

Quarterly Highlights

April - June 2024

Global Highlights



Intercommunal Violence as a Driver of Terrorism in West Africa

On 9th May, UNDP was invited to an expert discussion on "Intercommunal Violence as a Driver of Terrorism in West Africa" organised by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) New York Office and Counter Extremism Project (CEP). This expert discussion is part of the roll-out for KAS and CEP's joint project, "The Deteriorating Security Situation in West Africa," aimed at raising awareness among the international community as to the myriad security threats in West Africa and developing actionable policy recommendations to mitigate these challenges. UNDP highlighted the key findings from the Journey to Extremism: Pathways to Recruitment and Disengagement and also the on-going implementation of the "Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in the Atlantic Corridor".

UN Joint Appeal for Counter Terrorism in Africa: Dialogue with Funding Partners

On 25th June, the UN Joint Appeal for Counter Terrorism in Africa: Dialogue with Funding Partners took place at the UN Secretariat with the participation of representatives from the 16 Member States. UNDP, represented by Nirina Kiplagat, Regional Governance and Peacebuilding Coordinator, was part of the panel discussion highlighting the cost-effective preventive approaches and existing capacities to implement the Joint Appeal initiatives.

Development of a PVE module under Prevention Academy

The CPPB Team embarked on developing a module on PVE under the Prevention Academy. With relevance not only to CO level practitioners but also to partners, the Prevention Academy aims to translate policy and practice guidance and lessons learned into gender responsive, conflict-sensitive, risk informed and preventive approaches on prevention and peacebuilding engagement and solutions. Stay tuned for further updates!



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3rd International Day for Countering Hate Speech

On 18th June, commemorating the 3rd International Day for Countering Hate Speech, UNDP, represented by Helena Sterwe, Team Leader, Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding, participated at the high-level event hosted by the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the UN and the UN office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. Alongside the ASG for Youth Affairs, Felipe Paullier Olivera, UNDP advocated for the engagement of youth peace actors to lead the way through tapping into the full potential of digitalisation and social media. This international day was also complemented by a collaborative [web story](#) with contributions from various COs and Regional Bureaus, which was been read by over 1,300 readers!

Disclaimer: UNDP's Global Hate Speech portfolio falls under the Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Team and aims to address the spread and impact of hate speech as a conducive driver to acts of conflict and violence, including violent extremism.



Source: UNDP CEP

Upcoming Events

- July 2: UN Office of Counter Terrorism Quarterly Briefing to Member States
- July 11: 11th GCTF-UN Counter Terrorism Compact Partnership Consultation
- July TBC: Launch of UNDP-KOICA Peacebuilding and Preventing Violent Extremism in East Africa
- September 21: International Day of Peace
- September 22-23: Summit of the Future

Regional and Country Highlights

RBEC

The UNDP Strategic Dialogue "Bridging Development & Peace in Europe & Central Asia," held on 28th to 29th May in Brussels, was a remarkable joint effort led by the UNDP RBEC, in collaboration with the UNDP Crisis Bureau and UNDP Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy. This event convened UN/UNDP senior leadership, bilateral partners, EU, IFIs, think tanks, and CSOs for a closed-door discussion on the complex challenges and opportunities in sustaining peace in our region. Key discussions highlighted the pivotal role of development actors in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, exploring how our respective organizations are navigating sensitivities and the evolving geopolitical landscape. Participants emphasized key issues such as the risks and opportunities within the digital space, and the need for conflict sensitivity in the EU accession processes. This collaborative platform has established a strong foundation for future initiatives, with concrete follow-up opportunities identified across all sub-regions.

RBA/RBAS

On 10th June, [UNDP and KOICA signed a new Memorandum of Understanding on 10th June to focus on peacebuilding and prevention of violent extremism in Africa](#). KOICA made a financial commitment of USD 20 Million over three years to support African countries, including Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan. The "Peacebuilding and Prevention of Violent Extremism" in Africa aims to promote community resilience through strengthening socio-economic resilience and livelihood capacities targeting at-risk youth and other vulnerable populations, while advancing community-based solutions to peacebuilding and prevention of violent extremism including strengthening early warning and early response mechanism in online and offline spaces.

Under the "Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in the Atlantic Corridor" Project, UNDP organized a [Regional Learning and Knowledge Sharing Workshop](#) to bring together technical leads, project focal points, and communication colleagues from the 5 participating countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo. The workshop was held on 11th to 13th June in Accra, and the aim was to facilitate knowledge sharing and exchange of experiences among the country offices. It gave the project teams a chance to connect in-person and jointly discuss the implementation strategies, lessons learned, and key take-aways from the inception phase to enhance the collective and integrated efforts to achieve the expected results.



For further information about the PVE initiatives implemented in the RBA/RBAS regions, please refer to the [UNDP PVE Regional Newsletter](#).

Kyrgyzstan

The Ministry of Culture, in cooperation with UNDP, hosted a Regional Forum "Youth and Security" in the cities of Osh, Jalal Abad and Batken within the framework of the Concept of Youth Policy for 2020-2030 and the Program of the Cabinet of Ministers of Kyrgyzstan on countering extremism and terrorism for 2023-2027. The event was attended by representatives of government agencies, youth of the city and surrounding areas, as well as university and college students. The meetings aimed at developing critical thinking among young people and preventing religious conflicts and all forms of violence. The regional forum is supported by the UNDP project "Promoting resilient communities to prevent violent extremism in Central Asia", funded by the Government of Japan, and aimed at empowering youth and strengthening national capacity in this area.



Source: UNDP Kyrgyzstan

Montenegro

In Montenegro, young activists united through individual efforts and collective activism to combat hate speech. Through initiatives supported by UNDP, these activists have utilized various platforms to raise awareness and promote tolerance. Enhancing social cohesion, strengthening trust in institutions, and building community resilience against hate speech and discrimination are crucial parts of UNDP's mandate in Montenegro. Following the [promotion of dialogue and joint action against hate speech, sexism, and misogyny](#), UNDP has joined forces with UNICEF and UNESCO to jointly implement initiatives aimed at strengthening citizens' trust in institutions and building resilient communities, supported by the Government of Montenegro and the UN Peacebuilding Fund.



Source: UNDP Montenegro

Country Highlights

Tajikistan

The UNDP Tajikistan Country Office, with support from Japan and Canada, facilitated an open dialogue in collaboration with Tajik and international experts. This initiative aimed to prevent extremism and radicalization and to provide UNDP staff with deeper insights into these issues. The dialogue sessions focused on identifying the root causes of extremism, sharing best practices, and fostering collaboration among various stakeholders. Participants gained insights into the importance of community engagement and the role of inclusive policies in mitigating the risks of radicalization. The sessions also highlighted the need for continuous efforts in building trust and resilience within communities. Through these dialogues, UNDP reinforced its commitment to supporting Tajikistan in combatting violent extremism and radicalization.



Tunisia

Through its Tarabot project "Cohesion to Prevent Violence," UNDP Tunisia supported the National Counter-Terrorism Commission in developing its new National Strategy for Combating Violent Extremism and Terrorism (2023-2027). Approved by the Office of the Prime Minister in December 2023, the PVE team of the UNDP Tunisia country office supported the organization of two dissemination days for the new strategy in Monastir on 28th to 29th May. This event brought together nearly 150 participants, including national institutions, local authorities, researchers, and practitioners. The event highlighted the work done to renew the national strategy and establish an action plan, emphasizing strategic priorities and the role of civil society in implementing concrete actions and advocacy.



Togo

In Lomé, ten analysts from the Early-Warning Center of the Interministerial Committee for the Prevention and Fight against Violent Extremism (CIPLEV) benefited from a capacity-building session in the analysis and processing of data collected in the field. This training, organized by UNDP, enabled them to consolidate their report-writing skills, gain a better understanding of the functioning of the early warning system in place, and grasp the content, functioning, and indicators of the UNDP Crisis Risk Dashboard (CRD). The analysts appreciated the synergies that can be developed to improve the indicators of the national early warning system, and in the end of the session, recommendations were made to enhance its effectiveness and responsiveness.



Uzbekistan

The UNDP Uzbekistan country office supported the Youth Hackathon that took place in Fergana from 26th to 28th April. The event focused on developing digital platforms and tools for skills training, educational resources, creative employment solutions, and innovative ideas to support entrepreneurial and business endeavors. The aim was to engage young people in addressing unemployment challenges, navigating the competitive labor market, and fostering entrepreneurship in the Fergana Valley through modern approaches and digital technologies. This Hackathon was part of UNDP's priority activities in the Fergana Valley, emphasizing youth and women empowerment. It sought to complement and synergize with national efforts, aligning with key government agendas pertaining to the youth such as the "Uzbekistan-2030" strategy and the State programme on the "Year of Support for Youth and Business."

