



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



Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and Its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism

The Global Programme aims to: a) increase Member States awareness of terrorism-related threats against vulnerable targets in the context of major sporting events and strengthen their the ability to prevent and counter terrorist acts; b) promote sport and its values to build resilience to violent extremism, especially among youth, including through direct support to grassroot civil society organisations; c) to support Members States to integrate sport values-based initiatives within PVE national action plans.

Description of the Project

The Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and Its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism **comprises two pillars addressing: a) the protection of major sport events from terrorist attacks and b) the use of sport values for preventing violent extremism (PVE) with the specific focus on youth and the recognition and inclusion of sport within regional and national PVE action plans.** UNOCT will work closely with international and regional sporting associations, civil society organizations and its network of NFPs to encourage integration of sport and its values into PVE policy. Leveraging the exposure of partner organizations and globally renowned athletes, UNOCT will launch a global media campaign promoting the values of tolerance and inclusiveness through sport and their role in the prevention of violent extremism. This will be complemented by grants awarded to civil society organizations that utilize sport and its values to deter radicalization and extremism in their local communities. Youth-led, grassroots organizations aimed at strengthening the involvement of at-risk youth, empowering girls, and strengthening the resiliency of local communities to violent extremism will be prioritized.

Rationale

Historically, terrorist groups attempted to, and continue to strike sporting events. The dramatic events of September 1972 during the Munich Olympics, the attacks against the Sri Lankan cricket team on March 2009 or the bombing of the Boston Marathon on April 2013 and countless successful and foiled attacks against other sporting events are stark reminders of that reality. **These attacks are not exclusively conducted because of the large crowds or the global media exposure they regroup, but because sporting values represent what violent extremists aim to destroy in our societies and across the world.** Sport is an extraordinary generator of positive values and an unparalleled unifying power, which can transcend civilizational and cultural barriers. Sport and sporting events play a significant role in addressing and preventing violent extremism by promoting the empowerment of youth and women and facilitating integration.

Protecting major sporting events is a key component in the fight against terrorism and entails very complex security and policing arrangements, including securing locations, cybersecurity measures, planning, managing and responding to attacks, communication, crowd management and emergency operations. These critical measures should be in place but very often go far beyond the capability of any one single State and requires high-level international cooperation and coordination, including with other actors such as the private sector.

The organisation of major sporting events pose both unique opportunities and challenges due to the high level and continuously evolving threats. If properly managed, major events may become very important opportunities to increase international cooperation and update and upgrade security standards, resulting in the improvement of the overall security framework. In terms of safeguarding these events, significant effort towards standardisation have been successfully implemented by Member States in partnership with international sport federations. With continuously evolving threats to the security of major sporting events, it is necessary to further increase international cooperation to update and upgrade international security and counter terrorism standards.

To support Member States safeguarding their major sports events, the Global Programme follows a holistic approach to support at the policy and the operational level, in the following areas: information exchange information and best practices, share resources, plan and implement joint security operations, facilitate more proactive collaboration with private stakeholders, integrate the safety and the security dimension, create synergies in the implementation of international PVE programme focused on sport.

In addition, attacks against sports events are particularly condemned as sports have historically played a significant role in the dissemination of positive values throughout the world and across generations and cultures, especially for the youth. Research has demonstrated that sports plays both a positive role in preventing radicalization, promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and facilitating integration at large, making sport a powerful vector for the development of efforts aimed at preventing and countering violent-extremism and radicalization.

Effectively countering the spread of radicalization requires development and peace policies that encourage tolerance, respect and the inclusion of youth and women in society through the promotion of the use of sport and its values as a tool to prevent violent extremism. With a growing global youth population, many of which are vulnerable, PVE policy-makers must identify ways to effectively deliver counter-narratives and to help shield youth extremist narratives. The Global Programme aims to leverage sporting events and values can help prevent radicalization and facilitate the integration of vulnerable demographics to support national PVE efforts aiming to use sport to prevent violent extremism.

Through engagement with Member States, Civil Society, Sports bodies; the Private Sector and Intergovernmental Organizations; the programme provides a multilayered engagement aiming to gather information and identify good practices and challenges at the grassroots and community level, to help advise strategic decisions by policy-makers. In addition, the programme brings Member States representatives and youth leaders together to help establish informal networks and to ensure that civil society realities, including conditions conducive to violent extremism and other critical PVE-relevant elements can be including to PVE efforts.

Outcomes

The project seeks to achieve the following outcomes:

Outcome 1: Advanced policies and practices to enhance the Security of Major Sporting Events and the use of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism are promoted at the highest level among Member States officials and other relevant stakeholders from public and private sectors.

Outcome 2: International, regional and national guidelines, models and good practices to understand, prevent, identify and counter threats against vulnerable targets in the context of major sporting events are available to Member States.

Outcome 3: Member States capacity to prevent protect, mitigate, investigate, respond to and recover from damages from terrorist attacks against “soft” targets in the context of major sporting events is increased.

Outcome 4: Member States capacity to develop comprehensive strategies integrating sports and its values as a tool to prevent violent extremism and radicalization is increased.

Outputs/Indicative Activities

The programme seeks to achieve the following outputs:

Output 1: A global campaign leveraging a high-profile personalities and major sporting events on sport as a way to prevent violent extremism is launched and broadcasted through a variety of medium across the world.

Output 2: Selected Member States gain the capacity to integrate sport into PVE initiatives, including national strategies.

Output 3: Selected civil society organizations (CSOs) gain additional resources to implemented sport-based PVE activities.

These outputs will be achieved through the implementation of the following activities:

- The implementation of a sport-focused Global Campaign against Violent Extremism for which a strategy and design have been developed during the first year of the Global Programme. The global campaign will leverage and promote positive values associated with sports for the prevention of violent extremism. The campaign is expected to gain significant exposure during upcoming major sporting events, which are expected to include the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations; the 2021 Tokyo Olympics; and the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar;
- The development and implementation of a new round of grants to CSOs working on sport-based PVE and peacebuilding activities; more specifically on the use of sport and its values to prevent violent extremism;
- The development and implementation of national and regional events, including high-level events, technical assistance missions and workshops to assist Member States and additional relevant stakeholders in integrating sport within their existing and/or planned national PVE strategies and efforts.

Human Rights Mainstreaming

To comply with the HRDDP obligations, UNOCT will mainstream respect for human rights approaches into all project activities. Having reviewed relevant official documents of UN human rights bodies, Member State officials will be advised on how to ensure the compliance with and the integration of human rights aspects in national security as well as non-security matters.

This will be done by continuing the ongoing coordination with relevant human rights experts from Member States, International Organizations and civil society organizations (CSOs) and human right entities, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG); the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children (OSRSG-VAC); and the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY).

Gender Mainstreaming

The project will pay due attention to gender mainstreaming and relevant measures will be identified and specified in all project activities. National stakeholders will be asked to prioritize the nomination of female officials, thus contributing to capacity building while advocating for advancements in gender parity. The project has a strong focus on promoting the role of women in CT/PVE through engagement in the Youth Leader Forums.

Civil society grant selection will prioritize organizations that work to empower young girls. Guiding documents for identified practices and initiatives in CT/PVE will include specific considerations on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. All Global Programme events and products integrate and highlight the stories of women to ensure public representations of the Global Programme are gender-inclusive. This is something the programme will continue to do.

Budget

\$3,700,000.00

Pillar

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

Project Status

Ongoing

Implementation Period

2020-2022

UN Org

UNOCT

UN Global CT Compact Partners

UNOAC, UNICRI

Countries

Global

Current Donors

This programme is currently funded by the Republic of Korea, Qatar, UN Peace and Development Fund (China).