

NEWSLETTER



REGIONAL PROGRAMME IN PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM: UPDATE

April - June 2019 | Issue 1 |

In this quarterly newsletter, for the period April-June 2019, you will get an update of recent activities and upcoming events in the Regional Programme Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism Project in Africa.

PVE REGIONAL PROGRAMME NEWS

Katiba Machina in Mali: the narrow line between a violent extremist group and domestic inter-ethnic violence

Central Mali is currently gripped by severe and rapidly deteriorating insecurity. While most of the attention has focused on stabilizing the north, insurgent actors have since 2015 re-grouped in rural areas of Central Mali. In a situation where local communities feel abandoned, local self-defense militias have mobilized themselves and proliferated to counter the 'jihadist threat'. This has not reduced violence, but rather the opposite as inter-communal violence has sharply increased.

Why and how did the militant group Katiba Macina succeed in becoming so deeply integrated in local communities Central Mali? This is the key question posed in a joint

UNDP-NUPI (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs) policy brief entitled *Local Drivers of Violent Extremism in Central Mali*. The key findings were introduced by NUPI researchers on 13 May 2019 during a one-day workshop in the city of Bamako, Mali. The findings show that violent extremist mobilisation and radicalisation in Central Mali has not occurred in a vacuum, but is locally embedded in community and societal dynamics. Katiba Macina, operating under the mantle of a global jihadist discourse, thrives on appropriating local conflict, exploiting resource disputes, igniting inter-communal/inter-ethnic conflict and intra-communal tensions to garner support.

Participants at the workshop concluded that the Government of Mali should above all strive to maintain a more permanent security presence in Central Mali, provide access to essential social services and support civil society organizations to initiate and foster dialogue at regional and inter-community level, particularly on resource-based cleavages.



Morten Bøås (NUPI), Annelore Beukema (UNDP RSCA), Henri Mashagiro (UNDP Mali) and Natasja Rupesinghe (NUPI) present policy brief on Drivers of Violent Extremism in Central Mali.

Finally, the experts agreed that once security has been re-established an overall development strategy for Mopti is needed. To learn more about the drivers of violent extremism in Central Mali, please download the full [Policy Brief](#).

Measuring PVE effects on a regional level: streamlining monitoring

A 1-day training workshop on 'PVE Baseline, Milestone Targeting (BMT) & Regional Reporting' was held in the Regional Service Centre in Addis with participants from UNDP Nigeria, Cameroon, Kenya and Tanzania. The workshop, which took place on April 2, aimed to acquaint the offices with the PVE Project's revised Regional Progress Monitoring Framework. This Framework is designed as an add-on to the formal result framework of UNDP's Regional PVE Project, in order to improve and strengthen the quality of country-level monitoring of activities as well as to streamline monitoring across different countries to aggregate results across the continent. The workshop furthermore contributed to sharing of experiences between the offices on their result measurement and methods of data collection. The UNDP Regional PVE Team will support efforts for a community perception survey to measure levels of trust between civilians and security actors, which is a potential driver in radicalization processes addressed by country-level PVE Programming.

UNDP Chad supports the procurement of hover-craft boats to restore public service delivery for islanders in the Lake Chad



Lake Chad, UNDP Photo

In post-Boko Haram resilience building, UNDP Chad, with the support of the UNDP Regional PVE Project, has enabled the Government of Chad to acquire two hovercraft boats for mobility improvement in the Lake Chad islands. The boats, which will be operated by the national authorities, will support rebuilding essential infrastructure, restoring and extending effective civilian security to the island communities on the Lake. The two boats will also complement the newly launched (July 2019)

UNDP's strategy, entitled Regional Stabilization Facility for Lake Chad by improving the delivery of basic services and livelihoods for islanders. The first 18-month phase of the Regional Stabilization Strategy will kick-start this year across the four countries - Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria. The interventions will be implemented in collaboration with the Lake Chad Basin Commission, national stakeholders and the African Union Commission.

The acquisition of two boats, both 15-seater, was completed and the delivery is expected by the end of September. In parallel to the acquisition of boats, UNDP Chad organized two meetings with the government authorities of the Lake to discuss the approach and the methodology as well as the strategies of implementing activities on the islands.

ONGOING ACTIVITY BRIEF

Finalizing UNDP research on Economic Impact and Cost of Violent Extremism. The study, carried out by UNDP in collaboration with the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), provides primary research on the economic cost and impact of violent extremism and looks at the economic cost of violent extremism focusing on 18 African countries. A launch event is foreseen in 2019.

In Uganda, the finalization phase of the National PCVE Strategy and the National Plan of Action have commenced. It is planned that, after internal government validation, Civil Society Organizations will be consulted in four different regions to provide their input on how the outcomes of the Regional Consultation Meetings in June 2018 have been taken on board in the formulation of the policy documents.

In Mopti, Central Mali, UNDP has undertaken consultations to contribute to ongoing community security intervention by the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and civil society. In order to move from community dialogue to implementation of action plans with micro-scale development interventions, UNDP aims to identify recipient communities to support small-scale community security initiatives, such as back-to-school initiatives for youngsters to improve day-to-day monitoring of the security situation. The aim is to link community security plans better to ongoing regional development programming.

ANNOUNCEMENT: INTRODUCTION OF NIRINA KIPLAGAT, REGIONAL PVE PROJECT MANAGER

Nirina Kiplagat joined the Regional PVE Project in May. Prior to her arrival in the UNDP Regional Service Centre in Addis, Nirina worked at UNDP's Country Office in Tanzania as a technical adviser and project manager for the project Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in Tanzania.



Regional PVE Programme Overview

Preventing and Responding To Violent Extremism in Africa: A Development Approach, UNDP'S six-year regional development project is designed to strengthen the development responses to mitigate the growth of violent extremism in Africa.

The project articulates development response and addresses structural, causative or perpetuating factors. The initiative focus on eighteen countries across Africa.

The project has received support from **the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)**, government agency working on behalf of the Swedish government, and by the **Government of Netherlands**. In the period between 2016 - 2018, the project also received financial support from the Government of Japan and the Government of the United Kingdom.

Read more information about the project in the **Regional PVE Project Document**.

Regional PVE Team

Nirina Kiplagat

- Regional PVE Project Manager
- nirina.kiplagat@undp.org

Annelore Beukema

- Regional PVE Project Specialist
- annelore.beukema@undp.org

Tomas Kral

- Regional PVE Project Officer
- tomas.kral@undp.org

Regional Service Center for Africa
UNDP, Main Bole Road, Olympia Roundabout, DRC Street
P.O. Box 60130, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia