



**A MULTISECTORAL  
APPROACH TO  
VIOLENCE PREVENTION:  
INFLUENCING POLICY  
AND PRACTICE IN  
KENYA**



## A MULTISECTORAL APPROACH TO VIOLENCE PREVENTION. INFLUENCING POLICY AND PRACTICE IN KENYA

**What is a Multisectoral Approach?** The best definition of a multisectoral approach, particularly in the context of public health and violence prevention, is a deliberate, integrated collaboration among diverse stakeholders from various sectors such as government agencies, civil society, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and communities to jointly address complex, interrelated challenges by leveraging their unique knowledge, expertise, resources, and perspectives for shared goals and sustainable peace and security outcomes.

This approach often incorporates whole-of-society and whole- of Government (broader engagement including state and non-state actors) elements to tackle root causes of societal problems and challenges. **Why Multi-Sectoral Approach is Important in Violence Prevention**

Violence prevention requires a multisectoral approach because it is a complex and multifaceted issue driven by interconnected social, political, economic, cultural, and environmental factors. No single sector can address these root causes alone. This approach creates integrated responses that are more effective than one agency response

### **Why is it significant? Comprehensive &**

**Coordinated Efforts:** It moves beyond siloed approaches, ensuring that different sectors work together rather than in isolation, which prevents duplicated work and identifies gaps in services.

#### **Addresses Root Causes:**

By considering violence from multiple angles such as underlying social, economic, and health factors this approach can identify and address the shared root causes of different forms of violence .

#### **Leverages Shared Resources:**

Collaboration allows for the pooling of resources, funding streams, and expertise from various sectors, making prevention efforts more efficient and impactful.

#### **Promotes Trust and Shared Vision:**

It fosters understanding, builds trust among diverse partners, and establishes a common

language, vision, and goals for violence prevention.

#### **Increases Sustainability:**

By integrating efforts and establishing ongoing mechanisms for collaboration, this approach creates more sustainable and long-term solutions for violence prevention.

#### **Reduces Missed Opportunities:**

A holistic view helps identify the specific roles and contributions that each sector individual can make, reducing opportunities for missed interventions and support for victims.

In the Kenyan context, the below mentioned sectors have been identified as crucial to the success of a multisectoral approach in Peace building and violence prevention.



Organized Youth-led Organizations	Local Peace Committees
Security and Law enforcement Agencies	Organized Women led Organizations
National Government Departments and Agencies	Community Elders
Independent Offices and Commissions	Business and private sector
County Governments	Peacebuilding & Conflict Transformation Experts
Relevant Non-Governmental Organizations	Community Policing Members
Relevant Civil Society Organizations	Media Organizations
Relevant Community Based Organizations	Opinion Leaders
Transport Sector	Women led Organizations
Research-based organizations	Social Media Influencers
Inter-faith Groups	Academia
University and/or Technical training Institute or Teachers' Association	Any other entity that may be deemed relevant

### **How to build common grounds for collaboration and coordination** This approach helps

build common ground for collaboration among sectors in a multisectoral approach to violence prevention by fostering shared understanding, aligning goals, and leveraging complementary strengths.

#### **How this is achieved: Best Practices**

**Shared Vision and Goals:** Facilitate discussions among sectors to define a common purpose, such as reducing community violence. By focusing on a shared outcome, align diverse stakeholders focus on a unified objective, by minimizing conflicting priorities.

**Mapping Roles and Assets:** Use Collaboration Multiplier tool<sup>1</sup> to identify each sector's unique contributions, expertise, and resources. For example, public health might provide data on violence trends, while community groups offer local knowledge. By clarifying what each sector brings, it builds mutual respect and a foundation for cooperative action.

**Build Trust Through Dialogue:** Encourage structured dialogue, where sectors discuss their perspectives, challenges, and needs. This process fosters trust by creating a safe space for stakeholders to understand each other's constraints and motivations, reducing mistrust or assumptions.

**Identify Common Interests:** Highlight overlapping interests across sectors. For instance, schools and police may both want safer neighborhoods for children, even if their approaches differ. By focusing on these shared interests, the approach creates a basis for collaboration despite differing mandates.

**Create Actionable Frameworks:** Organize collaboration through practical steps, such as joint



planning or resource sharing. For example, it might guide sectors to co-develop a community safety program, ensuring each has a clear role, which strengthens commitment to the partnership.

**Addressing Power Dynamics:** Give each sector a voice in the planning process, to mitigate power imbalances (e.g., between government agencies and grassroots organizations), ensuring equitable participation and fostering a sense of ownership.

**The role of Leader and Leadership Development Programme:** Local partners then need to pool their knowledge, resources, and expertise to develop and try out innovative homegrown responses. Place-based leadership development (P-BLD)<sup>2</sup> provides the ‘software’, facilitating the development of relationships, and the development of the capability of leaders to bring sectors together to achieve collective impact (Kania & Kramer, 2011, 2013).

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#### **<sup>1</sup> About Collaboration Multiplier tool by Prevention Institute**

<sup>2</sup> The Place-Based Leadership Development (P-BLD) program is a foundational initiative designed to cultivate collective leadership within specific communities by focusing on personal transformation, inter-relational growth, and collaborative problem-solving. Grounded in the MST-SC (Mindset, Skillset, Toolset – Systemic Challenge) Model, P-BLD fosters leadership through immersive, reflective learning experiences rather than traditional instruction. Building on this foundation, the Facilitator Development Programme (FDP) serves as a continuation and deepening of the leadership journey. It equips selected participants from the P-BLD program with the skills and confidence to become facilitators themselves. Through six structured modules, co-developed by MIDRIFT and DIGNITY, the FDP enhances participants' ability to apply the P-BLD principles in guiding others, promoting inclusive dialogue, and leading collaborative action. Together, P-BLD and FDP form an integrated leadership development pathway—first nurturing personal and collective leadership, then enabling its multiplication through facilitation and peer-led learning.

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# MIDRIFT HURINET's Role in Shaping Policy, Practice, and Resource Advocacy

The multisectoral approach has been instrumental in enabling MIDRIFT HURINET to bridge community realities with policy and institutional practice in Kenya's peace and security sector. By convening diverse actors including government agencies, civil society, faith leaders, women, and youth, the forums have created spaces where evidence from the ground could be systematically collected, validated, and elevated to decision-making levels.

Through these inclusive platform **MIDRIFT has been able to conduct studies<sup>3</sup> and developed policy briefs<sup>4</sup>** that synthesize community insights, data, and trends on violence prevention. These policy briefs became advocacy tools with the Ministry of Interior and the National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding, directly informing the **Ministry's July 2024 circular<sup>5</sup>** institutionalizing Multisectoral Coordination and Collaboration Forums on Peace and Security in Kenya.

Furthermore, the multisectoral approach has strengthened MIDRIFT's advocacy for resource allocation. By presenting evidence of reduced electoral violence in Nakuru and Baringo in 2022, MIDRIFT has demonstrated

the cost-effectiveness of preventive approaches compared to reactive security deployments. This evidence has been used to lobby for dedicated National and county-level budget lines considerations to support peace and cohesion initiatives, positioning violence prevention as a shared public investment rather than a donor-dependent effort.

## Conclusion

A multisectoral approach to violence prevention is not just a method, it is a necessity for addressing the deeply interwoven drivers of violence in Kenya. By breaking silos, fostering trust, and leveraging the strengths of diverse actors, this approach builds sustainable systems of peace and security that go beyond short-term interventions. The experience of MIDRIFT HURINET demonstrates that when community insights are elevated into policy spaces, and when evidence informs both practice and resource allocation, real change becomes possible. The challenge before us is to deepen and institutionalize these collaborative mechanisms so that violence prevention is not an ad-hoc response but a national culture of collective responsibility. Ultimately, multisectoral engagement is the bridge

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<sup>3</sup> Mutuma Ruteere and Patrick Mutahi, [Creating-Peaceful-Fair-and-Non-Violent-Elections\\_digital](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Policy Brief advocating for the establishment of Multisectoral Coordination and Collaboration Forums on Peace and Security in Kenya](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Circular establishing Multisectoral Coordination and Collaboration Forums on Peace and Security](#)



## ABOUT MIDRIFT HURINET

**MIDRIFT HURINET** is a Non-Profit organization operating in Kenya since 2008. We are dedicated to advancing Peace, Good Governance, and Human Rights in Kenya. Our work is anchored on three strategic priorities: Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation, where we engage stakeholders and empower communities to resolve conflicts and foster a culture of Peace and Security; Good Governance and Human Rights Advocacy, where we promote transparency, accountability, and civic participation; and Institutional Strengthening and Development, where we build the capacity of Government institutions, non-state actors, and our own team to collaboratively deliver on our mission for a more just and peaceful society.



### Vision

A prosperous society that enjoys Human Rights, Good Governance, Peace and Security.



### Mission

To empower Citizens, State and Non-State actors to foster a Culture of Human Rights, Good Governance, Peace and Security in Kenya.

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