



ALPS RESILIENCE

Annual Report 2017

Report authored by Leigh Hamilton, Programme Officer



January 2018



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Foreword

DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES,

2017 was a year of unprecedented growth for ALPS Resilience. To our partner organizations and donors, I first want to extend a most sincere thank you for your support over the last year. Secondly, I would like to thank ALPS Resilience's staff for a year of strategic vision, excellent project management, hard work and true compassion for our beneficiaries.

ALPS Resilience was founded in 2015 to serve communities negatively impacted by conflict and displacement by drawing from the best practices of emergency humanitarian relief, development aid and law enforcement. ALPS Resilience began by working with the Somali diaspora community in South Africa's Western Cape, providing free English and computer classes to refugees and asylum seekers while strengthening the capacity of our community-based partner. Today, our organization supports a comprehensive resilience programme with projects in forced migration and violence prevention, in particular violent extremism. Resilience refers to a community's ability to withstand or recover from adverse situations, be it environmental disaster, conflict or radicalization. From our experience in the field, we advocate resilience as the critical lens through which to implement and measure stabilization and development projects.

In 2018, we look forward to continued growth as we bring on more partners, staff and projects. We strive to remain at the forefront of assessing trends related to migration and terror on the continent, particularly Southern Africa, and to respond with innovative programmatic solutions that promote peace and development.

Best wishes,



Dave Bax

Programme Director



Who we are

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

ALPS Resilience is committed to helping migrant and local communities in Africa overcome the challenges of forced migration by empowering migrants, promoting integration, fostering social cohesion and preventing violence.


OUR TEAM

Dave Bax, Programme Director

Dave Bax is the founder and Programme Director of ALPS Resilience. He has over thirty years of experience in crisis recovery, particularly in program development and explosives management, including in high-risk areas and ongoing conflict zones. Before founding ALPS Resilience, Dave worked extensively in field missions for the United Nations. He served as the Programme Director for the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in Somalia. Under his custodianship, the program grew to a USD 70 million per annum operation. During his time at the United Nations, Dave was also the Programme Director for UNMAS in Israel and Gaza, the Programme Manager for the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) and the Operations Manager for UNOPS Mine Action in Bosnia. Dave brings both his managerial expertise and passion for development work to the organization.

Leigh Hamilton, Programme Officer

Leigh Hamilton began working with ALPS Resilience in 2016 and has overseen the growth of the organization's work from a single project focused on the Somali diaspora in the Western Cape to the development of a comprehensive resilience-building program with multiple projects focused on forced migration and violent extremism. While primarily responsible for the day to day aspects of managing ALPS Resilience's projects in South Africa, Leigh also oversees the organization's development and strategic communications. Her background is in research, and before joining ALPS Resilience she worked for consulting firms, think-tanks and multi-disciplinary NGOs in South Africa and Washington, D.C, focusing on the



topics of conflict and post-conflict transformation in Africa. She holds an MPhil in Justice and Transformation from the University of Cape Town, where she is currently pursuing her PhD on the topic of resilience and civilian self-protection during conflicts in Africa.

Chad Capon, Research and Development

Chad Capon has an MSocSci in International Relations from the University of Cape Town (UCT). Before joining ALPS Resilience, he taught Political Science at UCT for two and half years. He specializes in security, conflict, and development in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and conducts research for ALPS Resilience. He is currently completing his dissertation on the political marketplace in SSA and its consequences for state building and stabilization in the region.

Lucy Martin, Communications

Lucy Martin has an MPhil in Development Economics from the University of Cape Town. Before joining ALPS Resilience, she was a Project Manager and Research Analyst at a communication and information design firm that specialises in providing communication services for the various clients, including WHO, UNDP, UNECA, AfDB, and USAID. She has also worked as a research analyst and business development manager for various sustainable development consultancies where her work focused the political economy dynamics surrounding multiple areas of research, including disaster risk reduction, climate finance, transboundary water governance, renewable energy policy, and sustainable urban development.

Our work

FORCED MIGRATION

The world is in the midst of the worst displacement crisis since World War II. South Africa provides hundreds of thousands of asylum seekers, mostly from other African countries, with safe-haven. However, the government lacks the resources to provide migrants and host communities with the support needed for peaceful integration and ultimately self-reliance. Civil society plays a critical role in this regard.

ALPS Resilience works primarily with the Somali community of the Western Cape. Together with our community-based partner, the Somali Association of South Africa (SASA), we serve approximately 20,000 Somalis in the province. Between July 2016 and June 2017, we conducted our “Building Resilient Communities Project” with R200,000 from a single donor.. From September 2017, ALPS Resilience has been funded > R1M by the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) for its ongoing project, “Promoting the integration of self-reliance of Somali refugees and asylum seekers in the Western Cape.”



THE BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES PROJECT

Dates: 1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017

Funder(s): BDEV

Partner(s): The Somali Association of South Africa

Activities:

- English language classes met three times a week. The English language facilitator ran classes three times a day and catered to elementary, beginner, pre-intermediate and intermediate English speakers.
- Computer classes met twice a week. The computer skills facilitator ran classes twice a day and focused on basic computer literacy (hardware and software) and Microsoft Word.
- Life skills workshops met every other week. Topics included: human rights and Constitutional rights, health (including women's health), the police, the legal system for asylum seekers, civic education and personal development. The life skills workshops were designed to give the beneficiaries information about existing government and NGO services for refugees and asylum seekers in order to increase their self-reliance.

Outputs:

- 429 English classes.
- 148 computer classes.
- 17 life skills workshops.
- 87 Somalis benefitted from the project's activities, with 20 graduating in the first project cycle and 20 graduating during the second project cycle.

Outcomes:

- ALPS Resilience and SASA measured % knowledge increase in English with tests occurring at the baseline, mid-term and final evaluations. These tests revealed a definite improvement in the knowledge of the participants in English language.
- ALPS Resilience and SASA measured improvements in life skills during the focus groups occurring at the mid-term and final evaluations. During the focus groups, the beneficiaries reported that the workshops improved their understanding of their rights in South Africa along with other important issues such as health.

Impact:

ALPS Resilience and SASA measured the impact of the project by conducting focus groups at the end of the project cycles. The beneficiaries reported improved levels of English language and, perhaps more importantly, increased use of English in their everyday lives. Considering the fact that English language is the greatest barrier to their integration, this project result is significant. Second, the beneficiaries reported greater understanding of how to access their Constitutional rights in South Africa. The challenge here is how to actually increase their access to those rights, which entails working with local service providers as well.

Organizational Development and Capacity-Building:

- The project had immense benefits for SASA and its ability to serve its constituents in the Western Cape.
- ALPS Resilience helped SASA build a dedicated computer room, which now has eight functioning computers. We designed custom posters and for calendars for SASA's office that reflect SASA's organizational structure and its activities. The office's physical difference from July 2016 to June 2017 is remarkable.
- Funding also contributed toward SASA's rent, enabling them to continue their other activities including basic education for children waiting to be admitted to the public school system; sewing skills workshops; free legal advice and other advocacy work; and business skills sharing workshops that address xenophobia and promote social cohesion.
- The capacity of SASA's project managers has also improved considerably under ALPS Resilience's care. The English facilitator now takes regular attendance and conducts focus groups as part of regular evaluations. The Deputy Director has completed facilitator training and has taken over our life skills workshops.

PROMOTING THE INTEGRATION AND SELF-RELIANCE OF SOMALI REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN THE WESTERN CAPE

Dates: 1 September 2017 - 31 August 2017

Funder(s): United States Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration

Partner(s): The Somali Association of South Africa

Activities:

- English language classes meet in the morning, afternoon and evening from Monday – Thursday. It caters to three different levels of English speakers (and also offers remedial English for beneficiaries who have never learned to read or write in any language). The English course is free of charge and runs on six-month cycles.
- Computer classes meet in the afternoon and evening from Monday – Friday. The computer course is free of charge and runs on three-month cycles. The computer facilitator offers courses in basic and advanced digital literacy.
- Community dialogues will occur in four communities in the Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality chosen for their high populations of foreign nationals and their history of xenophobic attacks: Delft, Dunoon, Khayelitsha and Kraaifontein.
- Self-reliance workshops meet every other Thursday from 12 PM – 2 PM. The workshops focus on improving Somalis' awareness of their Constitutional rights and their ability to access the services afforded to them in the Constitution. Topics include human and Constitutional rights; health and health care; police and security; refugee rights, the asylum seeker process and the courts; basic education and the school system; housing rights; and personal development, including inter-cultural communication skills and conflict resolution skills.
- The Ubuntu! soccer team practices twice a week on Friday and Saturday and competes in a friendly match once a month. The Ubuntu! Team is made up of South Africans and foreign nationals and, aside from providing youth with a healthy alternative to crime, promotes social cohesion.
- The after-school program is open to youth of all backgrounds from 4 PM – 6 PM, Monday – Friday. Youth can come to get help with their homework, use the computers to do their homework or take a three-month computer course in basic or advanced digital literacy.
- Women's workshops meet every other Thursday from 2 PM – 4 PM and focuses on providing Somali women with a safe environment to learn about and discuss key women's issues. Topics include pre-natal and women's health; parenting classes; nutrition and healthy cooking; and skills development (sewing, beading, braiding, etc). The women's workshops also offer the beneficiaries a network of support for migrant women.

- The project receptionist is available in SASA's office from 9 AM – 5 PM, Monday – Friday. She offers referrals to existing internal services or external services offered by the government or other NGOs.

Outputs (September 2017 – December 2017):

- **Activities:**

- o English language classes: 180
- o Computer classes: 150
- o Self-reliance workshops: 7
- o Soccer practices: 13
- o Soccer matches: 2
- o After-school sessions: 60
- o Women's workshops: 7
- o Reception days: 75

- **Beneficiaries**

- o English language classes: 77
- o Computer classes: 31
- o Self-reliance workshops: 74
- o Soccer: 120
- o After-school sessions: 7
- o Women's workshops: 55
- o Referrals: 704+ walk-ins, 182+ referrals



ALPS Resilience's Programme Officer, Leigh Hamilton, meets with the community-based team in Bellville.

PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Violent extremism refers to the beliefs and actions of people who support the use of violence to achieve ideological, religious, political or socioeconomic goals. Today it is impossible to discuss international peace and security without considering extremist groups and the threats they pose. Indeed, along with climate change, extremism is likely to be the most enduring global concern of our century. Experts agree that South Africa is not immune from extremist threats. In the context of high inter-personal and criminal violence, however, few organizations are focusing on how global extremism is affecting domestic security. Citing South Africa's non-interventionist foreign policy, key stakeholders have been cautious about developing a robust response. Regional security issues and domestic challenges including massive inequality, low social cohesion and corruption are well researched but not understood as potential drivers or indicators of extremism.



PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM WORKSHOP SERIES

Dates: 23 February 2017, 17 May 2017 and 10 October 2017

Funder(s): British High Commission, Swedish Embassy and American Embassy

Activities and Outcomes:

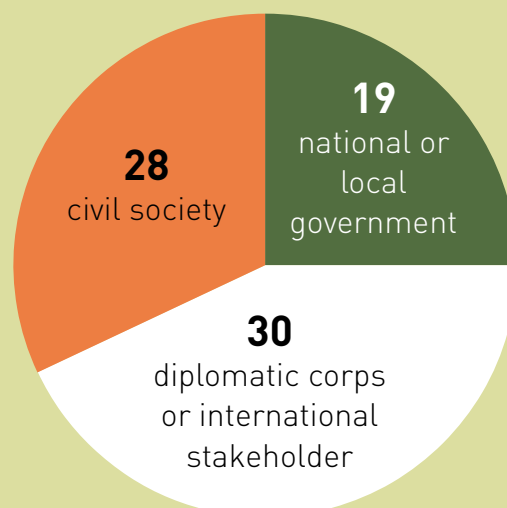
In 2017, ALPS Resilience played a key role in driving conversations on violent extremism in South Africa and the region by hosting a three-part workshop series with support from the British High Commission, Swedish Embassy and American Embassy in Pretoria. The series was attended by a total of 77 participants representing civil society, national government and international stakeholders.

Key activities and outcomes from our 2017 workshop series included a collaborative discussion session that defined extremism in the South African context; a mapping exercise that identified current South African researchers and organizations focusing on the issue; keynote speeches and panels that improved participants' understanding of extremist threats and domestic vulnerabilities; and the creation of an action plan that identified key areas for further research and targeted advocacy. In addition, the workshops enabled ALPS Resilience to create a network of subject-matter experts and to establish a working relationship with government, which is critical for capacity-building.

Keynote Speakers:

- Jasmine Opperman from the Social Adaptation and Acceptance Initiative (SAAI) and the Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium (TRAC)
- Na'eem Jeenah, the Afro-Middle East Centre
- Stephen Buchanan-Clarke, the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation
- Barend Prinsloo, North West University
- Masana Ndinga-Kanga, the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation
- Peter Knoope, the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism at the Hague

Breakdown of participants (77 total):



SURVEYING RESILIENCE AND MAPPING AT-RISK COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE

Dates: 20 November 2017 - ongoing

Partner(s): The African Centre for Disaster Studies, North West University

Background:

Since 2006, that has been a tremendous growth in the number of violent extremist attacks across the African continent. The growth of violent extremism – and the devastating impact of groups espousing violent ideologies – is not only setting in motion a dramatic reversal of development and democratic gains already made, but threatening to stunt prospects of political and economic development for decades to come. The most vulnerable and at-risk regions are in West Africa, the Sahel, and East Africa. The continued presence and influence of violent extremist groups has spread outside of its epicenters, most notably from Somalia. In the last decade, Al-Shabaab and its offshoots have made successful in-roads into Kenya and Tanzania. In 2015, the UNDP labeled Tanzania an at-risk country for violent extremism. In the last few years, southern Tanzania has witnessed a number of attempted and successful attacks from violent extremist groups. And growing presence of training and indoctrination camps along the border with Mozambique. This puts Mozambique in a precarious situation, where the North of the country is at particular risk.

The development of violent extremism is often the result of deprivation and marginalization, underpinned by weak and corrupt governance. Furthermore, economic conditions that do not favor the majority, and often leave entire regions poor and left out, contribute to this growing risk. The Northern provinces of Mozambique are particularly vulnerable to the emergence of violent extremism. The provinces of Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa are predominantly Muslim, poor, and have largely lagged developmentally from the rest of

Socio-Economic Deprivation in Northern Provinces



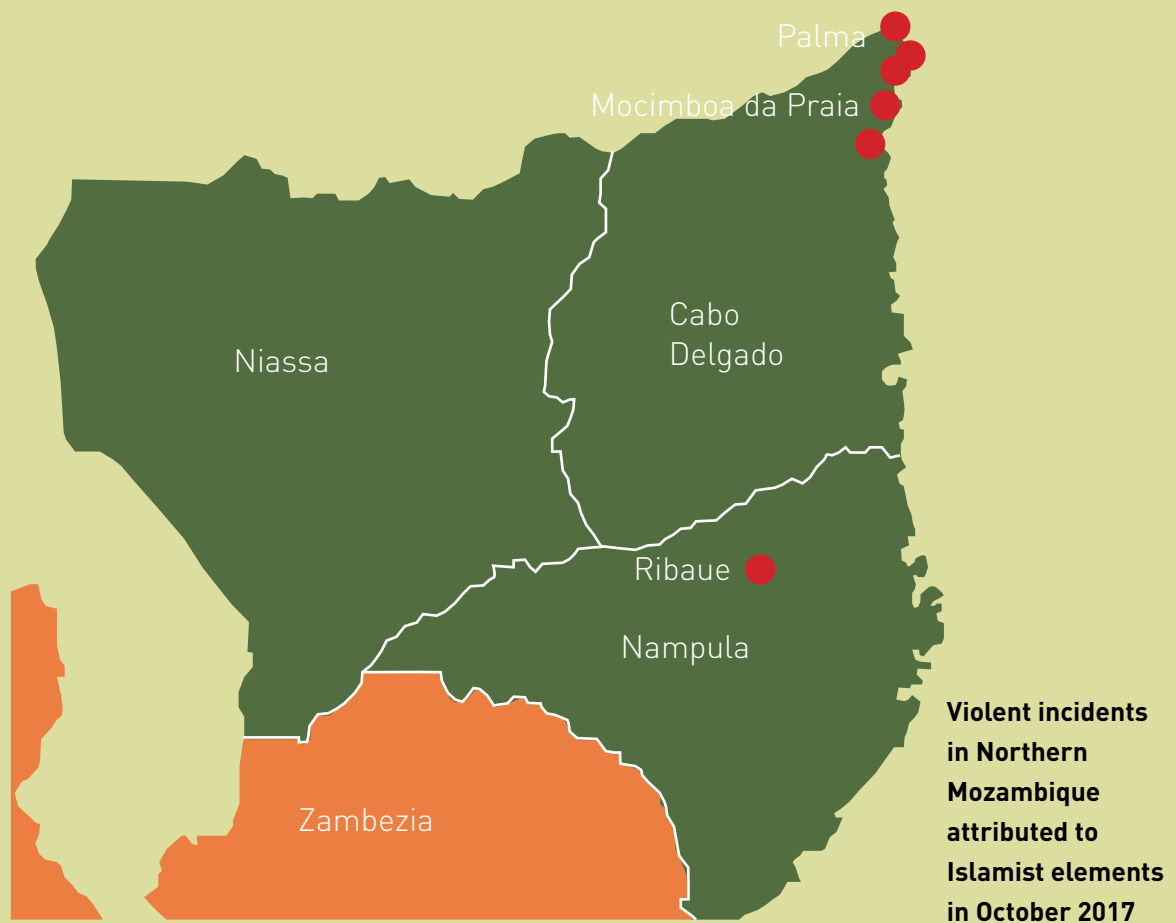
Mozambique's northern provinces have higher rates of socio-economic deprivation than its southern provinces.

Data source: INE Census Statistics 2013 – www.ine.gov.mz/estatisticas

the country. Furthermore, Northern poverty, insecure and porous borders, the presence of natural resources, inequality and problems with democratization make it a potentially attractive operating environment and target for violent extremism and a possible corridor for international jihadists going to South Africa and beyond.

Since October of 2017, there have been a number of violent incidents in Northern Mozambique related to extremism:

- On October 5th, there was an attack on three police stations in Mocimboa da Praia. Community members and witnesses to the shootout that killed 16 people believed that the perpetrators were part of a violent extremist group calling themselves “Al-Shabaab.”
- Five days later, police forces arrested 52 people they associated with the attacks. The authorities have since dismissed links between Somalia’s Al-Shabaab and the attackers. However, this has raised concerns about home grown radical influences – which is in many ways more alarming.
- On October 21st, the same group that was reported to have conducted the attack in Mocimboa da Praia clashed with government forces in the fishing village of Maluku, about 30 km away, prompting many villagers to flee their homes.
- The next day, clashes were reported in the village of Columbe, which is situated 16 km south of an Anadarko installation. Community members who witnessed the clashes claim that they were perpetrated by “al-Shabaab”.
- Also on October 22nd, armed men, believed to be Islamic militants, attacked a building in Palma district, Cabo Delgado. The armed men are suspected of being affiliated with the people who perpetrated the attacks in Mocimboa da Praia.
- Independent reports, have come out of Nampula, stating that a police operation resulted in the killing of a number of Muslim men in retaliation for the murders of their comrades. These reports have since been dismissed, but what we want to highlight here is that we are now seeing a narrative emerge that the government is persecuting Muslims in an incredibly violent and disturbing way. The perception is more important than the reality.



Rationale and Approach:

ALPS Resilience has been advocating for a programmatic intervention in Northern Mozambique at this critical juncture where extremism for the most part can be prevented as opposed to countered. In November 2017, the ALPS Resilience team travelled to Maputo to brief the diplomatic missions about extremist threats in the Northern Mozambican provinces of Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa. We propose conducting surveys of local populations using a community-based partner to measure the presence of indicators of violent extremism. The results of our study would inform which communities most pressingly need resilience-building programs and which activities are most needed to prevent extremist ideology from seriously embedding itself in Northern Mozambique.



Our vision for 2018

PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

ALPS Resilience aims to continue on its current path of growth, partnering with communities to prevent violence and promote development in Africa. We are continuing our current project with the Somali diaspora of the Western Cape and our workshop series on preventing violent extremism in Southern Africa. In early 2018, we will also implement a pilot project in the Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality that will survey youth on aspects of resilience to extremism and map communities that are most vulnerable to extremist threats. We are also actively seeking opportunities to expand our resilience-building program outside the areas of forced migration and violent extremism.

Currently, our team is based in Cape Town, South Africa, where we are registered as a non-profit company. In 2018, we also aim to create functional liaison offices in Pretoria, London, Nairobi and Washington, D.C. These offices will assist in our endeavor to serve conflict-affected and displaced communities outside South Africa.

OUR FUNDERS



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EMBASSY OF SWEDEN

Pretoria