

REGIONAL EXPERT CONSULTATION

July 20-22, 2015, Nairobi, Kenya

Summary Report



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



A man prays at dawn where a mausoleum once stood at the Three Saints Cemetery in Timbuktu, Mali. The site was destroyed by radical Islamists during their seizure of the North in early 2012, Timbuktu, Mali, UN Photo/Marco Dormino

FRAMING THE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS TO RADICALIZATION IN AFRICA

Regional Expert Consultation on

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July 20-22, 2015
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UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa

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SUMMARY REPORT



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Photo above:
Scenes from Ifo 2 Refugee Camp in Dadaab, Kenya, 29 October 2014, UN Photo/Evan Schneider

Introduction | 1

Violent extremism has had a devastating effect on people's lives and livelihoods across the African continent. Peace, stability and development have been compromised by violent extremists and warlords who operate seamlessly across territorial borders. Evidence suggests that the challenges posed by radicalization continue to grow.

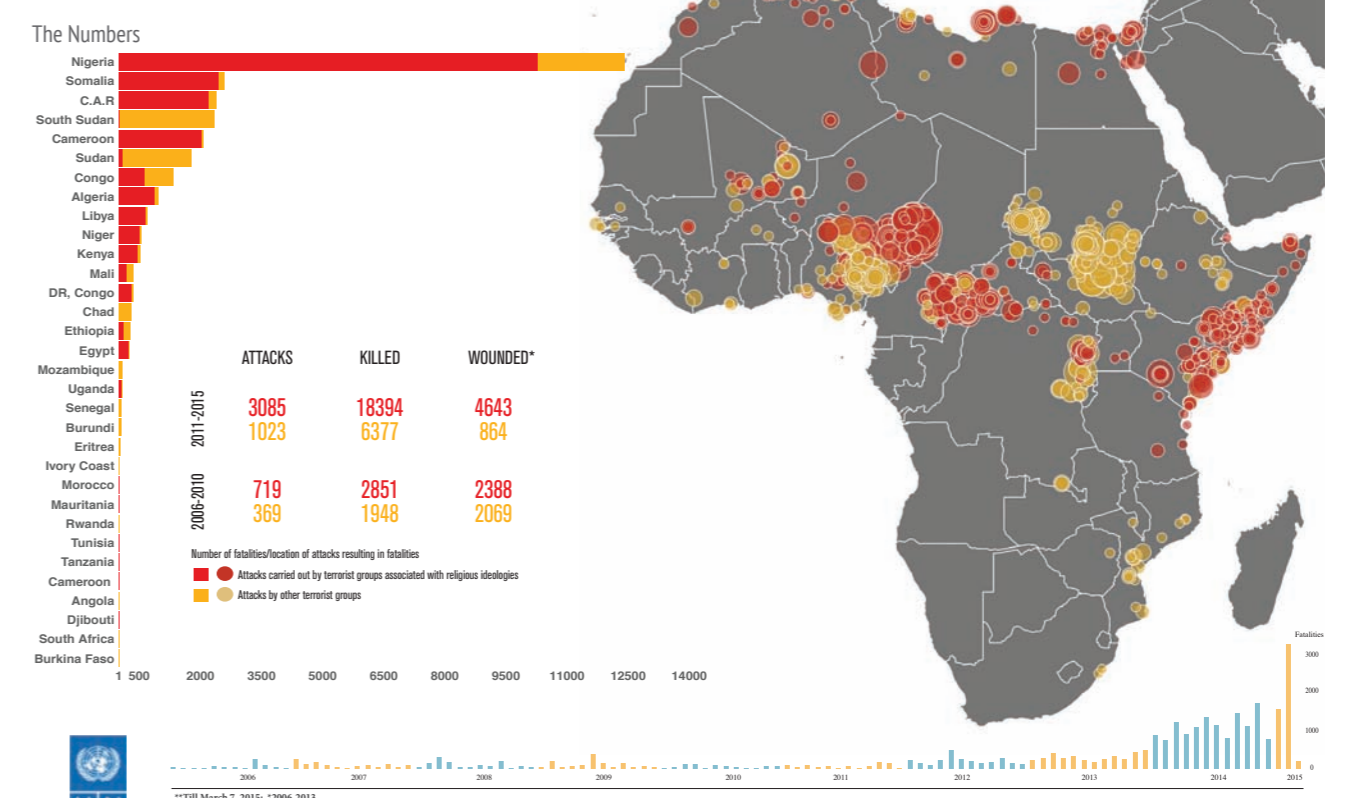
The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) data estimates that there have been over 3000 attacks and 18,000 people killed in the context of violent extremism since 2011.

High profile attacks such as the abduction of 276 girls in Chibok Nigeria in April 2014, the beheading of 21 Coptic Christian migrant workers in Libya in February 2015, the murder of 147 students at Garissa University in Kenya in April 2015 and recent Boko Haram attacks in northern Cameroon

are just a few examples of the atrocities committed by these radicalized groups. Of the 13 countries that the 2014 Global Terrorism Index identifies at risk of a substantial increase in terrorism, seven are in Africa including: Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic (CAR), Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia and Uganda¹; similarly, countries in conflict including the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Egypt, Somalia, South Sudan, Nigeria and Mali are expected to see increased levels of terrorism. The same study states that 17 of the 50 countries with the highest levels of terrorism are in Africa.

Insecurity arising from extremism has led to the highest levels of population displacement - both Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs) and refugees since the Second World War; a large proportion of that displacement is taking place in Africa, with over 1.5 million displaced in Nigeria, over 1 million in Somalia, half a million in CAR and 600,000 across the Sahel². The Boko Haram crisis alone has led to the deaths of over 10,000 civilians, over 4 million food insecure,

FATALITIES FROM TERRORIST ATTACKS Africa: 2006-2015**



1 http://www.visionofhumanity.org/sites/default/files/Global%20Terrorism%20Index%20Report%202014_0.pdf
2 Global Overview 2015, People internally displaced by conflict and violence, Norwegian Refugee Council

and, abduction of hundreds of school children; furthermore, in CAR a fundamentalist Christian militia known as anti-balaka (or anti-machete) has killed, mutilated and displaced thousands of Muslim civilians, with the stated intent of eliminating Muslims from the country³. We are also witnessing protracted crises related to the activities of such groups including the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) which has resulted in one of Africa's longest running conflicts - with more than 20,000 children abducted, 100,000 civilians killed and over 1.5 million displaced⁴.

Women and children have been disproportionately affected. The alarming growth of gender-based violence is frequently justified by narratives that reference religion, culture, tradition and social norms. Such violence is not incidental but integral to extremist groups' strategies of domination and self-perpetuation⁵. Children have also faced abduction and kidnapping, not to mention the loss of their education given that hundred of schools have been forced to close as a result of increased insecurity and the rise in direct attacks on schools. No child should have to die for going to school or be forced to associate learning with fear, and no teacher should have to fear entering the classroom.

In addition to the human cost, violent extremism is taking a significant toll on development performance in Africa. For example, according to the IMF, foreign investment in Nigeria has fallen by 30% as a direct consequence of terrorist-related violence since 2010; similarly, Kenya has witnessed a 25% reduction in tourism this year, a vital revenue earner and source of employment. Other impacts include: loss of property; the diversion of development resources to military and security spending; medical and health expenditure for survivors; the cost of humanitarian support to displaced people and refugees; the loss of household incomes due to death or inability to farm; and, loss of jobs and trade – to mention only a few examples of the devastating impacts of the growth of violent extremism.

With this in mind and in order to deepen our understanding of radicalization and violent extremism in Africa, UNDP's Addis Ababa Regional Service Centre convened a 'Global Experts Consultation' (the Consultation) that took place in Nairobi, Kenya on 20-22 July 2015. The Consultation was attended by over 60 experts and practitioners from academia, think-tanks and research institutions (from Africa, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Germany), the African Union (AU), the European Union (EU), faith-based experts, and representatives from the United Nations (UN), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), international media and bilateral actors, including the UK, Sweden and Finland. A variety of representatives from UNDP were also present from the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BBPS)-

New York, the Regional Centres in Istanbul and Amman as well as UNDP Country Office representatives from Tanzania, Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger, Mali, Kenya, Mauritania, Tajikistan and Somalia. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, UNDP's Regional Director for Africa.

- The specific objectives of the Consultation were to:
- Advance our understanding of the critical issue of radicalization;
- Generate new ideas on the issue;
- Position UNDP as a lead policy actor and partner of choice for development programming; and,
- Elaborate a strategic framework that would lead to a UNDP regional programme on the issue.

The event was designed to: examine the conceptual understandings of radicalization; look at how it manifests across the African continent, including drivers, enablers and gender dimensions; and to examine emerging good practices to inform UNDP's development response. The Consultation was therefore structured around the following:

- Session 1: Understanding the conceptual framework underpinning radicalization;
- Session 2: How radicalization is evolving in Africa;
- Session 3: The gender dimensions of radicalization;
- Session 4: Drivers and enablers;
- Session 5: Current responses & good practices; and,
- Session 6: The development response to radicalization.

This report serves as a summary of the discussions and conclusions of the expert meeting and should serve as the basis for the elaboration of UNDP strategies and programmatic approaches to address the challenges presented by radicalization.

³ <http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/02/12/central-african-republic-muslims-forced-to-flee>. Muslims in CAR were approximately 24% of the population. The anti-balaka attacks followed attacks by the Séléka rebel group (membership of which is predominantly Muslim, but which does not define itself in religious terms).
⁴ http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/from_our_own_correspondent/3951277.stm
⁵ <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50981#.VZEzBuqqko>

The session sought to conceptualize radicalization and its ideological roots, and to explore the narratives and ideological foundations on which it is constructed. There is no agreed definition of the concept or practice of radicalization that is accepted by all; the term is often used subjectively and is susceptible to politicization and manipulation. The definition agreed upon by attendees, which was also discussed in great detail at the Istanbul meeting, was as follows: *'Radicalization is a process marked by a departure from generally accepted social norms and values; the objective of those using radicalization as a tool is to pressure others to subscribe to the same worldview. The methods used to convert others to the same worldview may take a coercive form, including outright violence. Radicalization is a phenomenon characterized by aggressive and exclusive imposition of one's identity on others, consequently constraining or denying space for the expression of other identities. The uncompromising imposition of one belief system onto another through violent means characterizes processes of radicalization that lead to violent extremism. This form of absolutism requires compliance (with no exception). Radicalization can manifest itself in the form of physical violence, in systems (including laws, regulations, etc.) and the broader denial of rights. It is largely context-specific and, therefore, subject to local driving factors which contributes to the challenge of establishing a common definition.'*



Presentations

The session focused on the conceptual framework for radicalization, including the role of ideology and strategic/enabling factors such as technology, which has been a catalytic factor in spreading these ideas.

Sessions one: Imam Mohamed Magid argued that there are social, ideological and psychological causes of radicalization. These may include but are not limited to:

- **Weak social identification/building blocks** such as the family unit and community - leading to fragile identity formation and the attendant vulnerabilities.

- **Lack of safe spaces for religious expression** in the context of public platforms such as mosques. Social media and networks run by extremist groups exploit this vacuum to offer misleading ideas and teachings.
- **Ideology** driven by misinterpretation of the Qur'an and Islamic traditions. He argued that the concept of Jihad has been wrongly appropriated by terror groups to legitimize their activities and movements. He argued that the misinterpretation of Islamic teaching thrives due to high levels of religious illiteracy.
- **Psychological appeal** of pride and dignity in 'Ummah'; this is often linked to pre-existing grievances such as poverty and perception of marginalization.

Responses and plenary observations

Mohamed Elibiary

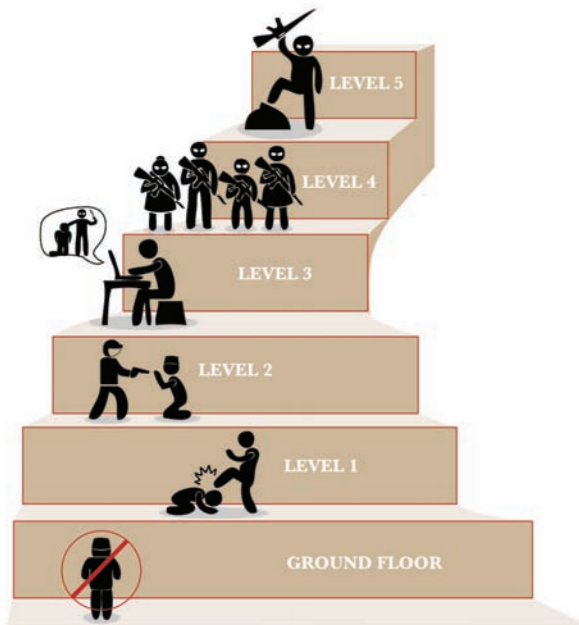
Definition: Violent Extremism

- Marked by a considerable departure from the usual or traditional;
- Tending or disposed to make extreme changes in existing

views, habits, conditions, or institutions;

- c. Of, relating to, or constituting a political group associated with views, practices, and policies of extreme change; and,
- d. Advocating extreme measures to retain or restore a political state of affairs (the radical right).

The 'Staircase' to terrorist acts



- Level 5: Terrorist acts carried out
- Level 4: Immersion: us vs. them
- Level 3: Moral engagement (terrorism justified)
- Level 2: Displaced aggression/blame
- Level 1: Increasing perceptions of injustice
- Ground floor: Relative deprivation and other factors

Some takeaways from the above model for Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

CVE points to consider

- Social sciences (psychology /sociology /anthropology /political science) form the backbone of radicalization research;
- Security policy makers sometimes request radicalization researchers to produce 'macro' profiles to train law enforcement officials to identify 'micro'/individual radicalization processes;
- Social identity theory and social movement theory are both helpful for understanding the individual's



Ruins of Quneitra, Syria, 01 May 1983, UN Photo/Milton Grant

radicalization, and the socialization context of that radicalization;

- The Syrian civil war has ignited another wave of home-grown radicalization in the West;
- Just as the field of political science has different schools/frameworks (such as realist/liberalism/Marxism, for example) so does radicalization research; and,
- Deradicalization vs. disengagement: what's the difference? Disengagement is a behavioural modification to a new path in life whereas de-radicalization involves ideological, theological and organizational components.

Recommendations for UNDP's programming

1. To achieve the CVE mission, which is fundamentally a prevention mission, there needs to be a transformation/overhaul of the traditional security approach towards a more integrated approach.
2. An Information Sharing Environment (ISE) that advances coordination and localization instead of centralization needs to take root across the African continent if the local and regional waves of extremism currently under way are to be effectively addressed.
3. Localization and coordination alone will not increase the effectiveness of counter-radicalization, nor minimize

the negative repercussions that the 'siloed' approach has caused in many countries.

Dr. Matthew Francis

- It is better to think beyond a narrow focus on religion in discussions of radicalization. It is not always clear how people filter out other markers of identity, such as ethnicity and/or nationalism, etc. It can be more fruitful to focus on non-negotiable/sacred beliefs and values within the context of broader ideological ideas, including those ideas they are willing to defend with violence. While religious beliefs play a role, Dr. Francis believes it is too vague to be useful in analysis.
- The role of emotions should not be neglected; people respond in emotional ways to perceived threats to their communities and values.
- The role played by the family, prisons, universities and the Internet deserves attention; similarly, peer-to-peer networks are important for understanding how religious identity and ideas about religious authenticity are transmitted.



Research conducted by Jasjit Singh, at Leeds University, on how religious authority is transmitted among the youth shows that such 'transmission' relies increasingly less on the Gurdwara and traditional forms of authority, and more on friends and the Internet.

This could prove relevant to the discussion around how young people are influenced to join violent groups.

- The role of uncertainty is particularly important: Dr. Francis's own research and the research by Micheal Hogg within the field of social psychology, for example, demonstrate how individuals and groups choose more extreme beliefs and adopt more extreme value systems at times of uncertainty.
- As suggested by the Imam, the issue of how religion is taught can be problematic; young people especially need to be given the skills to be able to critically engage with religious ideas and expressions of religious authority. However, the notion that there is a 'right' way to practise a religion is problematic; for example, the 'world-religions' approach to faith teaches us that all Muslims pray

five times a day, and all Christians believe in God, etc. However, in reality many Muslims don't pray five times a day (but still think of themselves as Muslim) and in the UK 24% of Catholics don't believe in God (the figure is higher for Anglicans), but they still think of themselves as Catholics and Christians. What is more important is understanding how religion is experienced in communities - in different ways and in different places - and how that religion reinforces identities and fills the spaces that communities inhabit, as opposed to focusing purely on what a holy text says (which is open to different interpretations).

- More attention needs to be paid to adequately evaluating prevention programmes; often there is only anecdotal evidence, but rarely independent, verifiable, valid data concerning the effectiveness of a programme. In order to promote more honest evaluation processes, it is necessary to secure assurances from donors that failure will not lead to funding cuts. Even when programmes fail we obtain useful data that can inform future programming; such an approach also allows us to be innovative and creative.

Participants made the following additional observations:

- There is an *over emphasis on securitization* of the radicalization, ignoring or under playing other dimensions of the issue and making any response to it fragmented and ineffective;
- There is *too much emphasis on the role religious ideology* plays as a driving factor while ignoring the possibility that other variables related to identity, such as ethnicity or nationalism, may also play a significant role. It can be argued that individuals or groups derive their non-negotiable values from such contributing factors;
- There is a tendency for states to pursue counter-productive short-term approaches that suit the political expediency of the moment and ignore long-term strategies that might solve the problem - often such approaches focus on a security-centric paradigm; and,
- Emerging thoughts on counter-radicalization responses were discussed, including: the need to undertake ideological deconstruction; maintaining an online presence; integration of activism into religious education and teaching curriculum; community cohesion and resilience-building; law enforcement; community engagement; and, consensus-building on de-securitization of deradicalization.

Radicalization in Africa | 3

This session discussed *manifestations of violent extremism in Africa and offered insights into the evolution, resilience and adaptability of extremist groups*, including: insights into the functioning of these groups; how and why they have grown; where they operate; and, how they are sustained. Group work focused on specific dimensions of this issue including:

- a. The various ideological foundations/justifications;
- b. The multi-dimensional forms of radicalization observed across the continent;
- c. Understanding why individuals join extremist organizations, with an exploration of the 'journey map' which has led them to join, including a discussion of the differences between those who lead these groups, the 'foot soldiers' and the key triggers; and,
- d. Financing extremism: How are these groups sustained, and to what extent is this an end in itself?



Two young boys sit on tyres on the side of the road in Qoryooley during a routine foot patrol by African Union troops one month after the town was liberated from Al-Shabaab militants, 30 April 2014, Qoryooley, Somalia, UN Photo/Tobin Jones

Presentations

Mr. Mohammed Adow presented an overview of the evolution of Al Shabaab and other violent extremist organizations on the continent. The main points of the presentation were as follows:

Foundations

- According to Mr. Adow, the Al-Shabaab movement can be traced to a small group of Somali citizens who fought in the Afghan war. Upon returning to Somalia, they sought to grow their ranks by recruiting vulnerable individuals residing in Mogadishu. Later, the group metamorphosed into a militia that fought the warlords in alliance with the Union of Islamic Courts and with the backing of their clans. The Ethiopian invasion of Somalia in 2006 gave the group a perfect platform to rally the masses to their side as they were seen as heroes

for the liberation of the homeland rather than an occupying force.

- After withdrawal of the Ethiopian forces from Somalia, Al-Shabaab controlled large parts of Somalia and grew in size and strength. The group, however, has been greatly weakened by the ongoing African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) operation in Somalia; it has forced them to seek refuge in the swath of 'ungoverned' spaces in the marginalized north-eastern region of Kenya, which is occupied by the local Somali community. It is from this area that they plan and launch terror attacks in Kenya.
- Al-Shabaab thrives in north-eastern Kenya primarily because of their ability to melt easily into the local Kenya Somali population; they are also able to exploit the strong disconnect and distrust between the Kenyan State and the local population, which hampers cooperation on security and information sharing.

Finances and sustenance

- Al-Shabaab was traditionally financed by imposing taxation on local businesses. However, sugar importation and charcoal exportation were their biggest sources of income until AMISOM operations effectively disrupted these channels. Despite AMISOM's presence, Al-Shabaab continues to derive income from sugar and livestock trade by working in collaboration with corrupt traders within and outside Somalia.
- Al-Shabaab uses various methods to recruit and maintain members within the group. These methods include forced conscription, promises of great rewards in the afterlife for fighting in Jihad, and severance of family ties and connections. Those who dissent are executed.
- There are reports of sharp policy divisions within the Al-Shabaab movement on whether to remain allied to Al-Qaeda or to pledge allegiance to ISIS. If the pro-ISIS faction prevails, then Al-Shabaab may become an even more potent threat in the future.

Response and plenary discussion

- Traditionally 'domestic' issues have become regionalised and transnationalized.
- Collective amnesia and short attention spans leads many to forget and/or disregard the historical context.

- Violent extremist organizations have a long-term strategy; conversely, we tend to wait until the problem manifests and then regard it as a security problem. This leads to short-term, reactive approaches, which are often counter-productive.
- These approaches are fuelled by politicians that think in terms of short-term, electoral time-frames rather than the needs of the situation.
- The motivation is driven by the desire to 'show' the public that the government is in control.
- The importance of education was underscored on multiple levels. It was argued that investing in education has the potential to mitigate early child marriages, strengthen the capacities of imams and provide life skills for youth. There is a need for some caution around the issue of education, however, since there is significant evidence that some terrorists leading deadly operations - such as the Garissa University attacks for example - were highly educated.
- Interfaith engagements can be an important medium to challenge radicalization.
- There is an urgent need to address the complex issue of reintegrating returnees; they are wanted by the security agencies but they are also an important cog in countering radicalization.
- The conceptualization of radicalization requires some re-thinking as many participants believe that social science theories may not sufficiently explain the issue. Some believe that it could be helpful to examine whether there is logic inherent to some strains of Islam that may offer additional insights. Is radical ideology driven by a desire to restore the mythical glorious past of Islam? Is radicalization being driven by their sense of duty for Islam as a religion? Some participants believe that there is a need to create spaces where this logic can be challenged.
- Some participants expressed that theories of state-building need to be reconceptualized as they believe the problem lies with the ineffectiveness of current governance models to respond to the problem of radicalization.
- Many participants believe that too much coverage is given to groups like ISIS while moderates struggle to have their voices heard. There is a need for the media to have a conversation about how to address this imbalance.
- Gap between communities of practice: A gap exists between the security side and the development side of counter-terrorism and counter-radicalization.

Group Work: Highlights | 4

I. Conceptual framework of radicalization and its variations

- Conceptualizing radicalization is problematic as there is no commonly agreed upon definition. It can be understood as a dynamic process influenced by several variables, and should be informed by a context-specific understanding of how these variables influence one another.
- Radicalization can be understood as a power struggle between those in 'authority' and those who are marginalized.
- Radical organizations often fill the 'governance gaps', including social services, allowing them to both win support and manipulate people.
- Radicals have the ability to offer simple answers to complex problems and these answers resonate with the personal experiences of the targeted people.

- Women are increasingly involved in radicalism. Therefore, we should seek to understand what motivates women specifically to become part of such processes.
- The Internet broadly and social media specifically provides easy access to propaganda.

II. African forms of radicalization

The emergence of radicalization in Africa occurs within a framework whereby internal factors specific to the region interplay with external pressure points that are a manifestation of global trends. Within specific contexts, identity, social cohesion and historical events can either be factors of resilience or can contribute to instability and the emergence of radicalization.

- History: Factionalized societies and the transnational nature of many groups needs to be reflected upon; African forms of radicalization have often been tied to religious issues: is this new or a mutation of something old?

External

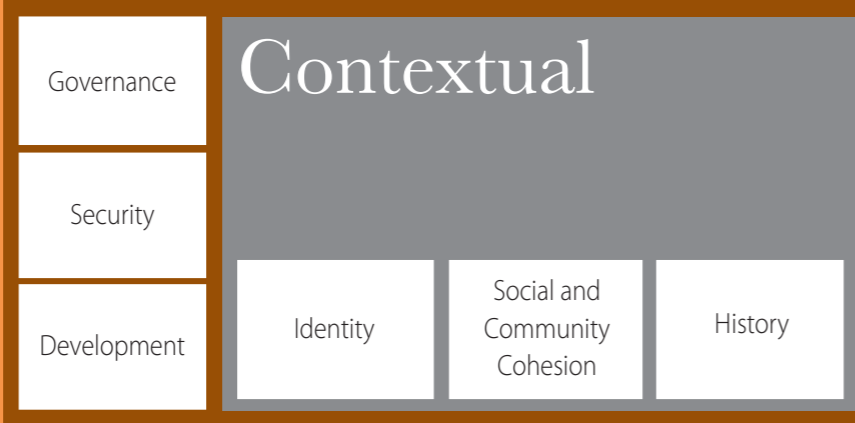
Emergence of new media communications

Global branding of violent extremist groups

Emergence of religion as the language of political dissent

Adaptation and transformation of violent extremist groups

Internal



A framework for understanding radicalization in Africa (source: courtesy of Anne Aly)

- Governance: State mechanisms have failed to provide effective forms of governance; many have been plagued by corruption, some are incapable of governing outside major towns, political elites often exploit religious tensions, and religious groups are sometimes co-opted – all of which is exacerbated by the absence or/and weakness of civil society.
- Development: Endemic marginalization, poverty and under-development have created a situation where large numbers of youth are without jobs or hope; social media and technology in this context have acted as a catalyst for radicalization.
- Security: Previously, armed groups were organized around a pyramid structure with a formal chain of command, whereas groups such as Boko Haram are organized in cells. A security response alone cannot defeat such groups. The existence of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), poor governance and ineffective policing also helps these groups to acquire equipment, guns, etc.
- Social and community cohesion: The breakdown of family structures and strong community ties has contributed to a situation where many youth lack social support systems; children have become breadwinners in the family, with many leaving school early, or being left to fend for themselves by joining gangs.
- Global agenda/foreign policy: Are global economic factors contributing to the increase in radicalization? To what extent has the 'Arab Spring' contributed to the growth of radicalization?

III. Foot soldiers and leaders: Looking at the journey map

- There are major differences between those in low ranking positions and those in mid-rank/leadership positions: those in mid-rank/leadership positions are often middle-class, educated and politically motivated, as opposed to 'foot soldiers' whose backgrounds are more diverse and tend to be driven by economic motivations.
- The group highlighted a number of issues that a journey mapping should address including:
 - Gender:** The role of women has so far been underestimated. Women serve as mothers, partners and in some cases - when taken against their will - as 'slaves'. Women play both passive and active roles. There is evidence that they are involved in recruitment, financing, planning, and playing the role of 'ideologues'.



A group of young Somali girls at the Ifo 2 Refugee Camp in Dadaab, Kenya, 29 October 2014, UN Photo/Evan Schneider

ii. Social media: Social media has played a key role in spreading messages associated with violent extremism. There is a lack of consensus concerning the extent to which it has been important in the African context (more research needs to be undertaken on this). It should, however, be understood as a secondary or reinforcing source of radicalization, i.e. peers, family members, etc. often play a primary role.

iii. Leadership: It is extremely difficult to reach and deradicalize those in positions of leadership. Engaging mid-ranking individuals and 'foot soldiers' could prove more fruitful in terms of deradicalization activities. In looking at potential recruits it is necessary to look at the multiplicity of causes that lead to radicalization, including: ideological, organisational, socio-economic, peers/family, religious identity, lack of trust in political systems, etc. The causes are also context specific.

- There was a strong consensus that policy and programmes need to be tailored to specific individuals in different contexts and their specific motivations. Engagements should also focus on the families.

Programming implications:

1. There was also consensus that ideology plays a significant role and therefore how religious institutions are governed should be looked at within each context;

2. The role of media in creating counter-narratives was also highlighted;
3. Compulsory education (in Africa, extremist groups often thrive in areas where education is poorest, i.e. north-east Nigeria, northern Kenya, southern Somalia);
4. Prisons play an important role in deradicalizing individuals. Conversely, they are 'places of vulnerability' where radicalization takes place;
5. Gender-specific programming; and,
6. Specific programming targeting youth: including livelihoods and developing social services (to support the institution of family).

IV. Financing extremism in Africa

- Sources of financing include: taxes/extortion from communities, local CSOs, proceeds from transnational crime (see oil smuggling, charcoal business, wildlife trade: etc.).
- Regulation: UNSC resolutions/imposition of sanctions are in place and bodies have been created to monitor these groups, i.e. Al Qaeda Monitoring Group, and the Somalia-Eritrea Sanctions Monitoring Group.

Programming Opportunities: the issue of transnational organised crime requires regional cooperation and joint investigations, and a legal framework that facilitates this, i.e. transfer, extradition, intelligence and information sharing.

Recommendations: There needs to be more in-depth research and analysis of these groups, including sources of funding, role of networks (including private, banking, government, organized criminal networks), more recognition and focus on regional and global dimensions of the problem.

Gender Dimensions of Radicalization and Violent Extremism | 5

As UN Security Council Resolution 1325 notes, women are disproportionately affected by violence during conflict, and have - in many places - played important roles in efforts to prevent and mitigate conflict and violence, and to rebuild the resilience of affected communities. Across the African continent women have also been singled out and targeted by violent extremists.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Sexual Violence has highlighted the role of extremist groups in 'waging war' on women's physical, sexual and reproductive autonomy and rights. In this context, sexual violence is not merely incidental but integral to their strategy of domination and self-perpetuation. Women have also played important roles in promoting ideologies and groups that fuel extremist violence. Moreover, the current wave of recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters has demonstrated the multiplying force of social media, which has also been used both to prompt women to support and join these groups, but also to mobilize against them. Understanding these diverse roles is critical to developing more nuanced and targeted efforts to counter violent extremism.

Presentations – Dr. Yolande Bouke, Melanie Smith and Shaukat Warraich

- Presenting research findings on Western women's involvement in ISIS, the speakers argued that there is sufficient evidence that women are actively involved in the rank and file of the group, playing significant roles as wives and mothers to the fighters.
- Presenters made a case for incorporation of gender-specific responses when crafting developmental responses to radicalization.
- Participants underscored the need for more space for a gendered discussion on radicalization. It was argued that there is a need to invest in women and girls as enablers to prevent radicalization and to address push and pull factors affecting women. It was suggested that incorporating a rights-based approach will add huge value to the deradicalization strategy.

Push and pull factors

Commonly cited 'push' factors:	Commonly cited 'pull' factors:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling isolated socially and/or culturally, including questioning one's uncertainty of belonging. • Feeling that the international Muslim community as a whole is being violently persecuted. • An anger, sadness and/or frustration over a perceived lack of international action in response to this persecution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misleading notions of 'religious duty'. • Feelings of empowerment with building a utopian 'Caliphate state'. • Feelings of belonging to a 'sisterhood'. • Romanticization of the experience; sense of adventure, marrying a jihadist fighter.



Images on the left: Online propaganda utilized by ISIS (source: Institute for Strategic Dialogue)

Drivers and Enablers | 6

It is widely agreed that there is no single reason that can explain why individuals become radicalized and resort to violent extremism. Rather there are a number of inter-linking factors which in diverse combinations jointly facilitate the spread of radicalization processes and the likelihood that they will result in violent extremism. These factors are:

- General (structural, systemic, political and socio-economic);
- Individual (personal and idiosyncratic);
- Based on objective or perceived experiences (of inequality, exclusion, marginalization and discrimination), and alienation.

The session will seek to identify these factors, building on the two previous sessions.

Presentations

Professor Abiodun Alao identified a number of drivers/enablers based on his research in Nigeria including:

- **Socio-economic factors:** Poverty/deprivation, youth vulnerability and exclusion; 'we' versus 'them' narratives and ideological factors (coupled with deep convictions in their beliefs);
- **Role of technology and media:** Social media, compression of 'time' and 'space' in information dissemination;
- **Rule of law:** Weakness or selective efficiency in Africa, fall of family values, weak or non-existent legislation; and,
- **International events:** Research points to grievances arising from the Middle East and Israel/Palestine conflict; the role of super powers/'the West'; and, the 'Arab Spring'.

Dr. Alexander Meleagrou-Hitchens, with reference to his research in Kenya on Al-Shabaab, identified the following issues:

- **Al-Shabaab's rise in Kenya:** Evolution from a national to a regional phenomenon (including recruitment of Kenyans) with over sixty attacks between 2011-2015 in Kenya, targeting night clubs, police stations, Christian churches and public places.
- **Rise of Salafi preachers on the coast:** This has facilitated the creation of closed communities,

taking over previously moderate mosques on the coast and recruiting youth into Al Shabaab - often by force.

- **Propaganda:** This has been key in reaching out to youth, particularly on the coast. It includes advertisements for Jihadi conferences and public recruitment of youth into youth organisations affiliated with Salafist and Jihadist groups (which were then able to recruit them into Al-Shabaab).
- **Role of authorities:** Authorities in Kenya were slow to react despite complaints from parents of youth who had gone missing. There are allegations that extremist Sheikhs were able to bribe or co-opt the authorities to 'turn a blind eye'.
- **Financial incentives:** Youth unemployment is at 75-80% and 90% in north-east Kenya. Al-Shabaab is promising salaries of up to 40,000 Kenyan shillings a month, which is around 500 U.S. dollars: four times the average national wage.
- **Ideology:** Al-Shabaab has been able to take advantage of the spread of militant Salafi ideology in Kenya, as well as economic factors including under-development and large-scale unemployment particularly among the youth. Case studies point to the fact that those joining have done so for both financial and ideological purposes after being indoctrinated by radical preachers or through association in youth organizations.
- **Security responses:** The security response in Kenya has led to a situation for former recruits where they are hunted by both Al-Shabaab for deserting and by the Kenyan Government for allegations of extra-

judicial killings. There is currently mixed messaging regarding amnesties.

- **Role of counter-messaging:** This could be key, especially if it includes the stories of former recruits themselves. If they are given a platform to explain what they saw and were made to do against fellow Muslims, Al-Shabaab will suffer a major credibility blow.



Extremist propaganda used by groups in Kenya to allegedly recruit youth to violent extremist groups (source: International Centre for the Study of Radicalization 2015)

Plenary/group discussion

- The role of religion and religious institutions is crucial (role of madrasah/mosque reform and governance).
- Grievances, including historical grievances, need to be addressed.
- The community plays a significant prevention role, especially in terms of winning 'hearts and minds'

and building trust between the state and the community.

- There is a lack of consensus on the effectiveness of using counter-narratives.
- There is widespread agreement that poverty amongst 'foot soldiers' is a key push factor contributing to the recruitment of youth into extremist organizations.
- Offering social protection services such as, counselling, mental health and community mediation could be key, not least as these services are not always available in Africa.
- Many of the extremist groups have grown and continue to thrive in areas where the government is weak or has no presence; this has been exacerbated where governments are highly centralized and inefficient, and where local services - if present - are not adequately funded
- Knowledge-based and evidence-based interventions are crucial. Given the scarcity of funding, it is vitally important to measure whether efforts are having the intended effect. There is, however, some agreement that it is difficult to measure the success or otherwise of preventative efforts.
- Nimble institutions and strategic communications are essential in the battle of hearts and minds.

Current Responses and Good Practices | 7

This session will highlight good practices with reference to the perspectives of community groups, academia, faith-based organizations, civil society, the UN, government and others. The session will explore potential entry points for action, specifically around education, governance and oversight, counter-narratives and youth work, and explore both prevention and deradicalization endeavours. These opportunities will be critical for identifying potential development responses in Africa.

Presentations

People against Violent Extremism programme: Responding to violent extremism and radicalisation in Australia (Curtin University, Perth)



PAVE proposes three levels of intervention: 'prevention' - which seeks to prevent individuals from becoming

radicalized; 'intervention' - which targets those who have become radicalized (but who have not participated in violent extremism); and, 'reaction' - involving those who have espoused violent extremist beliefs and/or are suspected or actively involved.

The programme combines research and practice. On the one hand it focuses on giving a voice to victims, survivors and formerly radicalized individuals; on the other it supports research on how best these voices can shape responses and programmes through social media, counter-narratives to interrupt online radicalization, and the role of influence and propaganda, including research on why violent extremist propaganda is attractive to some and not others. The programmes also supports peer-to-peer mentoring programmes and looks at how families can be supported.

Through research, programming and reference to good practices, PAVE have identified seven types of preventative initiatives



EU radicalization awareness network

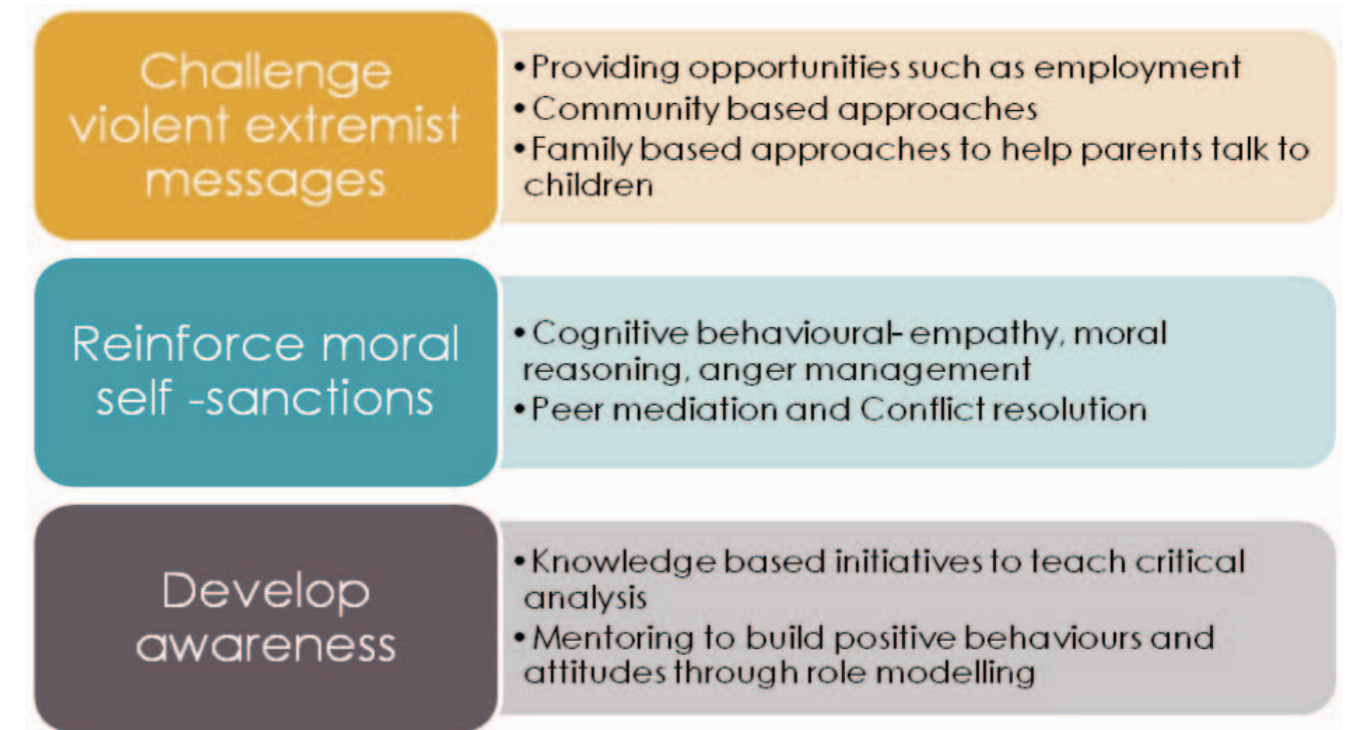


The nature of the phenomenon requires working with a broad range of partners to gain a better understanding of the behaviours that indicate radicalization processes may be underway, and tactics to help counter it. The people best placed to tackle the phenomenon of radicalization are the 'front-liners': people in direct contact with targeted individuals or vulnerable groups. Across Europe, practitioners, researchers and NGOs have extensive knowledge on how to deal with this issue on the ground.

In order to help front-line local practitioners and to facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices between them, the European Commission set up the EU-wide Radicalization Awareness Network (RAN), officially launched in September 2011 by Commissioner Malmström.

RAN is organized into a number of working groups including:

1. RAN POL: Looking at the role of local and community policing in preventing radicalization;
2. RAN VT: Using the voices of victims of terrorism in fighting radicalization;
3. RAN@ : Using the Internet for counter-messaging;
4. RAN Prevent: Early interventions with people/groups most vulnerable to radicalization leading to violent extremism;
5. RAN DERAD: Getting out of radicalization leading to violent extremism;
6. RAN P&P: The role of prison administrations and other actors working in prisons and during probation;
7. RAN Health: Awareness raising in the health sector; and,
8. RAN INT/EXT: What role can the diaspora play in the fight against radicalization.



UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) and Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF)

The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force is the principle means of coordinating the counter-terrorism activities of 37 UN entities, as well as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and Interpol in the framework of the 2006 UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted by the General Assembly.

- At the White House Summit in Washington, DC in February 2015, the Secretary-General announced the development of a United Nations 'Plan of Action on Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE)', which will be presented to the 70th General Assembly Session in November.
- The Plan will set out a coherent approach across the international community and the United Nations system, and will address the context and drivers of violent extremism at the local, national, regional and global levels through a comprehensive 'all-of-society' approach. It will help shift the paradigm from the reactive CVE approach that has not made much headway over the last fifteen years towards a proactive and constructive approach of prevention by addressing the drivers of violent extremism.
- The Plan of Action will call for breaking down the silos to make international efforts in all areas more PVE-sensitive and its institutions PVE-adaptive. As violent extremism affects all four pillars of work in the international community – maintaining peace and security, fostering sustainable development, promoting and respecting human rights and the rule of law, and humanitarian action – the international community must address violent extremism across its work.

UN CTITF CVE work

- **Nigeria:** Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism Initiative supports Nigeria's 'soft' approach strategy, including countering the appeal of terrorism and working with civil society and government. A CVE network has been created.
- **Burkina Faso:** UNESCO and CTITF jointly implement a programme on conflict management, citizenship, democracy and good governance through non-formal education (September 2014-August 2015).
- **SADC:** Assistance in development of a regional strategy.

Faith Associates: Working with faith-based institutions including mosques, madrasahs and imams



Faith Associates recognizes the key roles mosques, madrasahs and Islamic centres play in providing guidance, and the difficulties faced by imams and other key members of these institutions when providing such guidance as well as a good, sound, education experience. Their work focuses on:

- Providing mosques, madrasah's and imam's with insights into effective standards to promote good governance, including compliance, sustainability and integration with the community.
- Developing and implementing effective cooperative governance and building resilience against violent extremism/radicalization.
- Supporting the development of strategic vision, compliance, effective leadership, transparency, and sustainability.

Tools available:

- Madrasah management and safeguarding toolkit.
- Mosque management toolkit.
- Online resources including Imam's online and Madrasah.co.uk.
- Supporting governance, including: finance/accounts, vision/leadership/structure, facilities management, communications, community development, policies and practices, staffing and employment, and accountability and transparency.
- Training including: safeguarding, compliance, collaboration, meeting experts, exploring willingness to improve and change, and benchmarking.
- Risk management assessment tools developed to highlight areas of concern and weaknesses to be addressed.
- Tools developed to ensure greater transparency of funds coming into mosques.

Madrasahs

- Current challenges include major growth in recent years (1:7 ratio of mosque:madrasah), and there are currently no madrasah standards in place and little or no safeguarding frameworks, no policies or procedures, no training for teachers, and no cohesive curriculums in place.
- It is essential to develop standards to: sustain a positive learning environment; improve quality of teaching; help parents understand what madrasahs do; help madrasah staff learn what they need to do; improve management and administration; and, develop relationships with statutory services including schools.
- Developing 'Quality Frameworks' can incentivize improvement in standards.

The Development Response to Radicalization

8

This session identified potential long-, medium- and short-term responses that UNDP may be best placed to undertake at the level of law reform, policy development, research, and programmes at both the country and regional level.

8.1 Socio-economic issues

Many of the socio-economic drivers of radicalization are addressed by UNDP's 'core' programming; these drivers tend to be more pronounced when combined with forms of exclusion, i.e. when certain groups are marginalized from specific socio-economic processes, such as the provision of state services, education or access to livelihoods, thereby creating enhanced perceptions of relative deprivation. Poverty, under-development and relative deprivation can create grievances that can easily be exploited by extremist groups. Poor quality and low levels of education, combined with high levels of unemployment have made youth in particular vulnerable to radicalization processes.

Consequently, programming in this area needs to ensure that socio-economic programming targets those groups that are most at risk of recruitment or the negative impacts of violent extremism, including nomadic tribes, minority clans or ethnic groups, IDPs, refugees, youth, women and children. Programming can include a wide range of activities designed to improve the delivery of basic services, job creation, entrepreneurship programmes and skills-building activities; given UNDP's pre-existing and long-standing programming in this area, engagements should focus on tailoring such programmes to the needs of vulnerable groups, especially in 'ungoverned' spaces where vulnerable populations are particularly at risk. New programming should also be considered if gaps are identified in the work of UNDP, which are not being filled by UN and non-UN actors. Programming in the below areas specifically can be considered:

- **Governance:** Leveraging the private sector to help fill gaps in the provision of basic social services can prove instrumental; however, engagements with governments to provide such services can strengthen state-society relations and is likely to have more long-term beneficial effects. Consequently, public-private partnerships can be particularly useful, especially when the provision of social services also helps create jobs for local communities.

- **Education:** The nexus between low levels of literacy and numeracy on the one hand, and the growth of radicalization on the other has been observed in Africa, especially in the Sahel, north-east Nigeria, north Cameroon, north-east Kenya, and Somalia. Extending both primary and secondary education, and improving the quality of such education, can help children/adolescents/youth to develop critical thinking to challenge radical/violent extremist ideology. Education programmes need to be combined with outreach to ensure the most vulnerable groups are being targeted and encouraged to attend and/or that mechanisms are in place to ensure that reasons children and youth are not able to attend school are being addressed.



A view inside Abu Shouk IDP Camp's Women's Centre, in North Darfur, Sudan, where classes are offered in Arabic, the Qur'an and Mathematics, December 2010, UN Photo/Albert González Farran

- **Job creation/livelihoods:** It is essential to understand the landscape of job creation and livelihoods programming in any given context, to avoid duplication and to help catalyze impact. Job creation and livelihoods programmes must be tailored to target vulnerable populations, especially nomadic tribes, minority clans or ethnic groups, IDPs, refugees, youth, women and children, particularly in 'ungoverned' spaces where the provision of basic social services is low or entirely absent.
- **Empowering marginalized populations:** Radicalization processes are enhanced in contexts where populations are, or perceive themselves to be, marginalized from formal political processes at local and national levels. Programmes should also focus on ensuring the voices of those who are marginalized/excluded are brought into the policy arena.
- **Cross-cutting issues:** There are a wide range of cross-cutting issues, such as anti-corruption, decentralization and gender, for example, where support should continue to help increase government accountability and thereby address some of the causes of radicalization.

8.2 Rule of law and security

Countries where violent extremist groups are present often suffer from weak rule of law, and *reactive* or *over-reactive* security strategies that have the tendency to exacerbate radicalization processes; many vulnerable populations have the perception that they are the target of politically motivated and/or ethnically-biased security practices and unjust judicial systems. Security policies are, therefore, often seen as part of the problem and tend to create further schisms between the state and citizens.

The judicial system can also negatively feed into radicalization processes on several fronts. Many countries, for example, lack the ability to prosecute people involved in terrorist activities, while others lack the ability to protect judges and witnesses who participate in court cases. Similarly, some countries have inadequate investigation and monitoring processes, so that opportunities to prosecute those engaged in acts of violence are missed, or those who are prosecuted then re-join groups associated with violent extremism upon release; this situation is compounded by the fact that while many countries may have counter-terrorism laws in place, few have laws that criminalize violent extremism, creating vital gaps. Many of these gaps could be filled by the tailoring and implementation of

international anti-terrorism instruments, while others would need to be more context specific – forming part of much-needed national strategies on violent extremism.

At the institutional level, much greater coordination is required between criminal justice and law enforcement agencies as often these entities are in conflict, creating confusion for citizens and counter-productive policies and practices; this is particularly true in instances where legal systems are overly centralized, detached from the regions, with weak or low capacity, and where information sharing between these two entities is non-existent or sporadic. Additionally, given the security-dominated approach already mentioned, there is a tendency for 'order' to prevail over 'justice'; this leads to extended detentions without trial and insufficient legal aid provisions for detainees – dynamics which tend to further exacerbate radicalization narratives. Given weak oversight mechanisms and the lack of attention paid to radicalization processes, prisons often provide significant recruiting grounds for violent extremist groups.

At the community level, there tends to be a significant dearth of engagement strategies and community-based responses. Top-down responses dominate and levels of distrust between communities and police are often extremely high. Consequently, rather than being perceived as a force which is there to protect communities, the police tend to be viewed as part of the problem.

- **National strategies:** Supporting governments to develop regional strategies for countering violent extremism and addressing radicalization processes is absolutely key. Approaches should focus on prevention and conflict-sensitive response, and regional synergies to ensure that national strategies complement one another.
- **Strengthened criminal justice systems:** Strengthening criminal justice systems involves ensuring there is effective investigation and fair trial, including protection for witnesses, judges and victims. Prison officers also need training in dealing with the specifics of radicalization processes, with effective deradicalization programmes integrated into prisons systems.
- **Law enforcement and community collaboration:** By enhancing levels of trust between communities and police, communities can become an essential part of front-line strategies to prevent the growth of violent extremism. Community policing, neighbourhood watch and other early warning mechanisms can prove particularly effective, especially when combined with joint programming on how to respond following an attack or attempted attack.

- **Strengthening human rights institutions at the national level:** Strengthening these institutions is critical to ensure there is a balance between law and order in any given response. State and non-state institutions alike would benefit from training and other capacity-building measures to ensure effective monitoring, reporting and assistance vis-à-vis cases of violent extremism.

8.3 Community resilience

Communities form the 'front-line' in efforts to counter violent extremism. While many violent attacks take place on cities, communities on the outskirts of cities, in rural areas, border lands and refugee camps are often the main targets for recruiters. These marginalized communities are often those most affected by under development, poor service delivery and high levels of unemployment, especially amongst youth.

Violent extremist groups prey upon marginalized and vulnerable communities, and are adept at tailoring their strategies and narratives to those groups and individuals whose resilience is lowest. They have also proved themselves to be relatively effective at fuelling inter-communal tensions by targeting particular ethnic or religious groups.

Consequently, communities must also form the target of national, regional and international strategies to counter radicalization processes. By empowering communities to be part of the solution, it is possible to set in motion a reversal of marginalization processes, especially when combined with a broader array of governance and development initiatives. Strategies, therefore, need to focus on helping to connect communities with wider policy processes and arenas; strengthening intra-community cohesion through dialogue platforms and inter faith processes; empowering youth, women and other marginalized groups; and, through developing inclusive, integrated strategies for countering extremism, developed in a participatory manner in partnership with communities.

- **Building the capacity of religious institutions:** In many marginalized or 'ungoverned' spaces, religious institutions provide vital levels of support for communities; they fill governance gaps in terms of education, health and the provision of other basic services, and can also provide a source of psycho-social support, especially for youth. Increasingly, religious institutions, therefore, form a key part of any strategy for countering violent extremism. The resilience and governance capacity of mosques, madrasahs and imams, especially, needs to be strengthened to help create strong and unified approaches to countering radicalization.

- **Inter-religious dialogue:** In order to counter the negative impacts of destructive narratives and violent attacks by extremist groups designed to fuel inter-communal tensions, inter-religious dialogue is imperative. Indeed, both intra- and inter-religious dialogue is necessary in those communities where multiple religious communities are present.

- **Livelihoods:** Communities must be provided with adequate employment and livelihoods opportunities. Engagement strategies should seek to connect business and civil society organizations, thereby expanding the entrepreneurship and employment opportunities available to at risk groups. Prompting a culture of voluntarism can also help strengthen intra- and inter-communal cohesion.

- **Awareness:** By increasing the knowledge and awareness of radicalization processes amongst faith-based organizations, local government and community-based organizations, a network of groups and individuals can be formed to help identify, quickly counter and respond to such dynamics. If the local government is also engaged in such initiatives, the engagement can serve to help build trust and strengthen relationships between government and civil society.

- **Community safety and community policing:** Communities should be engaged in the process of protecting themselves through tailored and inclusive neighbourhood watch groups and other community-based early warning mechanisms. Radio can also be used to support such engagements, helping raise awareness about community-based programmes and how to become involved.

8.4 Knowledge development and research

While our knowledge about radicalization and violent extremism has increased over the past few years, certain gaps still exist; we need more context-specific understanding of radicalization processes, deeper knowledge of recruitment processes, expertise on effective de-radicalisation strategies and whether and how former combatants can be engaged in deradicalization programmes, to mention only a few of the current research gaps that urgently need to be filled.

In addition to these gaps, one of the major challenges associated with research, policy and advocacy in the Africa context is the lack of networks which help connect on-going initiatives in this space to prevent overlap, enhance synergies and address knowledge gaps. A greater

understanding of what has already been completed and/or what is already under way in terms of research would, therefore, be an important first step in this area. Lastly, more effort needs to be made to ensure this research is then translated and integrated into effective programming. Any new research programme, however, should build upon pre-existing research programmes being undertaken by bilateral actors, think tanks and other entities.

- **Information-sharing database:** Information-sharing networks that bring together pre-existing networks and, therefore, serve as research coordinating bodies are required to address gaps and prevent overlaps. An ever-evolving database of practitioners and researchers, for example, could help provide a platform for existing information on this topic, as well as specific, tailored advice in response to requests. Through polling of those engaged in the network – including donors, policy makers, practitioners, researchers and agencies – it would be possible to ensure that the database remains relevant and tailored to needs.

- **Support to practitioners and policy makers:** The database could also provide a platform for practitioners on the ground and policy makers to inform programming and policy making. Practitioners and policy-makers could simultaneously make requests to researchers through the database, and provide advice on where more research is needed.

- **Addressing research gaps:** More context-specific research needs to be undertaken on the drivers of radicalization, funding streams for violent extremism and the role of former members of violent extremist groups – to mention only a few areas where research could be undertaken. While research on how and why people join violent extremist groups is important, it is also crucial to understand how people in similar situations, contexts and peer groups do not become radicalized.

8.5 Technology and media

Media and technology have played an instrumental role in the rise of violent extremism; many violent extremist groups are adept at using social media, such as facebook and twitter, to promote and share their narratives, and recruit individuals nationally and internationally. Traditional media also has a role to play; the way attacks, violent extremist groups and victims are portrayed in mainstream media can help or hinder deradicalization processes; currently, the manner in which the operations of violent extremist groups are portrayed is actually furthering the cause of such

groups by helping to disseminate their narratives and views, thereby fuelling 'us' versus 'them' narratives.

Consequently, technology and media must also form part of the deradicalization initiatives. A diverse body of international agreements already exists on Countering Violent Extremism communications, including the CTITF Working Group on the use of the Internet. However, questions remain around how to develop strategies for the low-tech media, and the highly localized forms of communication that we predominantly see in Africa. Many communities, for example, are connected on mobile networks, but not all communities are connected to the Internet, due to costs and network coverage issues. There are also some concerns around engagement of the state in communication strategies for violent extremism as an overly prominent role for the state can lead to media suppression, and the endangerment of journalists' lives.

- **Social media tracking:** Engagement strategies in this space should include a mechanism to analyse how social media is being used in order to track the emergence and use of propaganda, with a view to informing counter-narrative strategies.

- **Strengthen media-community relations:** By strengthening the relationships between communities and journalists at the local, regional and international levels, it is more likely that a greater diversity of voices will be included in reporting on issues around violent extremisms.

- **Counter-narratives:** While there are wide-ranging views around the effectiveness of counter-narrative strategies, engagements that seek to promote the stories of survivors, the impact of terrorism on communities, and 'front-line' realities could prove beneficial if combined with targeted dissemination strategies. Documentaries, radio programmes and other media engagements need to be promoted in state and non-state institutions, such as schools, universities and religious institutions.

8.6 De-radicalization, security transitions and rehabilitation

De-radicalization and rehabilitation are complex processes that require multi faceted responses which bring together national and local responses. Individuals wishing to leave violent extremist groups too often find themselves in an extremely difficult position: on the one hand they become targets for violent extremist groups, who take a zero-tolerance approach to those who leave ('defectors' are generally executed); and, on the other hand, police and military approaches to such individuals can lead to extra-

judicial killings and extended prison sentences, over and above efforts to rehabilitate and reintegrate them into society.

- **Support to faith-based organizations:** Early warning mechanisms are vital to help ensure signals of radicalization processes under way can be picked up early and acted upon; strengthening engagements with faith-based institutions can be particularly helpful in this regard.
- **Education:** Programmes that further peace education, intra- and inter-faith dialogues and reconciliation programmes can help calm tensions fuelled by violent extremists, and foster greater resilience against radicalization processes.
- **Public awareness campaigns:** Individuals should be encouraged to disengage through public awareness campaigns (using traditional media, new media and direct engagements). Such campaigns should help foster an environment that is conducive to disengagement, helping those who are considering disengaging to understand the processes they will be taken through to help them reintegrate into society. Public awareness campaigns can also serve to prevent individuals from joining violent extremist groups.
- **Strengthened correctional facilities and transitional/rehabilitation centres:** Correctional facilities are currently under-prepared to deal with violent extremists and, as such, can contribute to radicalization processes rather than help hinder them. Correctional facilities and transitional/rehabilitation centres alike must be equipped with effective deradicalization curriculums and qualified staff. Ideally, links should be made with both mentoring and livelihoods programmes. These institutions should be nationally owned to help ensure stability and alignment with ongoing law, order and security measures.
- **Psychosocial programmes and mentoring:** There is a tendency to concentrate on livelihoods programming to the detriment of psychosocial programmes that help deal with the psychological and emotional aspects of deradicalization processes. Individuals who are disengaging from violent extremist groups may be suffering from trauma, and may also experience significant problems reintegrating if they are not provided with adequate support.
- **Community sensitization:** Communities, especially those who have suffered from the impacts of violent attacks, may not be particularly open to receiving individuals who have participated in violent extremist groups. The failure to sensitize communities to the needs of returnees, while

simultaneously ensuring these communities have the capacities to manage conflicts peacefully is vital. This may require on-going dialogue processes, and consideration of medium to long-term transitional justice mechanisms may be necessary at the national level to support local level initiatives.

- **Monitoring and protection:** Ensuring individuals do not relapse and re-join violent extremist groups is absolutely vital. Many may also require protection as, upon leaving, they can often become specific targets for violent extremist groups, keen to enact revenge and protect leaking of vital intelligence information.

1. **A regional project on radicalization** (within the context of the RBA Regional Programme) will be developed which will identify affected countries in Africa to commence country-level and regional initiatives.
2. Through this regional project, and with the support of UNDP's Bureau for Programme and Policy Support in New York, we will have a **dedicated expertise available to provide high-quality technical support to Country Offices' work on violent extremism**, to assist governments and national stakeholders in developing policies and national frameworks, and provide seed funds to initiate national interventions.
3. Complementing this, UNDP will position itself as a knowledge leader in Africa and to that end has launched a **dedicated fund of 100,000 U.S. dollars per year under the Regional Programme to commission ground breaking research on radicalization in Africa**. The first such research initiative will focus on developing a journey map which tracks the transition from radicalization to violent extremism, identifying trends and patterns and key entry points for response. We will be reaching out to academia and think tanks in the region, and will call on the help of all participants to identify institutions to formulate cutting-edge research and knowledge on this issue.



An Ugandan soldier from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) launches surveillance equipment over the town of Qoryooley, Somalia one month after the town was captured from Al-Shabaab militants, 30 April 2014, Qoryooley, Somalia (UN Photo/Tobin Jones)

AGENDA – High-Level Experts Meeting on Finding Workable Solutions to Radicalization in Africa

Annex 1

Day 1 20 July 2015		
08:30 – 09:00	Registration of participants (daily)	

Opening session		
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome Remarks Nardos Bekele Thomas – UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Kenya.	10mns
	Framing the event Abdoulaye Mar Dieye - Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Africa Director.	10mns
	Remarks from Government of Kenya	10mns
	Ambassador Monica Juma, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Interior, Government of Kenya	30mns

Session 1 A: Understanding the conceptual framework underpinning radicalization		
09:20 – 11:00 [120mns]	Introduction to ideological basis of radicalisation - Imam Mohamed Magid – President of the Islamic Society of North America, Executive Director of the All Dulles Area Muslim Society	15mns
	Response a) Mohamed Elibiary – ex- US Homeland Security Advisor and Co-Founder of the Freedom and Justice Foundation b) Dr. Matthew Francis, University of Lancaster	10mns
	Moderator - Abdoulaye Mar Dieye Rapporteur - TBC	+30mns for discussion

11:00 – 11:30	Tea Break	30mns
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Session 1 B: Understanding the conceptual framework underpinning radicalisation – continued		
11:30 – 12:30	How radicalization and extremism is evolving in Africa - Mohammed Adow – Al Jazeera Roving Correspondent Africa	10mns each

	Response - Anneli Botha, Institute for Security Studies Moderator - Mohamed Yahya Rapporteur - TBC	30mns discussion
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12:30 – 14:00	Lunch	[90mns]
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Session 1 C: Understanding the conceptual framework underpinning radicalisation – continued		
14:00 – 15:30	Group work and plenary report back - [***] Group 1 – Conceptual framework of radicalisation and its variations (moderator: Dr Hasan Al-Momani) - [***] Group 2 – African form of radicalization (moderator: Mustapha Abdallah) - [***] Group 3 – Foot soldier and leaders – looking at the journey map (moderator: Wale Adebayo) - [***] Group 4 – Financing extremism in Africa (moderator: Yolande Bouke)	45 mins group work
	Report Back	10 minutes per group report back
	Moderator - Mohamed Yahya	

Session 2: Gender dimension of radicalisation		
16:00 – 17:30	Understanding gender dimension of radicalisation - Melanie Smith – Reseacher, the Institute of Strategic Dialogue	15mns
	Response - Dr. Yolande Bouke, Institute for Security Studies - Shaukat Warraich – Faith Associates	10mns
	Moderator - Nardos Bekele-Thomas Rapporteur - TBC	Discussion 60mns

Day 2 21 July 2015		
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Session 3: Drivers and enablers		
09:00 – 12:30 [90mns]	Ideology, governance and political factors - Socio-economic factors and networks - Role of technology and media - Rule of Law and Security - Foreign policy	10mns each
	Professor Abiodun Alio, Centre for African Studies, Kings College, London	

	Response - Dr Alexander Meleagrou-Hitchens, Kings College, ICSR, London - Professor Isaac Albert, Department of Peace Studies, University of Ibadan	Plenary discussion
	Moderator - Paul Okumu, Africa Platform	10mns
Session 3: Drivers and enablers – continued		
11.30 – 12:30	Continued	
Session 4: Current Responses		
14:30 – 16:00 [90 mn]	a) The UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force - Ms. Rokhaya Diarra, United Nations	10mns presentations
	b) Youth Deradicalization in Kenya - Sheik Hassan Omari – Supreme Council of Kenyan Muslims	
	c) People Against Violent Extremism (PAVE) - Professor Anne Aly - Head of the Countering Violent Extremism Programme, Curtin University & Founder of People against Violent Extremism (PAVE)	
	d) EU Radicalization Awareness Network (RAN) - Harald Weilnböck , RAN Secretariat	
	Moderator - Dr Amr Abdalla, University of Addis Ababa	Q&A 30mns
	Rapporteurs - TBC	

16.00 – 16:30	Tea Break	[30mns]
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Session 4: Current responses - continued		
16:30 – 18:00 [90mns]	e) Imam training and engaging community leaders – The Faith Associate Programme - Shaukat Warraich	10mns presentations Q&A

Day 3 22 July 2015			
Session 5: Development responses to radicalization			
09:00 – 10:30	Break-out groups:	Group 1: Socio-economic and political Facilitator - George Conway, UNDP Somalia	Rapporteur - TBC
		Group 2: Rule of law and security Facilitator - Simon Ridley, UNDP RSC	Rapporteur - TBC
		Group 3: Community engagement Facilitator - Ivan zverzhanovski, UNDP Hub Istanbul	Rapporteur - TBC
		Group 4: Knowledge development and sharing Facilitator - Jean Luc Stalon, UNDP Mali	Rapporteur - TBC
		Group 5: Technology and Media Facilitator - Habiba Hamid	Rapporteur - TBC
		Group 6: De-radicalisation and rehabilitation Facilitator - Fabrice Boussalem	Rapporteur - TBC
10:30 – 11:00	Tea Break	[30 mn]	

11:00 – 12:30 [50mns]	Groups' Report to Plenary	10 mns each
	Facilitator - Sandra Macharia – UNDP RSC	
	Speakers - [***] Group 1 - [***] Group 2 - [***] Group 3 - [***] Group 4 - [***] Group 5 - [***] Group 6	
	Rapporteur - TBC	
Session 5: Meeting conclusions and recommendations		
12:00 – 12:30 [90mns]	Conclusions and recommendations - Abdoulaye Mar Dieye	

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