



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



Strengthening social cohesion through economic empowerment of religious actors, and through capacity building of stakeholders for the return and reintegration of convicted terrorists and returnees/deportees

The project will strengthen the capacity of religious actors through economic empowerment and to play a more active role in reintegration of convicted terrorists and returnees/deportees in Indonesia.

Description of the Project

Since early 2020, the Covid-19 outbreak caused not only a health crisis, but also an economic crisis. As the pandemic widened inequality by a worsened economic situation, the latent perceived injustice of economic conditions in Indonesia strengthened and hate speech on social media have been spreading during the pandemic. Furthermore, after the fall of ISIS, the return and reintegration of ex-convicted terrorists, returnees and deportees became an emerging challenge in Indonesia.

The worsening economic situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic and emerging issues of return and reintegration in Indonesia have increased the threats of violent extremism during and post-Covid-19. In order to promote smooth and inclusive recovery after the pandemic, strengthening social cohesion of communities is an effective approach to prevent violent extremism, in which religious actors play a key role. **Under an overarching policy of religious moderation, UNDP seeks to strengthen the capacity of religious-based organizations through economic empowerment and to support them to play a more active role in the return and reintegration of convicted terrorists and returnees/ deportees into communities.**

In order to achieve this objective, the project will strengthen the economic capacity of religious-based organizations, such as pesantren and women religious-based organizations, ensuring its sustainability such as helping them connect to other resources for sustainable operation. Also, the project will strengthen the capacity of relevant government institutions, CSOs, community members as well as religious organizations for reintegration. Furthermore, the socio-economic support for ex-convicted terrorists, returnees and deportees will be provided by involving related stakeholders. The beneficiaries of this project will be religious-based organizations, including pesantren and women-led organizations, affected by the economic shock due to the pandemic. The project also targets other vulnerable groups against violent extremism, such as former convicted terrorists and repatriated women and children.

Rationale

In Indonesia, violent extremism and terrorism is still an important issue. In early 2020, the Covid-19 outbreak caused not only a health, but also an economic crisis disproportionately hitting vulnerable groups at risk, such as religious-based organizations. Feelings of economic marginalization became acute, and as such, latent perceptions of injustice were strengthened during the pandemic. Also, the worsening economic situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic increased the threats of violent extremism during and post COVID-19. Furthermore, after the territorial fall of ISIL in Iraq and Syria, the return and reintegration of ex-convicted terrorists, returnees and deportees became an emerging challenge in Indonesia.

In Indonesia, religious-based organizations play an important role limiting conflicts, mitigating religious extremism and protecting stability. There are many types of religious-based organizations, for example, mass organizations or in the form of Islamic boarding schools (Pesantren). Pesantren generally has been one of the most vulnerable education institutions due to its lack of socio, cultural and technological infrastructure to apply distance learning. The suspension of education in Pesantren increases the risk of a significant number of students being exploited by violent extremist groups. As such, strengthening economic aspect of religious moderation during and the post-pandemic period is necessary. Thus, one of the major components of this concept note will focus on the economic empowerment of religious organization, including pesantren.

In order to strengthen the social fabric in Indonesia, the return and reintegration of returnees and deportees are also required. In February 2020, the government decided only the orphaned children of ex-ISIL fighters below aged 10 would be allowed to return. So far, most of returnees are women and children who are mostly non-combatants, but the increasing involvement of women in terrorist attacks would complicate counterterrorism operations. This project will promote and support the socioeconomic integration and empowerment as well as provide counselling and psychosocial support involving relevant stakeholders, particularly facilitating religious-based organizations to play a more active role in this issue.

Outcomes

The project seeks to achieve the following outcomes:

Outcome 1: Religious organizations economically empowered at various systemic levels to ensure sustainability and inclusiveness to prevent violent extremism.

Outcome 2: Strengthened capacity of relevant government officials, CSOs, religious organizations and community members in re-integration and promoting socio-economic support for ex-convicted terrorists, returnees and deportees.

Outputs/Indicative Activities

The project seeks to achieve the following outputs by implementing the indicative activities below:

Output 1: Religious-based organizations economically empowered at various systemic levels to ensure sustainability to prevent violent extremism.

- Intensive training and coaching of religious based organizations, including the women wings of organizations in terms of technical skills, business management and entrepreneurship,
- Providing grants to pesantren (Islamic boarding schools) to address the impact of Covid 19 as well as to promote social cohesion.
- Introduce potential funding sources to strengthen the economic condition of religious-based organizations, in collaboration with UNDP's Innovative Finance Team,
- Conduct policy advocacy on religious moderation to shape business environment for religious actors at the meso, macro and meta level,
- Facilitate collaboration among various religious-based organizations in social entrepreneurship or inclusive business.

Output 2: Strengthened capacity of relevant government officials, CSOs, religious-based organizations and community members in re-integration and promoting socio-economic support for ex-convicted terrorists, returnees and deportees.

- Provide capacity building of government institutions/CSOs/ religious organizations/ communities for the return and reintegration of returnees and deportees,
- Support coordination among government counterparts and CSOs, religious-based organizations and communities on the reintegration of ex-convicted terrorists, returnees and deportees,
- Promote and support socioeconomic reintegration and empowerment of returnees and deportees, such as vocational/skill training in their communities,
- Make counselling and psychosocial support by CSOs, religious-based organizations available and accessible.

Human Rights Mainstreaming

This project upholds the principles of human rights, particularly towards marginalized groups, such as pesantren, which is economically disadvantaged, convicted terrorists, returnees and deportees. UNDP Indonesia as the Implementing Agency will ensure that UNDP's global policies for the application of human rights-based approaches are integrated into its projects and programmes, including considerations with regard to gender equality and the engagement and protection of the rights of indigenous and local peoples.

Gender Mainstreaming

The project will ensure the application of human rights-based approaches are integrated into its projects and programmes, including considerations with regard to gender equality and the engagement and protection of the rights of indigenous and local peoples. Particularly on gender mainstreaming, the project will have activities dedicated to empower women.

Budget

\$4,000,000.00

Pillar

Pillar I -Addressing the Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism, Pillar IV -Ensuring Human Rights and the Rule of Law

Project Status

Concept

Implementation Period

2021-2023

UN Org

UNDP

UN Global CT Compact Partners

Countries

Indonesia

Current Donors

This project is currently unfunded.