



# 2021-2022 United Nations Multi-Year Appeal for Counter-Terrorism



## Strengthening social cohesion through participation and advancement of rights among young men and women vulnerable to radicalism

Strengthening social cohesion through participation and advancement of rights among young men and women vulnerable to radicalism in Tajikistan.

### Description of the Project

The project aims to strengthen social cohesion in Tajikistan through effective implementation and monitoring of the new PVE Strategy in line with the principles of do no harm , human rights, gender equality and conflict sensitivity. Innovative solutions will be put in place to strengthen the critical thinking of young men and women to challenge violent extremist related narratives and risks. Case studies will be developed to understand better the mid-term impact of the past/recent prevention of violent extremism (PVE) and youth focused initiatives in Tajikistan

The project will (a) primarily focus on working with and supporting youth focused and youth led initiatives; and will (b) complement these efforts with the policy dialogue at the national and sub-national levels for informed planning and decision making. This may include a review and joint discussion of legislative frameworks, assessment of capacities of PVE actors at all levels, etc. The project will also make efforts to work with offenders servicing custodial and non-custodial sentences. In line with technical assistance needs by identified by CTC/CTED through an assessment undertaken in 2017, the project will also create/strengthen platforms and mechanisms of cooperation and exchange of information on PVE in collaboration with communities and CSOs. **It will build on existing coordination mechanisms at the national level and will support efforts to scale out these efforts at the sub-national level for greater and more focused government and civil society interactions to inform policy change and ensure integrated programming.**

### Rationale

The Republic of Tajikistan is a young country with over 70% of its 9 million population being under 30 years of age. In addition to socio-economic factors, weak rule of law and confidence in governmental institutions are believed to have contributed to the spread of violent extremism and terrorism. In response to the global rise of violent extremism and terrorism acts, Tajikistan was the first country in the Central Asia region to develop and launch the National Strategy on Countering Extremism and Terrorism (PVE Strategy) in 2016 as the main policy framework of the Government of Tajikistan (GoT) for coordination of state policy in countering extremism and terrorism in the country.

However, a lack of detailed mechanisms of interaction and coordination between respective actors working on C/PVE, weak institutional and staff capacity of key government and non-government actors, limited collaboration with civil society institutions and the media and insufficient resources hindered effective implementation of the Strategy. The implementation of the Strategy was also undermined by weak interventions aimed at political and socio-economic inclusion of young people, whose role as stakeholders in efforts to prevent violent extremism cannot be overestimated. There are also concerns about the lack of capacity to effectively manage violent extremist prisoners and returned foreign terrorists within Tajikistan's prisons with serious prison disturbances reportedly involving violent extremist prisoners.

**Building on these lessons learned, a new Strategy for 2021-2025 (C/PVE Strategy II) was developed in close consultation with development partners and CSOs(to be adopted in 2021). These consultations demonstrated a high level of commitment of the Government of Tajikistan for coherent, coordinated and integrated implementation of the PVE Strategy II and its Action Plan.** The PVE Strategy II for 2021-2025 emphasises the need to strengthen the cooperation and interaction between government stakeholders and civil society actors on P/CVE area, build the capacity of respective stakeholders on PVE area, promotion of social cohesion at the local level through political and socio-economic inclusion of vulnerable youth as well as increase awareness of population on violent extremist narratives and risks. National capacities to effectively implement PVE related programmes and initiatives will need to be strengthened on the supply side to ensure regular and systemic coordination and communication of key policy developments informed by the outcomes of the activities on the ground.

The present proposal is fully aligned with the new National Strategy and Action Plan on Countering Extremism and Terrorism Counter-Terrorism for 2021-2025 (PVE Strategy) to be adopted by the Government of Tajikistan in 2021 and originated from extensive consultations with the General Prosecutor's Office of Tajikistan (GPO) as the government body responsible for overall coordination on implementation of the Strategy.

### Outcomes

This project seeks to implement the following overall outcome:

**Overall Outcome:** Strengthening social cohesion through participation and advancement of rights among young men and women vulnerable to radicalism with a particular focus on 10 vulnerable districts covering all 4 regions of Tajikistan.

### Outputs/Indicative Activities

The project will implement the following indicative outputs and activities:

**Output 1:** National legislation and policy frameworks regulating the issues of C/PVE and terrorism provide a solid base for the implementation of inclusive and non-discriminatory support to vulnerable groups in line with international standards, human rights principles and gender norms.

- Analysis of key legislation, policies and programmes related to C/PVE and terrorism in line with international standards to identify gaps and elaboration of amendments/recommendations to the key law, policies and programmes.
- Development of a detailed mechanism for interaction and M&E system to strengthen coordination between state and non-state actors as well as monitoring of implementation of the Strategy both at the national and local levels. (UNDP)
- Establishment of a mechanism for a transparent and inclusive M&E process for the PVE Strategy and international reporting on the implementation of the provision of the C/PVE Strategy. (UNDP)
- Support to the General Prosecutor's Office in development of the PVE Communication Strategy and its Work Plan (UN Women).

**Output 2:** Increased institutional capacity of state and non-state actors on PVE to implement and monitor the PVE Strategy in line with international standards and best practices.

- Needs assessment for institutional capacity development, including measures to improve the practices of law enforcement, civil society, media and other PVE actors' working on C/PVE.
- Strengthening capacity of law enforcement, civil society, media and other PVE actors' working on PCVE area to effectively implement the Strategy including based on developed toolkit with the STRIVE project (UNDP, UNODC and UN Women)
- Capacity building of national institutions and stakeholders on community engagement principles in C/PVE (based on training modules focusing on human rights-based approaches and gender norms) (UNDP)
- Capacity building for the staff of prisons and related law enforcement agencies and other key stakeholders in contact with VE prisoners on prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons and on the management of violent extremist prisoners including women and girls (UNODC)

**Output 3:** Vulnerable groups are empowered to participate equally in socio-economic and political life and are more resilient to radical and violent narratives.

- Trainings for vulnerable youth on livelihood and peacebuilding competencies and involvement in local development and decision-making processes.
- Design disengagement from violence/rehabilitation programmes for young prison inmates and provide related mentoring support on faith-based, psychological, cultural and sports-based interventions, legal aid and contacts with the outside world.
- Awareness raising campaigns by selected civil society organisations as per the developed Communication Work Plan: Initial and Final Assessments of the situation on population awareness of violent extremism
- Facilitate dialogue platforms and outreach events to promote police interaction and engagement with youth so that they can act as regular liaison, build trust and strengthen community relations

### Human Rights Mainstreaming

Human rights standards contained in, and principles derived from, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments (i.e., participation and inclusion, equality and non-discrimination, accountability and rule of law) will guide all project activities and applied in all aspects of Project's work.

### Gender Mainstreaming

The project will have a GEN2 marker and strong focus on **gender equality and women s empowerment** through introducing new approaches and perspectives considering them on the frontlines of prevention efforts. The Project will have targeted gender-specific interventions and apply 'do no harm' principles. To ensure that women equally benefited from the project, all project activities will be inclusive and implemented in a participatory manner. The project will apply efforts to increase participation of women in project activities and involve women in design and delivery of project interventions and in monitoring and evaluation of project results.

The project will combine its partnership strategy along with existing Country Office assessments and advocacy actions to build capacities of local stakeholders to promote women's engagement in C/PVE and peacebuilding processes. UNDP's social and environmental screening will be applied to ensure due consideration to human rights, gender equality and conflict sensitive programming principles. Finally, the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework and the early warning activities will ensure that impact on gender and women empowerment are assessed.

### Budget

\$1,600,000.00

### Pillar

Pillar I -Addressing the Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism, Pillar III -Building States' Capacity and Strengthening the Role of the United Nations

### Project Status

Concept

### Implementation Period

2022-2022

### UN Org

UNDP

### UN Global CT Compact Partners

UNODC, UN Women

### Countries

Tajikistan

### Current Donors

This project is currently unfunded.