

Quarterly Highlights



Oct - Dec 2022



Global Highlights

Ninth Annual Symposium on the Role of Religion and Faith-based Organizations in International Affairs

In January, UNDP was pleased to co-sponsor the 9th Annual Symposium on the behalf of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development. The Symposium was initiated in 2015 from the initiative of faith-based partners, and the 2023 edition focused on the issue of human security, including the intersections of human security with sustainable development, durable peace, and gender justice.



L-R: Moderators Rev. Dr. Liberato Bautisa (Assistant General Secretary for United Nations and International Affairs of the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church + Ms. Nika Saeedi (Team Leader, Prevention of Violent Extremism, Crisis Bureau and UNDP's Global Focal point on MHPSS, Religion and Hate Speech.

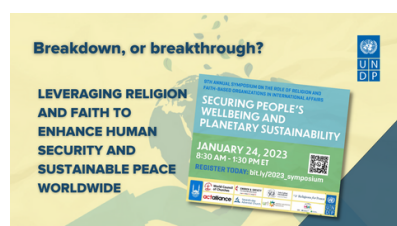
Distinguished speakers included Ms. Ulrika Modéer (pictured below), UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy, UNDP and Dr Samuel Rizk (pictured above, speaking), Head, Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Responsive Institutions (CPPRI) Team, Crisis Bureau, UNDP.



Read more about the Symposium [here](#).



Missed the session? Watch the recording [here](#).



#ExploringExtremism Podcast series

Between December 2022 and January 2023, two new UNDP podcast series were released:



Episode V: [Would I Lie to You? The Weaponisation of Social Media](#)

Episode VI: [Masculinities, Misogyny and Violent Extremism](#)



Tune in and listen at: [PVE Portal - podcast](#) or on [Spotify](#).

Regional Highlights

Asia and the Pacific

The [Creators Forward](#) is a network of creators contributing to social cohesion by sharing positive and inspiring content promoting tolerance and diversity.

In collaboration with country offices and in partnership with TikTok, UNDP brought together 19 creators across Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines,

and Thailand in a series of masterclasses that looked at social change messaging for digital creators in Southeast Asia.

Participants used their strengthened digital skills and creative thinking to produce campaigns that engage their community on diverse topics, including countering cyberbullying, celebrating [cultural diversity](#), and [gender equality](#), and advocating [global empathy](#).

The results:



91 videos produced



over 17.2 million views,



instant boost to respondents' awareness of social cohesion

Watch [this video](#) to learn more, and visit the website [here](#).

Africa and the Arab States

UNDP in [Africa](#) and the [Arab States](#) released the first out of a [three-part Preventing Violent Extremism report series](#) examining the underlying drivers of violent extremism and offering new programmatic and policy responses to address them.



READ MORE

Read the first report, "Perceptions, Vulnerabilities and Prevention: Violent Extremism Threat Assessment in Selected Regions of the Southern Libyan Borderlands and North-Western Nigeria" (published in October 2022) [here](#).

Country Highlights

Kyrgyzstan

A [Low-Value Grants Funding Programme](#) was launched in December 2022 to support Public Prevention Centres to strengthen community resilience and preventive approaches to PVE. [Workshops to train advisory groups](#) began in September 2022 where they discussed the best practices of PVE at the local community levels



UNDP also provided technical support for [Kyrgyzstan's](#) next phase of PVE National Action Plan and assisted in refining the legal framework in the areas of C/PVE - Laws on Countering Terrorism and Countering Extremist Activity. The drafting process included sub and national roundtables and engaged representatives from law enforcement agencies, CSOs, INGOs, human rights defenders, media, local authorities nationwide to ensure inclusivity.

Turkmenistan

Under the Joint EU-UN STRIVE Asia Project, UNDP [Turkmenistan](#) partnered with Beyond Conflict to organise training and seminars for PVE mentor groups covering Mental Health and Psychosocial Support. This raised awareness of the importance of MHPSS for PVE and teaches MHPSS and mentorship skills like coping and active listening.



Credit: [UNDP Turkmenistan Instagram](#)

UNDP also supported the organised youth consultations on "[Opportunities for full involvement and participation of youth in the development of society](#)" by facilitating exchange and networking between youths, civil society and decision makers. This raised awareness on youth participation and intercultural awareness through peer learning, whilst promoting social values of friendship, trust, respect and peace.

Libya

Six municipalities (Murzug, Misrata, Bani Walid, Sebha, Ghat and Zuwara) in [Libya](#) developed action plans and strategies for incorporating PVE, focusing on priorities underpinning social cohesion and sustainability.

The priorities were identified in cooperation with national stakeholders, a unique achievement that will increase awareness about local governance and stability issues, as well as impediments to community stability.

Morocco

UNDP [Morocco](#) released a short documentary on promoting tolerance in the prison environment through the innovative "Peer Educator Approach."

This was carried out as part of the "Support for the DGAPR Strategy", alongside DGAPR and Rabita Mohammadia of Ulèmas.

Watch the documentary [here](#).

SPECIAL FEATURE

Spotlight on UNDP Mozambique's PVE Project



THE CHALLENGE

For the past six years, the province of Cabo Delgado has been plunged into an armed conflict with violent extremist group, resulting in the displacement of nearly one million people and the destruction of many towns and villages. Marginalization, poverty, and latent conflicts associated with the discovery of natural resources such as rubies and liquified gas that do not directly benefit the population are drivers that lead to violent extremism and the breakdown of the social contract. Among the many challenges is the consolidation of trust between citizens and the state.

THE APPROACH:

Consolidation of trust to break the cycle of recruitment into violent extremist groups



TRAINING FOR 60 FRONT LINE POLICE OFFICERS

This session trained officers who were deployed in the areas taken over by the army. The training

consists of building the capacity of the police in police ethics, human rights and the principle of the rights of displaced persons



DONATION OF 85 RADIO SYSTEMS

UNDP provided these to the police deployed in areas recovered by the army



EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FUNCTIONAL AND EQUIPPED

UNDP also strengthened the early warning system of the communities in partnership with the police. This involves organising community dialogues at the village and neighbourhood level to connect communities with the police and providing bicycles, cell phones and solar panels to recharge cell phones.

For more on the Stabilisation Programme in Mozambique, visit [UNDP Mozambique's LinkedIn](#).

Photo credits: UNDP Mozambique

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