

# NEWSLETTER



## REGIONAL PROGRAMME IN PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM: UPDATE

April - June 2020



In this quarterly newsletter, for the period April - June 2020, 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

#### UNDP Partners with Radio Ndarasson to Provide COVID-19 Messaging in the Lake Chad

The spread of COVID-19 in the Lake Chad Basin resulted in an increased urgency for alternative messaging against VE-ideologies in the region. To address this need, UNDP is partnering with [Radio Ndarason Internationale](#) to support emergency PVE & COVID-19 messaging intervention in the Lake Chad Basin.

The month of Ramadan has traditionally been the time wherein the VE-threat increases. Besides the security threat, the global pandemic crisis has also reached the Lake Chad Basin countries, with Cameroon and Nigeria ranking just after South Africa on the African lists with daily confirmed cases. Diverse assumptions prevail regarding an ongoing risk of violent extremism in the Lake Chad region and the response to COVID-19. Trust gaps between states and citizens could potentially further widen in the event of poor health service delivery, human rights violations by state security actors enforcing regulations to prevent spread of COVID-19 and increasing marginalization through deepened economic challenges for the inhabitants of the Lake Chad Basin that are dependent on the informal market. As UNDP's Journey to Extremism in Africa highlights, low trust levels in state security and public service delivery provide for important drivers of VE in Africa.

To ensure objective information about COVID-19 and its risks in those Lake Chad Basin areas that suffer from inaccessibility due to geographical and security constraints, UNDP engaged with Radio Ndarason Internationale in Ndjamena, operating from the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) base, on the short term in its news programming, attractive infotainment around COVID-19 prevention measures and talk-shows encouraging discussion between security providers and community members. Furthermore, the partnership will result in a quantitative evidence base regarding community perceptions on violent extremism, stabilization and security actors in the Lake Chad Basin, feeding into the partnership with MNJTF regarding strategic communication against violent extremism. The results of the partnership UNDP's Regional PVE Project will therefore also inform communication efforts.



Radio Ndarasson, UNDP Nigeria

## Clerics vs COVID-19: UNDP Somalia Launches Campaign to Develop and Disseminate Guidance on COVID-19

In March, Somalia recorded its first case of COVID-19. By mid-April, there were over 200 cases, mostly local transmissions. Prevention is a central public policy choice in Somalia, given the insufficient state of health capacity nationwide. Preventative measures require mobilising the right kind of collective and community action, targeted at helping the most vulnerable. UNDP Somalia launched a campaign to support Somalia's religious leaders as the trusted messengers for the Somali communities in times of need. The campaign "Clerics vs. COVID" engaged sheiks, Imams and madrassa teachers to share health-related information



Maintaining Social Distancing in Mogadishu, UNDP Somalia

together with religious guidance supporting preventative measures during the pandemic, whilst addressing stigma and correcting misinformation about the virus. The religious leaders shared this information and distributed face masks within their respective communities, reaching out to those most in need. They encouraged social distancing at public places and places of worship, and played their advice through mosque loudspeakers. The campaign also involved disseminating information widely through TV and radio channels as well as on social media. As such, the religious leaders are currently playing a vital part in sharing life-saving information with the people and encourage preventative measures to stay safe from COVID-19.

## UNDP Nigeria Collects 200 Interviews to Monitor Community Trust in Security Providers



Data Collection in Mopti, UNDP Mali

**One of the activities in the context of COVID-19 response, in Nigeria aims to undertake community-based bonding, trust and confidence building activities among community security providers and stakeholders to enhance community security and peaceful co-existence in three states (Kaduna, Kogi, and Adamawa). Community mapping had been carried out earlier but the workshops were postponed due to social distancing measures.**

Part of the sub-activities planned under the project activity was to collect data to measure trust deficits between security providers and community stakeholders. Hence, with the COVID-19 lockdown, the PVE team creatively sought how to measure the level of trust between community stakeholders and security

providers. The data collection was done; in compliance with global best practices under the context of COVID-19 pandemic, digitally. Purposive sampling techniques using stratification and snowballing were used. Respondents were stratified based on age (18 and above), length of stay in the area/district (minimum of 10 years) were contacted. This was complemented by snowballing method to make room for referral and suggestion from respondents and followed up with phone-calls and WhatsApp video calls to explain the details of the survey. Overall, the targeted communities reported high level of trust in security providers. The local police topped the list with 89% of respondents declaring partial, high or complete trust in them, followed by national military (85%) and national police (67%). Concerningly, 66% of respondents do not think that law enforcement agencies have been successful in preventing violent crime and acts of terrorism. Following data collection in Nigeria, UNDP Mali has engaged in data collection for the same purpose in the challenging Mopti-region, where 60 interviewees participated in the survey to measure trust levels in security providers.

## ONGOING ACTIVITY BRIEF

In Tanzania, the PVE team has been providing online mentorship (Tele-mentorship) which involves virtual mentorships via phone calls or online platforms as WhatsApp, depending on the context. The adaptation of the Tele-mentorship has ensured continuity and progress of the mentorship programme despite COVID-19 circumstances and allowed at-risk mentees to improve their digital and communication skills. Through the mentorship initiatives, participants discussed the spread of disinformation as well as the role of youth in COVID-19 response.

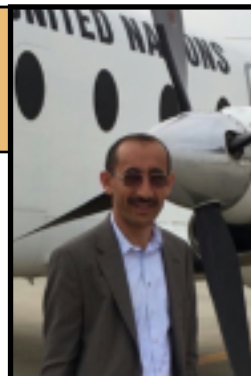
Using the available [UNDP resources](#) and to enhance capacity building of UNDP PVE colleagues on risk management within PVE programmes, on June 17th and 18th the UNDP Africa Regional PVE team organized a 2-day webinar for the PVE Africa Community of Practice to share experiences on risk management from country-level PVE projects, exchange ideas on the identified emerging risks and opportunities that have unfolded; and to review and inform the updating of the existing risk monitoring framework of the Regional PVE project. Each session received an average rating of 4.3 (out of 5) by the participants who requested for more discussions and dialogues to gain experiences and share information among the PVE projects at the country level. The recordings and presentations of the webinar have been uploaded on the PVE CoP at the Microsoft Team Site.

The Regional PVE Project and UNDP Oslo Governance Centre initiated a research piece to examine the relationship between climate security and prevention of violent extremism.

On April 23rd, the UNDP Regional PVE Project Team held a virtual training for data collectors for the second phase of Journey to Extremism in Africa study. The training was co-facilitated by partner research institutions - NEEM Foundation and Elman Peace - and attended by PVE colleagues nominated as focal points for the study in each of the 7 UNDP Country Offices (Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan). The main objective of the training was to synchronize data collection processes and to streamline capacity building for data collectors. Since commencing the training, over 200 respondents have been interviewed in North-east Nigeria and the data collection processes have started in Cameroon and Somalia. In June, UNDP Burkina Faso entered consultations with Regional PVE Project on inclusion of Burkina Faso in the regional study.

## ANNOUNCEMENT: INTRODUCTION OF MOHAMMED AL-QUSSARI, PVE PROGRAMME SPECIALIST

Mohammed recently joined the Regional PVE Project as a Programme Specialist. Mohammed has extensive experience in Rule of law, Security and Human Rights areas. He previously worked with UNDP Libya as Project Manager for the Policing and Security Joint Programme. He also worked with UNSMIL for almost four years on Rule of Law related issues.



### 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 is a joint initiative between **UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa** and **Regional Hub in Amman**. It 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](mailto:nirina.kiplagat@undp.org)

#### **Annelore Beukema**

- Regional PVE Project Specialist
- [annelore.beukema@undp.org](mailto:annelore.beukema@undp.org)

#### **Joelle Seme Park**

- Regional PVE Programme Analyst
- [joelle-seme.park@undp.org](mailto:joelle-seme.park@undp.org)

#### **Tomas Kral**

- Regional PVE Project Assistant
- [tomas.kral@undp.org](mailto:tomas.kral@undp.org)

#### **Mohammed Al-Qussari**

- Regional PVE Programme Specialist
- [mohammed.al-qussari@undp.org](mailto:mohammed.al-qussari@undp.org)

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