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Institute for Development Studies
University of Nairobi

News release

Kenyans support KDF involvement in Somalia, divided over calls for withdrawal

A majority of Kenyans see the involvement of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) in Somalia as having been necessary despite terrorist problems resulting from it, according to the latest Afrobarometer survey.

However, survey results indicate that Kenyans are divided over whether the KDF should withdraw from Somalia or not.

The survey results come at a time of intense public debate regarding KDF involvement in Somalia, with concerns that Kenya's incursion into Somalia may have contributed to increased terror attacks on Kenyan soil.

Key findings

- Two-thirds (66%) of Kenyans say that the involvement of KDF in Somalia has been necessary despite resulting terrorist problems (Figure 1).
- But Kenyans are sharply divided over the question of whether the KDF should pull out of Somalia (Figure 2). Support for remaining is less strong among women and among citizens aged 50 and older.
- Similarly, Kenyans express mixed views as to whether the KDF should be deployed for internal security matters (Figure 3).
- A majority of Kenyans support the Nyumba Kumi initiative, especially in rural areas.

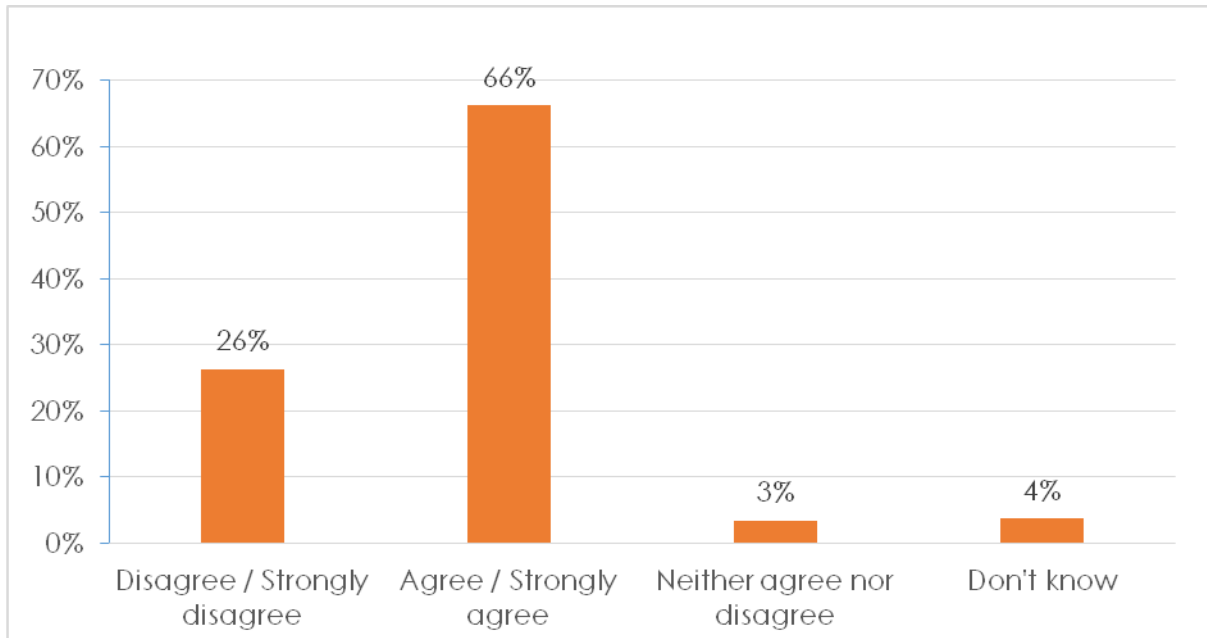
Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is an African-led, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues across more than 30 countries in Africa. Five rounds of surveys were conducted between 1999 and 2013, and Round 6 surveys are currently under way (2014-2015). Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples of 1,200 or 2,400 respondents.

The Afrobarometer team in Kenya, led by Institute for Development Studies at the University of Nairobi, interviewed 2,397 adult Kenyans in November-December 2014. A sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of +/-2% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys have been conducted in Kenya in 2003, 2005, 2008, and 2011.

Charts

Figure 1: Support for KDF involvement in Somalia



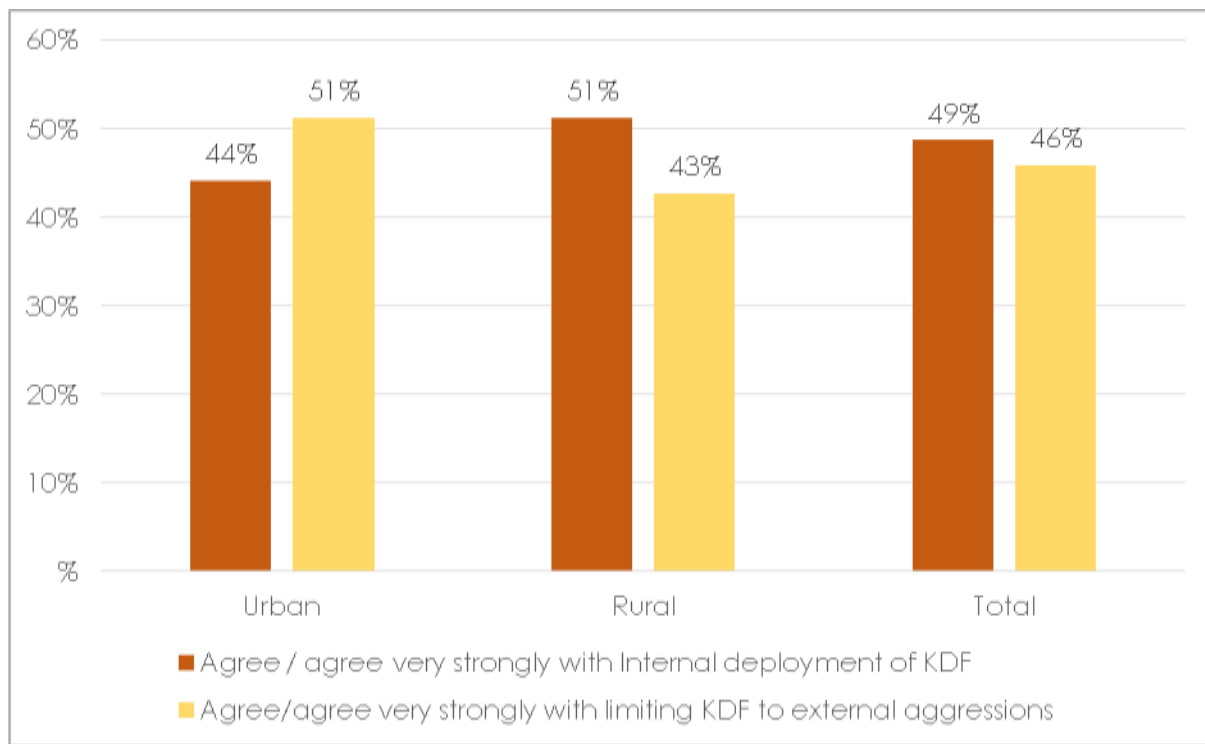
Respondents were asked: *Please tell me if you agree or disagree: The involvement of Kenya Defence Forces or KDF in Somalia has been necessary despite the terrorist problems resulting from it.*

Table 1: Mixed views on calls for KDF withdrawal from Somalia

	KDF should not pull out	KDF should pull out	Neither agree nor disagree	Don't know
Total	43%	48%	5%	4%
18 - 35 years	44%	48%	4%	4%
36 - 50 years	45%	46%	7%	2%
Above 50 years	35%	49%	7%	8%
Male	47%	46%	5%	2%
Female	39%	50%	5%	6%
Urban	46%	46%	4%	3%
Rural	41%	48%	6%	4%

Respondents were asked: Please tell me if you agree or disagree: The KDF should pull out of Somalia?

Figure 2: KDF's internal vs. external deployment



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: The Kenya Defence Forces or KDF should be deployed to handle internal security matters just like the police.
 Statement 2: The KDF should only be used for matters involving external aggressions.

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