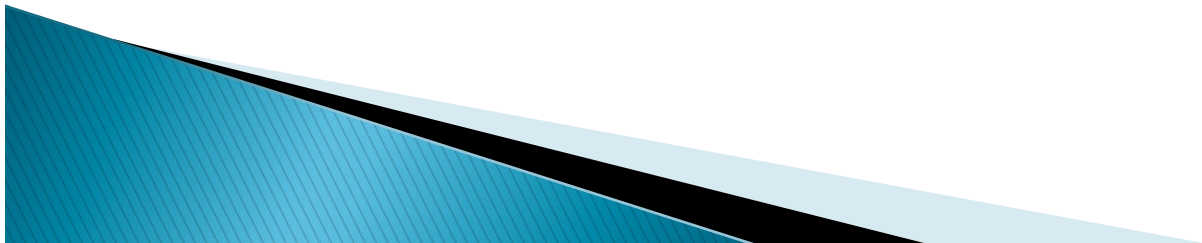
Root causes

- ▶ *The weak governance and state fragility*
- ▶ *Political injustice*
- ▶ *Social injustice*
- ▶ *Economic injustice*
- ▶ *Injustice in the court systems*
- ▶ *The presence of foreign troops in the country*



Contributors

- ▶ *Unemployment*
- ▶ *Excessive force and lack of respect for human rights by SNA and AMISOM*
- ▶ *Limited knowledge of Islam among the youth*
- ▶ *Poor & unregulated education system*
- ▶ **Absence of forceful ideological push-back (Counter-narrative)**



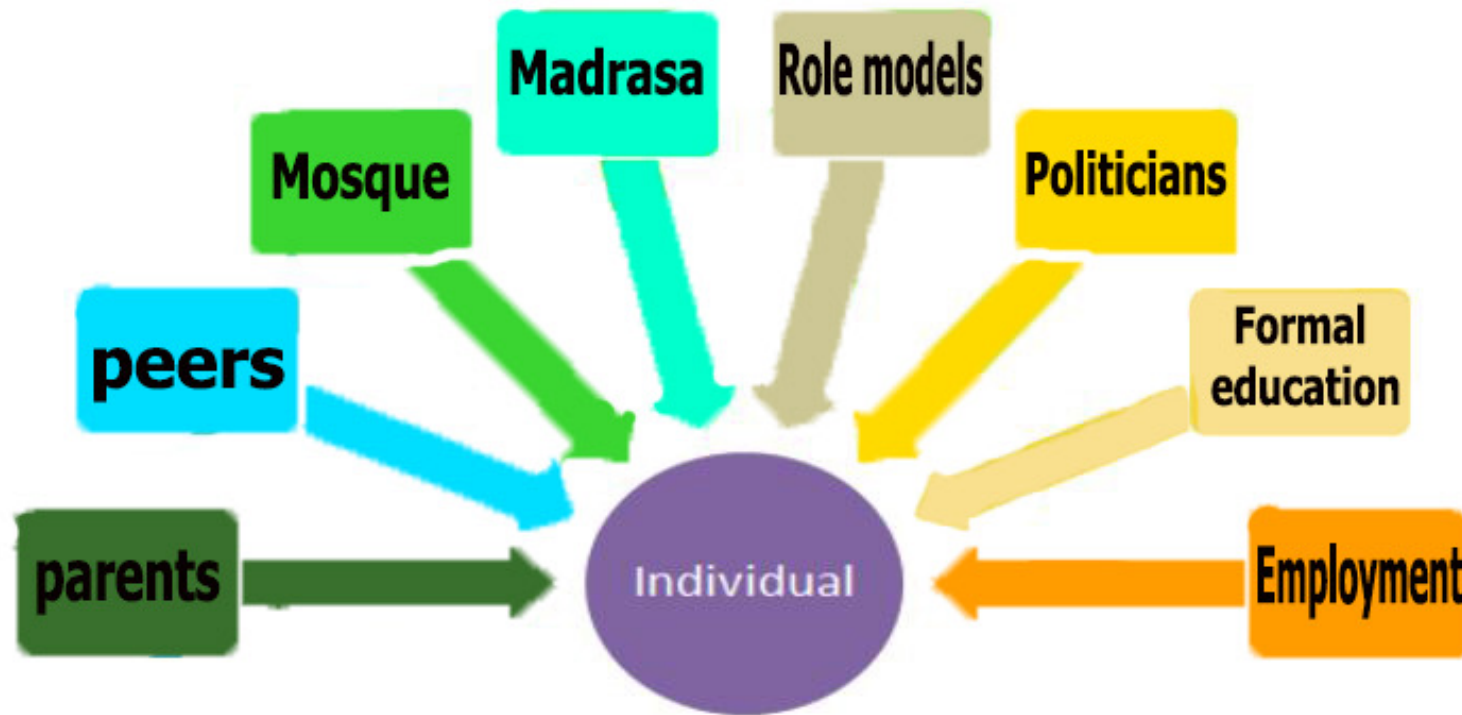
Recruitment strategies

Radicalisation Process

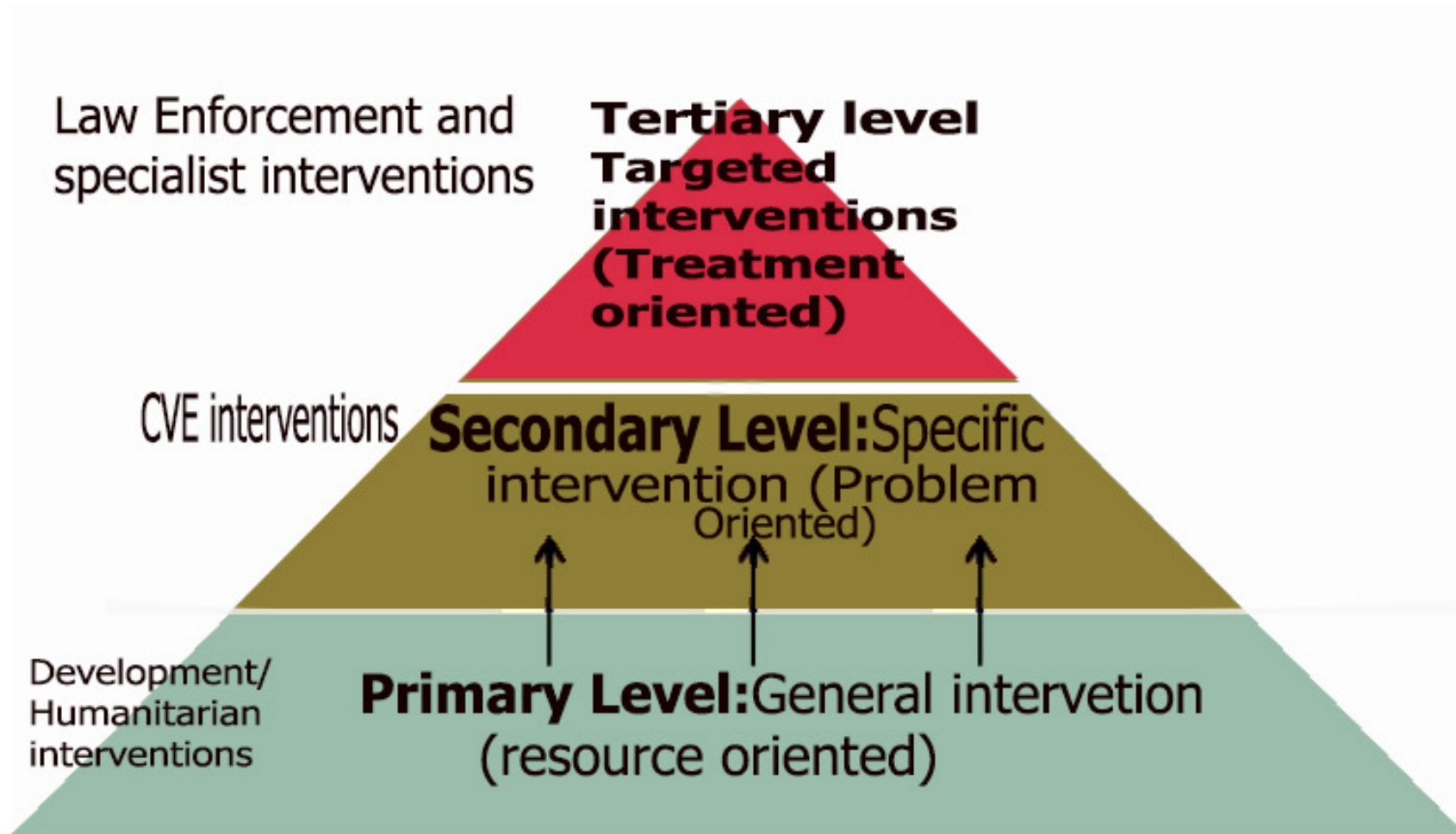


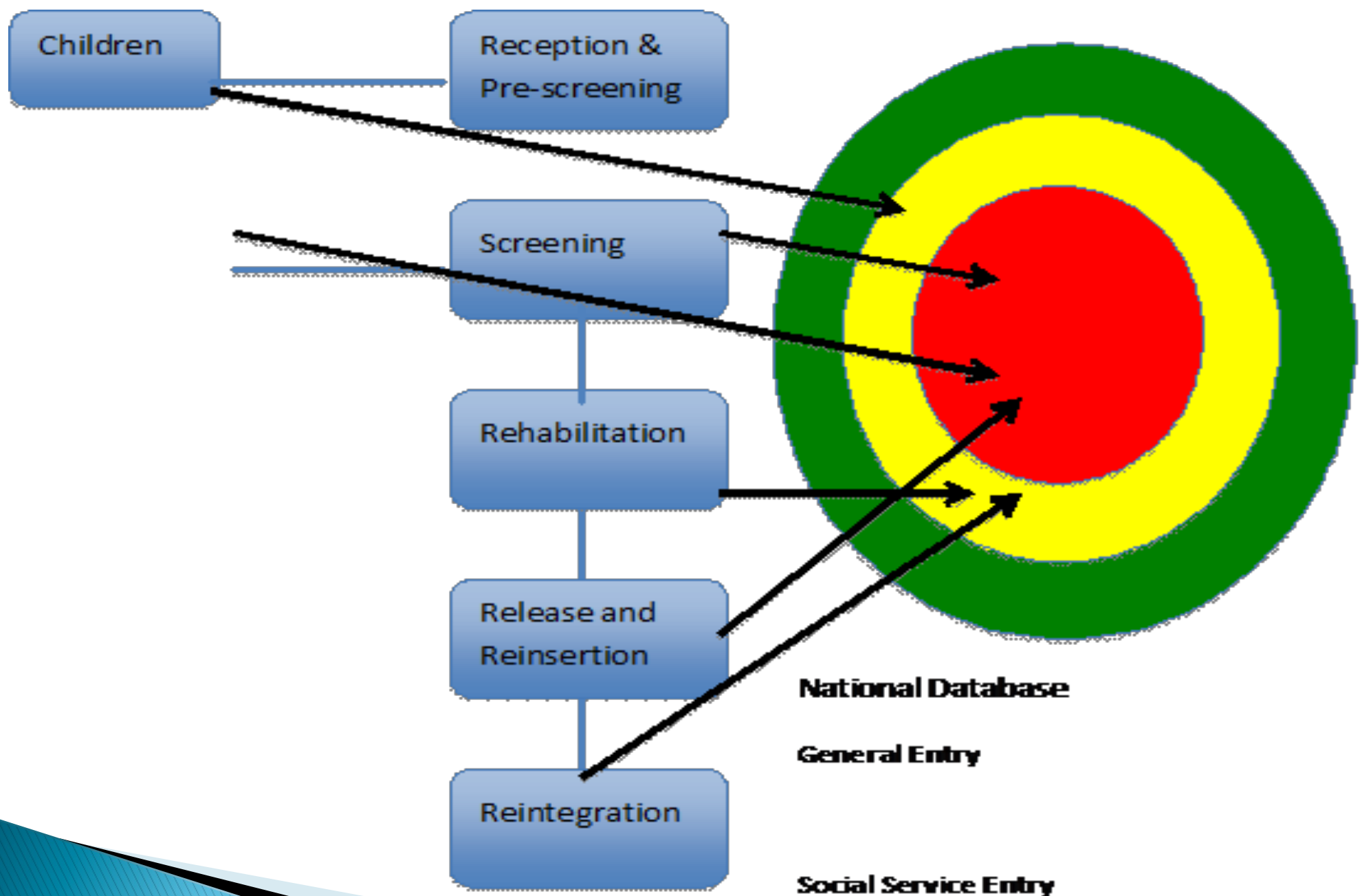
How social networks works during the process of radicalization

**Social networks during radicalisation
Process (initially)**



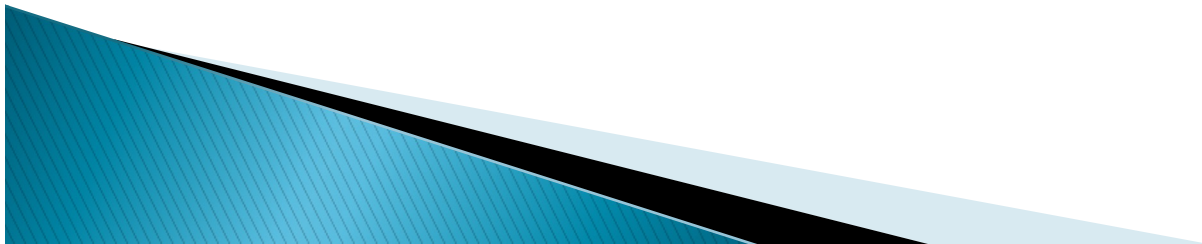
Interventions





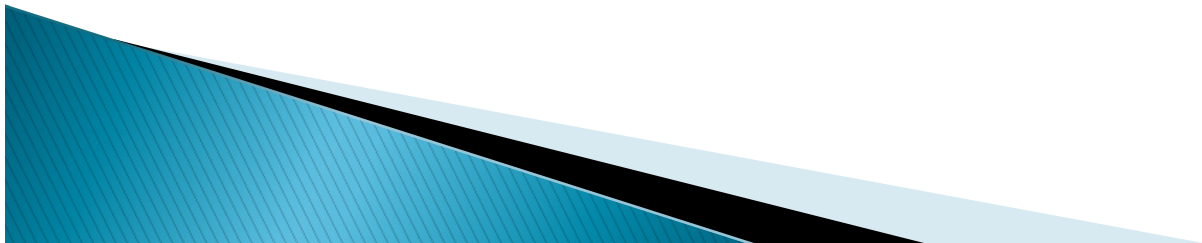
Conclusions & Recommendations

- ▶ Reform current executive institutions to make them inclusive, accountable and transparent, so as to perform the core functions of the state while specifically focusing on public service delivery and addressing the deep-rooted collective and individual grievances against government policies and practices, which are mainly attributable to prevailing social, political, legal and economic injustices across the country. This will allow citizens to develop grassroots initiatives to promote peace, security and development.



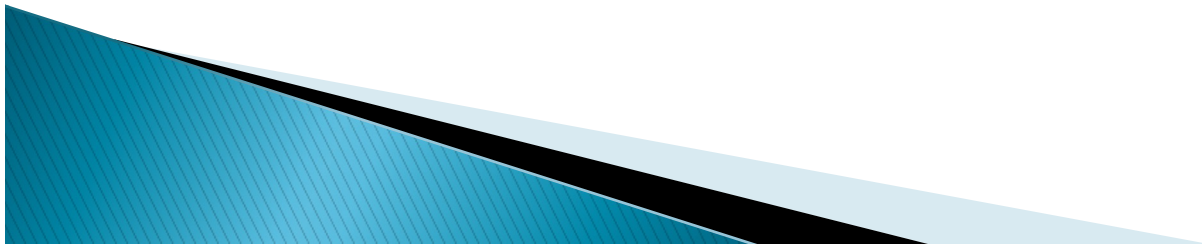
Conclusions & Recommendations

- ▶ While AMISOM and its international partners have sacrificed human and financial resources to restore peace and security in Somalia, which the majority of Somalis appreciate, it has become obvious to all parties that AMISOM can never be a substitute for Somalia's defense forces. Therefore, there should be a clear and well-thought out timeline for AMISOM's eventual exit strategy. In the meantime, AMISOM must respond to all the allegations made against its soldiers by Somali citizens, as corruption within AMISOM could easily serve to strengthen Al-Shabaab's argument that the mission is in Somalia to harm rather than help Somalis.



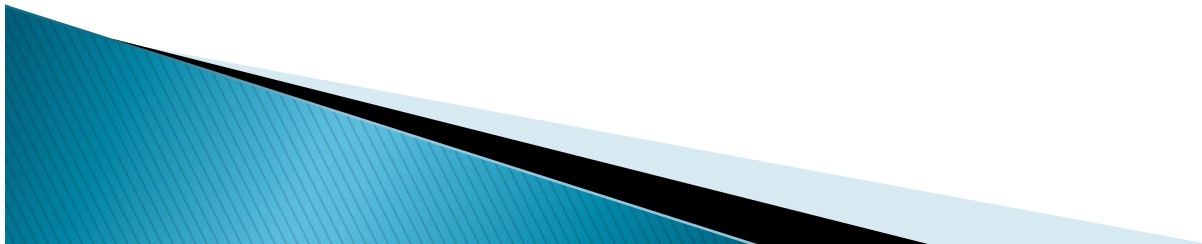
Conclusions & Recommendations

- ▶ The fact that Somalia has developed national CVE strategy is remarkable. However, although it can serve as a useful guide for now, in-depth research and analysis on Somalia's PVE/CVE is necessary to cohere with Somalia's context, as it is extremely important that Somalia's federal government, in cooperation with members states combine speed and efficiency by developing a national de-radicalization curriculum, based on universal values of tolerance, peace and acceptance of disengaged combatants and vulnerable youth in Somalia, with the role of women in peace and security placed at the heart of this curriculum.



Conclusions & Recommendations

- ▶ Ten years has elapsed since the war against Al-Shabaab first began, and although some significant gains have been achieved, ruling out the possibility of the organization presenting an existential threat to the country, the reality is that Al-Shabaab remains a strong force to be reckoned with. Therefore, instead of pursuing a losing battle, it would be advisable to try genuine negotiations with Al-Shabaab to end the prolonged insurgency in the country.



Conclusions & Recommendations

- ▶ Since one of the principal contributors to youth radicalization, piracy, and migration is unemployment, there must be a robust campaign to develop youth-focused programming starting with the establishment of vocational schools to provide education for unskilled youths who need technical training to empower them to earn income and become an internal resource for the reconstruction and development of Somalia. This is also crucial as the country is in urgent need of a skilled workforce, having suffered a brain drain, because no new technical and skilled labor has been trained in the past thirty years.





We wanted to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation for your outstanding efforts on the small brief research to dedication and attention to the details.

Thank you again for your commitment and positivity, we excited to see what we'll achieve together in the future!