

## **Abstract**

This study explores the relationship between Jihadist insurgency typified by Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab conflicts and wicked problems. Although a large number of research has been carried out on insurgency and counterinsurgency (COIN), and the concept of the wicked problem has been applied to many studies in varying academic disciplines, there is no research on Salafism-inspired insurgency and the COIN efforts to resolve it using the concept of wicked problem.

The study adopted a qualitative research approach using a document analysis strategy to provide critical analysis of the “how” and “why” the two insurgencies are wicked problems, the failures of the incumbent states to defeat them, and a proposal of a wicked problem governance framework for managing the conflicts. The study concluded that the wicked problem concept has an explanatory utility that can illuminate the character of jihadist insurgencies and proposed taming as a governance solution to the insurgencies.