

# NEWSLETTER



## REGIONAL PROGRAMME IN PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM: UPDATE

October - December 2019

In this quarterly newsletter, for the period October-December 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

#### UNDP PVE Project Host Inaugural 3-day Retreat in Addis Ababa

The inaugural UNDP PVE Project retreat, held from 20-22 November 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, was attended by representatives from 21 UNDP Africa country offices, UNDP's Regional Hub for Arab States, the Regional Bureau for Africa, the Regional Service Centre for Africa (Nairobi, Addis Ababa and Dakar offices), and the Oslo Governance Centre.

The retreat enabled participants, through an exchange of knowledge, reflection, and learning, to identify practical actions for promoting more impactful PVE programming at the regional and country office levels. Over three days, participants were able to meet, get to know each other, and start to build collaborative relationships through sharing and discussing their common challenges and identified opportunities in PVE programming.

During the retreat's concluding session, the participants agreed that the opportunity to interact with the various country office and regional office colleagues was highly beneficial, particularly as PVE is still a nascent field of practice. There was unanimous concurrence for the establishment of a Community of Practice (CoP) that would facilitate participants' continued communication, knowledge exchange and learning on PVE. The Regional PVE team has established the MS Teams 'UNDP PVE Africa' site to enable interactions between UNDP PVE professionals working in Africa. Additionally, a public Yammer Group called [Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in Africa](#) was created. All UNDP staff are eligible to join the Yammer group, view the content posted to this group and share files and inputs.



Participants of the UNDP PVE Retreat, UNDP Photo

During the retreat's concluding session, the participants agreed that the opportunity to interact with the various country office and regional office colleagues was highly beneficial, particularly as PVE is still a nascent field of practice. There was unanimous concurrence for the establishment of a Community of Practice (CoP) that would facilitate participants' continued communication, knowledge exchange and learning on PVE. The Regional PVE team has established the MS Teams 'UNDP PVE Africa' site to enable interactions between UNDP PVE professionals working in Africa. Additionally, a public Yammer Group called [Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in Africa](#) was created. All UNDP staff are eligible to join the Yammer group, view the content posted to this group and share files and inputs.

## UNDP and Partners Engage in Strengthening Early Warning Systems for Monitoring of Violent Extremism

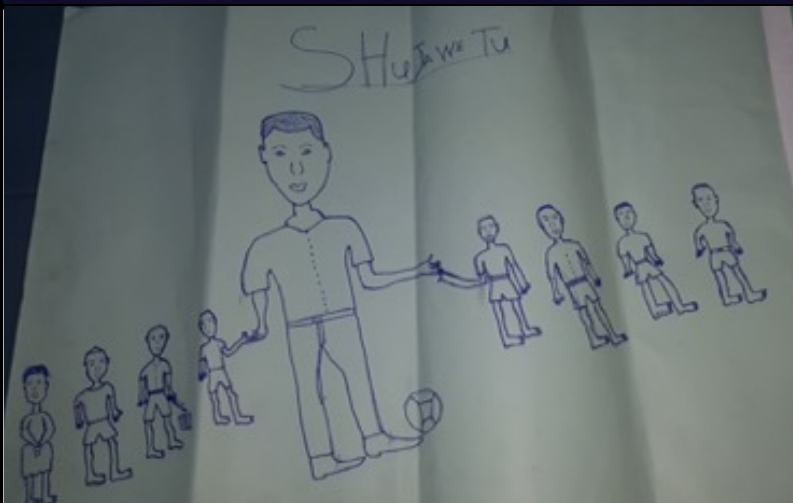


The African Centre for the Study & Research on Terrorism

Jointly with the African Centre for the Study & Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) and the Peace and Security Department of the African Union Commission (AUC/PSD), UNDP has developed a concept note for an 18-month project to support the AUC and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in streamlining mechanisms meant for early warning for violent extremism. In line with this, a **preliminary experience sharing session was held on October 6, 2019 in Algiers** to kickstart the first phase of the project, i.e. exemplifying experiences from the RECs in developing methodologies to monitor violent extremism. The meeting resulted in the establishment of the Reference Group on PVE and Early Warning to provide support to the project in its design, implementation and M&E and to Identify early best practices and lessons learned from the ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN), the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) and IGAD-experiences in leveraging a whole-of-society methodology to identify indicators of violent extremism at community-level.

Joint consultations among partners led to drafting Recommendations and a Roadmap documents. The meeting further identified **Central African Republic, Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya and Mozambique** as potential countries to test the toolkit on improving early warning on violent extremism at the national level. Following a comprehensive assessments, **Ghana** and **CAR** were selected by the reference group for a pilot. In 2020, national consultations will be held under the lead of ACSRT/CAERT.

## UNDP Tanzania Uses Comic Books as an Approach for Alternative Narration in PVE



Local Hero Drawing Session, UNDP Tanzania

**In Mwanza, north Tanzania, youth migration has been an ongoing trend. Most of the youth come from neighbouring regions with the motivation to seek livelihood opportunities in Mwanza city and to escape the challenges, including violent acts, experienced at their home communities. In 2019, UNDP Tanzania conducted a five-day workshop on the development of comic book stories with selected youth at-risk and pre-identified local heroes.**

In the first phase of the comic book story development, selected youth were divided into three smaller groups facilitated by local heroes and, through storytelling methods, discussed and debriefed on challenges faced in their communities and their decision to move to Mwanza city. After the storytelling session, the youth continued with a road-mapping exercise to help visualize and narrate their life story.

*"I was not comfortable to narrate my life story to anyone in the community, but the road mapping exercise helped me to narrate my story with courage in the group"* - participant.

The session ended with a drawing exercise portraying participants' facial expressions and emotions. This allowed them to reflect on their journey to Mwanza city and to better understand the push and pull factors behind their decision to migrate.

"At the beginning, I was having an attitude that moving to the city was the best option. Later, I faced unforgettable experiences in the journey as the life in the city is very challenging whereby getting a basic need is one of the hard-hitting experiences that I am facing" – participant.

Finally, inspired by the stories from local heroes and other workshop activities, the youth jointly created a comic book story entitled '**Our Hero**'. The comic book story, projected to be printed in 2020, captures participants' diverse views on their journey to Mwanza city and highlights the role of youth as influencers in the communities.

## ONGOING ACTIVITY BRIEF

The Regional project 'Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in Africa: a Development Approach', co-chaired by UNDP's Regional Service Centre for Africa and Regional Hub for Arab States, will host its **4th Board meeting**. The meeting will take place **on Monday 27 January 2020 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**.

In the final quarter of 2019, the Regional PVE team and the newly established Abuja-based UNDP *Knowledge Hub on Instability and Violent Extremism in Nigeria* made efforts to develop and apply a toolkit to further inform 'PVE-relevance' of development interventions. Concurrently, the UNDP Regional PVE and Inclusive Growth teams joined forces to promote new economic opportunities by linking the role of livelihoods with PVE. The teams intend to engage in at-risk communities by providing and strengthening livelihood programmes with focus on their long-term impact. The Regional PVE team seeks to design a methodological framework to better measure the impact of development interventions aiming to prevent violent extremism.

The Regional PVE Project has supported preparative activities to develop a inception plan for PVE-activities in Togo, Benin and Ghana in 2020, both on the regional and national levels. Considering the request to strengthen conceptual understanding of PVE in all three countries, and the necessity to invest in a joint regional threat assessment, PVE capacity building efforts for government officials and other stakeholders will be taking place at the regional level.

### 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

#### 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