CCW 2023 AP II Group of Experts Meeting

National & Regional Responses

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Counter IED and WAM Advisor

Pathway to a regional C-IED strategy in West Africa (ECOWAS) - GFFO Project
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Background

Qualifications

- MA Strategic Studies – Dissertation on C-IED in East Africa
- MSc in Explosives Engineering
- Post Grad Dip in Ordnance Mechanical Engineering
- BSc in Chemistry
- Diploma in Military & Security Studies
- Advanced Cert in Terrorism Studies
- Certificate in Electronics
- Various Qualifications in HME – instructor level
- Qualified & Experienced Advanced Level EOD Operator including Manual Neutralisation Techniques
- CBRNe Team Leader Qualified
- Proposed, Developed & Implemented new Masters in WOME for DF Ireland

Experience

- Domestic EOD & CBRNe Officer
- Peacekeeping Officer – Liberia
- IEDD Operator and C-IED Advisor in South Lebanon
- UN Advisor in Somalia and wider East Africa Region
- UN Explosive Hazards Safety Advisor, Hudaydah, Yemen
- Middle East & North Africa WAM Advisor and Trainer
- Mali, Nigeria, Uganda & Kenya
C-IED Work in Africa

**Work In**
- Somalia
- Kenya
- Uganda
- Djibouti

**Work With**
- UNMAS
- Various Other UN Agencies
- Local NGOs & INGOs e.g. HALO Trust
- Federal Government of Somalia (FGoS)
- Government of Kenya (GoK)
- EU Mission in Somalia
- Irish Embassy in Nairobi
- Africa Union based in Addis Adibba
- Various Embassies in Mogadishu incl. UK DIFID & US DoS USAID

**Experience**
- National legislation development for FGoS & GoK related to Improvised Explosives
- Proposed and key contributor to AU pan African C-IED policy and strategy
- Led & managed development & roll out of National CREW strategy in Somalia
- Project managed the development of a suite of IED-RM Products for AMISOM in Somalia
- National IED Threat Mitigation Strategy for FGoS
- Wider regional experience in Yemen and Lebanon

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AMISOM / ATMIS & FGS C-IED

2016 / 2017:

• Technical Level: Defeat the Device train & Equip
• Tactical Level: C-IED – TTPs & Incident Reporting
Regional IGAD C-IED Strategy

From | Through | To

• Defeat the Device
• Prepare the Force
• Degrade the System

REGIONAL STRATEGY TO PREVENT, COUNTER, AND RESPOND TO THE THREAT OF IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES (IEDs) IN THE IGAD REGION

Pathway to a regional C-IED strategy in West Africa (ECOWAS)- GFFO Project
Whole of Society Approach to C-IED
This strategy seeks to provide a framework for preventing, countering and responding to the use of IEDs across the continent by facilitating and fostering greater cooperation, coordination and collective action by the African Union and its Member States to support national, regional, continental and AU Peace Support Operations responses to the threat posed by IEDs in Africa.

1. Prevention
2. Information exchange & management
3. Resource mobilization & coordination
4. Capacity development
5. Governance support
6. Cross border collaboration
7. And engagement & partnership
"The ECOWAS Commission and Member States have the knowledge and capabilities to develop coordinated regional and national responses to address the threat posed by IEDs and the proliferation of their components in West Africa, in synergy with the APMBC and relevant existing areas of work pertaining to arms control (WAM, PSSM)."
Where to Start?

- Lead Entity
- Comprehensive approach
- Normative Regional Framework

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What Good Looks Like?

What good strategy looks like can be a challenging to define; however, those strategic documents that have proven to be effective typically communicate succinctly its why (what is intended to be done) and who must do what and by when.

‘Good’ strategy does not need to fit a certain model; so, any publication or document that articulates or serves to coordinate national or regional C-IED can qualify as an element of strategy.