

# Strengthening Response Capacities of State and Civil Society Actors in Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Coastal States in West Africa (Ghana, Burkina Faso, Benin, Togo and Cote d'Ivoire)



## FACTSHEET

**MARCH 2021-MARCH 2022**

**BUDGET:** US\$400,000

**KEY PARTNERS:** Government of Japan, KAIPTC

### OBJECTIVES

The project aims to contribute to: improved peace and security in West Africa; enhance understanding of counter terrorism and violent extremism strategies; and improve capacity of terrorism and violent extremism prevention and management in the West Africa sub-region.

### PROJECT OUTPUTS

**Output 1:** Increased capacity of border agency personnel and civil society actors to prevent and counter violent extremism and terrorism.

**Output 2:** Improved evidence-based community engagement and cross-country cooperation on prevention and countering terrorism and violent extremism.

### CONTRIBUTION TO SDGS

The project will contribute to SDG 16.



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### DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

Terrorism and violent extremism continue to gain momentum in Africa particularly in the Sahel region. The lethality and recurrence of extremist and militant attacks with indiscriminate targeting of civilian and military populations is particularly worrying.

The formation of the Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims or Jama'at Nusrat ul-Islam wal- Muslimeen (JNIM) in March 2017, changed the dynamics of violent extremism in the Sahel. Emerging from an alliance between Ansar Dine, the Macina Liberation Front, Al-Mourabitoun and Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), the JNIM has rapidly expanded its activities from Mali to Niger and Burkina Faso, with the current geographic focus shifting to Burkina Faso and the coastal West African states.

It is therefore necessary to strengthen the capacity and collaboration of state security agencies and civil society in the coastal states to prevent and counter terrorism and the spread of violent extremism.