



# NEWSLETTER



## REGIONAL PROGRAMME IN PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM: UPDATE

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Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

In this quarterly newsletter, for the period July - September 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

#### Journey to Prosperity: The story of UNDP Nigeria’s engagement of at-risk youth

UNDP Nigeria with support from the UNDP Regional PVE Project conducted integrated research into the root causes of violent extremism and a needs assessment of at-risk youth in the targeted communities in the central and north-east regions of Nigeria. Based on the findings, 100 youth from Kogi and Plateau States were profiled to undergo a reorientation programme.

This empowerment of at-risk youth commenced with a 2-week reorientation programme at the Citizenship and Leadership Training Centre (CLTC), attended by 98 of the identified participants. The reorientation programme consisted of training on leadership, civic responsibility, human rights, sexual and gender-based violence, conflict prevention, dialogue mechanisms and drug awareness. It also consisted of physical fitness and team building. Thereafter, 34 of the reoriented youth who chose to acquire skills in leather production were placed for three months in the Nigerian Institute of Leather and Science Technology (NILEST). Upon completing the 3-month course, all the graduates were supported with equipment grants to establish small scale businesses.



Inspection of the Components of the Starter Packs by Mr. Lealem Berhanu, UNDP DRR Programme at the NILEST Training Centre, Abuja.

*The 2-week orientation training in Jos really helped in shaping my life and made me to believe in myself once again. I have now established my leather products business with the support of UNDP, and I have converted two of my former mates to join me to learn the business. my family particularly my mother could hardly believe the positive things that she is seeing unfolding in my life - Participant, Kogi State, Nigeria*

UNDP Nigeria will be monitoring and assessing the results of the intervention until 2020. In the meantime, arrangements have been concluded to place a group of at-risk youth at the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) to acquire skills in Catering Service, Photography and GSM Repair.

## UNDP Kenya is engaging female religious leaders and teachers as role models

Women play a critical role in detecting early signs of radicalization, intervening before individuals become violent, and delegitimizing violent extremist narratives. The influence of women extends beyond their families to their communities where they often serve as mediators as well as authors of counter-narratives challenging violent extremism and terrorism.

In view of this, UNDP Kenya, in collaboration with National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC), organized a capacity building forum for female teachers and religious leaders to provide them with skills to detect early signs of radicalization leading to violent extremism and to build their capacity to influence thinking and behavior change among families and communities. 31 female religious leaders and teachers drawn from Coastal, North Eastern and Upper Eastern counties of Kenya were trained. The training yielded key results in prevention of radicalization and terrorism as well as exploring opportunities of the women to be role models and mentors at the community level. NCTC demonstrated increased commitment to engage women religious leaders in PVE interventions, specifically in the implementation of County Action Plans and commitment to include psycho-social support, as part of PVE work.

## UNDP Cameroon localizes materials for Madrasa management



Textbook developed with the support of UNDP Cameroon

After supporting the madrasa curriculum development, UNDP Cameroon continues to provide capacity building of 8 associations of Quranic teachers already legalized by the departmental authorities. In the third quarter of 2019, UNDP Cameroon finalized the delivery of three textbooks and nine posters, published

in French and Arabic in the town of Mora, Far North Region. The materials serve as training curricula for Quranic teachers to enhance citizenship education and vocational training programs aimed at empowering youth in communities identified as vulnerable to violent extremism.

Upon completing the training facilitated by the Quranic teachers, changes in students' behavior in at-risk communities have been apparent. UNDP Cameroon monitored observed significant reduction of street begging phenomenon among participating students. Students have also shown greater interest to participate in income-generating activities and willingness to engage in vocational training. In Mora and Kousséri, Far North Region of Cameroon, young Quranic students benefited from training courses, such as agriculture, sewing and embroidery, at the State Women's and family centers or in the Quranic association's farms.



Quranic teachers attending a capacity building training in the Far North Region, UNDP Cameroon

The sensitization of Quranic teachers to promote the enrollment of students under ten years of age in formal schools has led to registration of **2,342** children in primary schools in 7 different localities in the Far North Region.

Furthermore, UNDP and UNICEF recently joined forces in Cameroon in order to promote access to formal education and to develop an accelerated school curriculum for Logone-et-Chari department.

## ONGOING ACTIVITY BRIEF

**Representatives of UNDP RSCA from Addis and Dakar conducted, from 24th June to July 3rd, a joint PVE / Conflict prevention and social cohesion scoping mission in Togo, Benin and Ghana.** One of the key objectives of the mission was to introduce UNDP's PVE approach and to propose a concrete framework for UNDP programmatic interventions to support governments and national stakeholders in preventing the spread of violent extremism, and a roadmap for design and implementation. It concluded that a holistic and long-term approach needs to be developed for each country to address VE roots and prevention of conflicts.

**In Uganda, UNDP supported CSO Validation Meetings** that were organized in four regions to inform finalization of the National PCVE Strategy. The meetings served as platform to build a common understanding of VE in Uganda between governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and identify PVE-practitioners in Uganda, interested to engage in constructive and cooperative dialogue on the National PCVE Strategy.

**In Djenne, Central Mali, UNDP is selecting CSOs to design and implement action plans with micro-scale development interventions.** This activity aims to support small-scale community security initiatives in order to build resilience among the youth and to improve day-to-day monitoring of the security situation.

### 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 initiatives 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

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