

Brief Description

"Partnerships for a Tolerant, Inclusive Bangladesh", is a multi-year initiative to understand and prevent violence and extremism in Bangladesh. Currently in its initiation phase (2016-2017), the project responds to the Secretary General's call for every country to develop a coherent and contextual strategy to prevent violent extremism (PVE), while reaffirming the need for inclusive institutions, transparent politics, and a commitment to fundamental human rights. This document outlines UNDP Bangladesh's contribution to this ongoing global initiative.

Bangladesh has made remarkable economic and social progress over recent decades. Extremist violence could undermine hard-won advances, particularly in terms of job growth and overall economic prosperity. UNDP Bangladesh's PVE approach will assess possible drivers of extremism through innovative research, engage key stakeholders, and develop a range of targeted citizen and government engagement activities.

The project has three outcomes:

- 1. Research Facility:** Improve knowledge, understanding, and insight into the drivers of violence in Bangladesh;
- 2. Citizen Engagement:** Enhance inclusivity and tolerance through citizen engagement activities, both on and offline, with a focus on youth, women, migrants and religious communities;
- 3. Government Engagement:** Apply the results of the first two outcomes to sensitize government agencies to emerging global best practices in promoting social inclusion and tolerance.

Bangladesh UNDAF Outcome No 2: Develop and implement improved social policies and programmes that focus on good governance, reduction of structural inequalities and advancement of vulnerable individuals and groups.
Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan:
 Outcome 2: Citizen expectations for voice, development, rule of law, and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance.
Country Project Document: OUTPUT 2.1: Civil society, interest groups, relevant government agencies and political parties have tools and knowledge to set agendas and to develop platforms for building consensus on national issues.

Total resources required:	USD \$4.9m	
Total resources allocated:	Netherlands:	\$288,000
	Denmark:	\$473,000
	Japan:	\$650,000
	USAID (Pending):	\$700,000
	UK(Pending):	\$330,000
Unfunded:	Approximately \$2.4m	

The Government approval letter is attached (No: 09.411.024.00.00.46.2017-62 Date: 03 May 2018)

Agreed by:

UNDP
 Sudipto Mukerjee Country Director UNDP Bangladesh
Date:

I. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) believes violence to be preventable through inclusive institutions, transparent politics, and a commitment to fundamental human rights. Societies and institutions can be made more resilient and less receptive to violence or to the politics of exclusion. Progress involves reforming exclusionary narratives, processes, and habits that are complicated and often deeply rooted: advances may not be achieved immediately, nor easily, nor in a straightforward manner. Stable, peaceful, effective and tolerant communities are an investment towards a more prosperous future for Bangladesh.

As such, the goal in developing programming supportive of tolerance and inclusion is not solely to discredit violence in the short-term, but to reinforce sustainable conditions through an enduring commitment to good governance, human rights, and respectful dialogue. UNDP's legacy of diplomacy and development, its long and fruitful relationship with the Bangladeshi government, and its global experience and network give it the capacity to address the sources of violence, not just its effects.

1.1 Global Initiatives for Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE)

The task of building and sustaining tolerant and inclusive institutions and communities, respectful both of human rights and the rule of law, is an on-going process that continues to test nations and communities across the world. Bangladesh does not face this challenge alone. A global network of policymakers, academics, and practitioners is emerging to address and anticipate both the global, regional and national implications of extremist violence. UNDP Bangladesh plans to make full use of this emerging network, and to contribute new findings to this global discussion.

UNDP has a firm mandate for launching programming in this field. The Secretary General's United Nations Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, released in December 2015, was endorsed by the Government of Bangladesh in April 2016, at the Geneva Conference on Preventing Violent Extremism. The Secretary General's Plan emphasises the need for every country to develop a strategy to prevent violence, assess priorities and potential partners, and to coordinate these plans at the regional and global levels. This is to be directly linked with Sustainable Development Goal 16 ("SDG 16"), which calls on states to promote "peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels". UNDP Bangladesh has also proceeded in accordance with UNSC Resolutions 1325 (Women, Peace and Security), and 2250 (Youth Peace and Security). In August 2016, the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh encouraged the UN Resident Coordinator to develop PVE programming. It was on this basis that the United Nations system in Bangladesh incorporated PVE into its 2017-2020 United Nations Development Action Framework.

1.2 The Bangladeshi Context:

Though violence in Bangladesh is not at levels seen in many other parts of the world, the cumulative impact of many different kinds of violence has likely damaged the nation's society and economy. A 2016 report, commissioned by UNDP,¹ examined public perceptions of violence in Bangladesh and how these may have impacted economic outcomes. Respondents ranked political violence as one of their most prominent concerns (21.8% believed it was a serious problem), though not as critical as either corruption (49.2%) or other criminal behaviour (42.7%). The report suggested that, while Bangladesh has done well economically, Bangladeshi citizens have a strong perception that violence may have prevented the country from growing even faster. Violence was one of several factors which contributed to an estimated foregone GDP of USD \$136.8 Billion in lost opportunities between 1980 and 2013.

extremist attacks since 2005 has most often taken the form of targeted assassinations. 2015 saw a significant increase in these kinds of personalized attacks by violent extremist groups, with 25 targeted killings, up from only two in 2014. The July 1st, 2016 suicide attack on a Dhaka café was the first headline attack on foreign targets, killing 24. Days later, on July 7th, a gathering of over 100,000 Eid day worshipers was attacked in Sholakia, north of Dhaka, killing 4. Unlike previous extremist attacks, these attacks were designed to capture maximum international attention, and

¹ Rahman, Hossain Zillur. Politics, Governance and Middle Income Aspirations: Realities and Challenges. Report. Dhaka: Power and Participation Research Centre, 2016.

were launched fully anticipating the deaths (or martyrdom) of the attackers. These attacks prompted government and international partners to seriously reconsider extremist potential in Bangladesh. UNDP Bangladesh is one of many organizations now looking to map and better understand the scope of the problem, and to propose sustainable means of peaceful change.

1.3 Overview of Possible Drivers of Extremist Violence in Bangladesh

Organized violence in Bangladesh may have different underlying causes or drivers. These may be structurally shaped by broad socio-economic conditions, political grievances, ideological imperatives, or psychological issues, or a combination of these unique to Bangladesh. Drivers can emerge from international politics, national or district-level concerns, all the way down to interactions at the community, family, or individual levels. Furthermore, PVE is a dynamic field where the needs of one country may vary considerably from the needs of another, and where the source and nature of the problem might shift over time.

Violent Extremism itself has a loose definition within the United Nations. The UN Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (2015) comes closest but remains vague, noting that "violent extremism is a diverse phenomenon, without clear definition. It is neither new nor exclusive to any region, nationality or system of belief".² However, though this definition was designed to be deliberately flexible, there are still several critical limiting parameters. The United Nations seeks to approach the issue of extremist violence from as neutral a perspective as possible, to avoid stigmatizing particular groups. Critical UN documents on preventing violent extremism - including the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (UNGCTS, 2006-present) - make clear that the focus must be on "*violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism*".³ This wording was universally reaffirmed by the UN General Assembly in July 2016.⁴

Until recently, Bangladesh has not been a primary focus of conflict research in the region, as much more regional attention has been directed to recent or ongoing conflicts in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka or Kashmir. The Rohingya question in Myanmar has received significant international coverage. It is widely perceived that the Rohingya community have the potentiality to affect a small group of the Bangladeshi population. To understand the depth of the problem, the project will aim to conduct research on the extremist narratives in relation to the Rohingya crisis.

The global literature on PVE posits various sets of drivers that can motivate extremist violence, either independently or in combination.⁵ UNDP Bangladesh summarizes these below, as the economic model, political (grievance) model, and ideological model. Further research will help to establish which of the following (whether alone or in combination) is the most prominent driver of extremism in Bangladesh.

a) Economic Drivers

Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in the areas of poverty alleviation, ensuring food security, primary school enrolment, and gender parity in primary and secondary level education. However, reducing unemployment is still a major challenge as youth constitute one third of total population.

² http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/674

³ Please see the text of the most recent update to the UN CT Strategy at: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/291

⁴ While the UN retains a loose definition of violent extremism, its definition of terrorism is well-established. UNSC Resolution 1566, on "Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts", defines terrorism as follows: "Criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act".

⁵ The Geneva Conference on Preventing Violent Extremism (2016) for example, noted that violence can be the result of an interplay between "Push Factors", that create conditions conducive to violence (human rights violations, poor governance, gender bias, unemployment, etc.) and "Pull Factors", which channel grievances into an appealing extremist narrative (distorted ideologies, appeals to superiority, internet radicalization, etc.). UNDP hopes to have a comprehensive understanding of possible push and pull factors in Bangladesh by the end of the 3-year project cycle.

Possible economic drivers of extremism include widespread under-employment and economic inequality. From an economic perspective, support for extremist narratives may cover an underlying desire for greater economic opportunity. If young middle-class Bangladeshis graduate college but cannot find gainful employment, they may be more susceptible to revolutionary or extremist appeals. While there is little evidence internationally that economic drivers are the primary drivers of extremist behaviour, further research will help to establish whether these economic drivers may combine with other concerns in support of extremist appeals in Bangladesh.

b) Political Drivers (Grievance Model)

Another prominent approach posits that extremism is driven by grievances against political actors and institutions. In this model, extremism is a retaliation against an illiberal political order, or a reaction to perceived national or international grievances. For example, Bangladesh still experiences the effects of military rule which affected the growth of the country's democratic institutions.

Other domestic political arrangements may also be of concern in the rise of violent extremism in Bangladesh. The criminal justice system has struggled to cope with violent protests, extremism and other forms of criminality. Perceived radicalization in prisons is a growing concern.

c) Ideological Drivers

It is also possible that manipulation of ideological or religious sentiment drives extremist behaviour. In Bangladesh, analysis of possible ideological drivers of extremism could focus on rising religious conservatism, a gradual spread of conservative ideals, and other forms of religious change. It is possible, though contentious, to argue that a more conservative form of Islam may also be being imported back to Bangladesh by migrant labourers working in the Gulf⁶.

Ideological drivers appear, on the surface, to possibly have some relevance to violent outcomes in Bangladesh, though underlying conditions may well be more complex. Sporadic violence in Rangpur District in November 2017,⁷ for instance, highlight the often-fragile communal tensions that can lead to attacks on vulnerable communities, whether motivated by religious differences, or as a proxy for other concerns. Additional research will help to establish the degree to which ideological and theological differences motivate such violence in Bangladesh.

II. PROJECT STRATEGY

The Partnerships for a Tolerant, Inclusive Bangladesh (PTIB) project is a three-year initiative designed to assess and respond to the identified drivers of extremist violence in this country.

2.1 Theory of Change

This project proposes to create change by empowering, strengthening, and expanding existing grassroots networks promoting peace and tolerance across Bangladesh. Given the size and diversity of Bangladesh's population, however, UNDP proposes to maximize its impact by focussing on assisting key segments of society. This involves prioritizing demographic groups deemed most vulnerable to extremist narratives and messaging, and those segments of society best placed to naturally and strategically obstruct the spread of extremist or violent attitudes. In other words, if extremism is viewed as contagious, UNDP wishes to assist those most vulnerable to catching it, and empower those who appear most resistant to its spread. This emphasis on identifying and further promoting promising local initiatives will ensure that calls for peace and inclusion are firmly rooted in Bangladeshi history and local context.

The first step in this process has been to identify probable drivers of violence and extremism in Bangladesh through credible, independent research. Pilot research on this topic, commissioned by UNDP in 2016, has already yielded promising results, and helped to suggest key areas for intervention. It is with these recommendations that UNDP has planned its engagement strategy

⁶ Violent Extremist Narratives and Social Media in Bangladesh. Report. Ottawa: SecDev Group and UNDP, 2017.

⁷ See <http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/mayhem-over-facebook-post-1489402>

around four key segments of society: youth, women, migrant labourers, and religious leaders. The rationale in choosing these four groups is as follows:

1. Youth – Globally, youth appear to be particularly vulnerable to extremist rhetoric, though this is not as visible in Bangladesh as in many other countries. The Holey Artisan Bakery attackers on July 1, 2016, for example, were predominantly young men from relatively affluent backgrounds. While the internet has brought enormous opportunities to Bangladesh, it also brings potential risks, including access to extremist content from other parts of the world. Although relatively few Bangladeshis appear to interact with violent extremist content online (between 0.05 and 0.8% of Bangladeshi Facebook users),⁸ this small group is very active on social media and may grow as millions more Bangladeshis gain access to the internet. UNDP's theory of change regarding youth and PVE thus involves a heavy focus on "digital literacy", or improving young people's capacity to spot fake news and become more digitally aware when online. If youth are empowered to engage more skeptically and safely online, UNDP expects they will become more resistant to divisive, exclusionary and violent rhetoric. This youth engagement strategy is also applicable to communities affected by the Rohingya crisis in Cox's Bazaar district.
2. Women – UNDP views gender as an essential dynamic that must be prominently incorporated into all UNDP programming. UNDP's theory of change for gender and PVE acknowledges that women can play a powerful role in supporting extremist narratives, but also as promoters of peaceful alternatives. Mothers, in particular, may be key in helping to prevent violent extremism within or between families. Further, Bangladesh is famous for having developed powerful community-level women's clubs and networks, including female community policing schemes. Many of these womens' groups were started for other purposes, including those supported by UNDP Bangladesh's own National Urban Poverty Reduction Program (NUPRP). UNDP is interested in exploring means of helping activate these networks to prevent extremist violence. These activities aim to empower women to act as prominent and eloquent champions of peace and inclusivity, helping society to resist the spread of violent or exclusionary ideologies.
3. Religious Leaders – Traditional religious leaders of all faiths retain enormous social and moral influence in Bangladesh. However, preliminary UNDP research suggests that religious incitement, often in the form of fake news and deliberate misinformation, appear to be significant drivers of violence. One UNDP study reveals that this was particularly true during anti-Hindu violence in October-November 2016.⁹ UNDP's theory of change recognizes that religious leaders can be critical community gatekeepers whose presence and influence, where supportive of peace, should be encouraged and amplified. A focus on community leaders of different faiths (interfaith) and from different sects within the same religion (intra-faith) will help to engage a broad range of religious perspectives.
4. Migrant Workers – UNDP pilot research has suggested that Bangladeshis are particularly vulnerable to extremist narratives and propaganda when they move abroad. Initial results indicate that migrant workers in Singapore, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain may be up to 400% more likely to interact with violent extremist content online than Bangladeshis in Bangladesh.¹⁰ UNDP's theory of change for migrant workers involves incorporating PVE elements into the training given Bangladeshi migrants before leaving the country. If migrants can be better forewarned about the key extremist narratives they may encounter abroad, and their consequences, UNDP hopes that they will be better able to recognize and reject extremist appeals.

2.2 Learning Lab: Applying Bangladeshi Best Practices and Global PVE Efforts

While most projects have a learning component, the PTIB project proposes to structure its learning mechanisms to be integrated and responsive to emerging trends. This will involve expanded,

⁸ Violent Extremist Narratives and Social Media in Bangladesh. Report. Ottawa: SecDev Group and UNDP, 2017.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

comprehensive and independent monitoring and evaluation activities, and regular training for UNDP project team to become experts in, and contribute further findings to the evolving PVE field.

Unfortunately, given current global trends, extremist violence is likely to remain on the international agenda for many years to come. As such, UNDP recognizes that the PTIB project may well be the first of a series of such projects in Bangladesh. Learning what works is an investment that will hopefully reap peace dividends in the future.

The "Learning Lab" will thus focus on three key elements: Integrating and adapting new research into PTIB project programming, building the capacity of all PVE partner practitioners in Bangladesh, and producing new knowledge products that can contribute to a global discussion on PVE best practices. They are summarized in the following table:

<p style="text-align: center;">LEARN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Build the Capacity and Understanding of PVE Practitioners in Bangladesh (UNDP and Partners)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">INTEGRATE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weave the Findings of New Research, Experience, and Independent M&E into the PTIB project</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SHARE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contribute Bangladesh Results to a Global and Regional PVE Discussion</p>
<p>Rationale: As an emerging field, few true PVE experts exist, and it is important for practitioners to be up-to-date on the latest thinking and results to help design effective and sustainable PVE activities.</p> <p>Proposed Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for UNDP and partners to network at regional and global conferences on PVE, both to present ongoing Bangladesh initiatives and solicit feedback from global experts, and to learn from experiences elsewhere to incorporate new ideas into Bangladesh programming; • Support for project team to learn from UNDP experiences elsewhere (regionally and globally), including regular discussions on other PVE initiatives operated by UNDP and partners; • Support for Bangkok Regional Hub to train UNDP Bangladesh project team on regional approaches and standards. 	<p>Rationale: An experimental project should be flexible and responsive to new trends. New evidence will be actively built into the PTIB project in the following ways:</p> <p>Proposed Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly meetings to review project priorities, based on quarterly research updates, new research, and responses to local and global events; • Review potential opportunities for integrating PVE into existing projects in other fields, as a cross-cutting issue; • Regular meetings and outreach through the Bangladesh Peace Observatory, to inform better policy and reporting among civil society organizations and media; • Independent Monitoring and Evaluation, to ensure UNDP activities are effective and targeted; • Sponsoring global and regional experts to come to Bangladesh to evaluate UNDP programming, and provide assistance and recommendations. 	<p>Rationale: Successes and failures in Bangladesh can help to shape the PVE strategies of countries in the region and around the world. UNDP should share its strategy and data to encourage this process.</p> <p>Proposed Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of an online space, (possibly affiliated with the RESOLVE online library or the Bangladesh Peace Observatory – "BPO", described later) where UNDP Bangladesh research and insights can be assembled and accessed as they become available; • Independent evaluation integrating Bangladesh experiences with global trends; • Learning products that summarize UNDP findings on substantive or methodological questions; for instance, getting an independent contractor to produce a podcast covering elements of their data-collection methodology and its implications for future PVE analyses, to be released online for other practitioners abroad to use.

2.3 Selecting and Monitoring Activities: SMART Criteria

After reviewing a range of best practices, and in line with the Secretary General's and UNDP's guidelines on preventing violent extremism, UNDP Bangladesh has identified five key criteria for upcoming programming that will help ensure maximum impact. To be successful, UNDP must also

be prepared to learn from potential failures, and has thus designed its PTIB activities to be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely (“SMART”).

i. SPECIFIC

UNDP Bangladesh encourages programming that is grounded, not in rhetoric or assumptions, but in hard data. All PVE programming must be justified by reliable, independent, professional-grade research. At-risk segments of the population must be clearly and precisely identified, whether by region, class, gender, or other affiliation. Thought must be given to challenges at the individual, community, regional and national levels in promoting tolerant and inclusive institutions, and where UNDP Bangladesh programming might best meet a legitimate and pressing need. International best practices must also be thoroughly understood, with serious thought given to their integration in the Bangladeshi context. Partnerships with thought-leaders, both nationally and abroad, must drive UNDP identification and assessment of the problem, and inform a realistic program for change. This is in line with recommendations by independent think tanks, including the Global Centre on Cooperative Security, which has noted “initial efforts at community engagement for counterterrorism made simplistic, linear assumptions about the radicalization process. Rather than targeted interventions, the initial tendency was to lapse into a one-size-fits-all approach”.¹¹

As described above, UNDP Bangladesh will focus on a number of well-defined facets of the wider PVE problem, with clear objectives and indicators for measuring progress. Core programming should distinguish between elements that are PVE-specific, not just PVE-relevant. While UNDP guidelines also caution about developing PVE programming that is too narrow or one-sided, the PTIB project aims to balance breadth and specificity.

ii. MEASURABLE

Project activities need to demonstrate measurable impact to be considered effective. It is essential that all project outputs are monitored by a robust, efficient, and results-driven system that can measure changes in attitudes. A major challenge this project faces, however, is that few baseline indicators exist against which this project can reliably mark progress. UNDP is aiming to correct for this through the establishment of the Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO, see description below), which researches violence across the country. More broadly, it is intended that this project’s activities might, in their success or failure, also help to establish a national baseline, and inform a more comprehensive and specific strategy as the knowledge base grows. If an initiative does not have positive results, this too is a valuable contribution to an emerging set of international best practices, and to all stakeholders’ understanding of the subject in Bangladesh.

UNDP’s results-based learning approach will also highlight the capacity-building needs of local implementation partners. Surveys, evaluations, and independent monitoring will help to ensure UNDP is effective at addressing the concerns and strengthening our partners’ capacity to deliver and to innovate. The establishment of the Learning Lab will allow for collaborative partnerships to increase the collective understanding of PVE challenges and opportunities. Aside from quarterly updates from the Learning Lab, individual activities will also be reviewed in mid-term and final assessment reports, to ensure learning.

iii. ACHIEVABLE

Programming must be achievable on two fronts: a) achievable in relation to the local cultural and political context, and b) achievable in relation to UNDP’s capacity and mandate.

- a. The Bangladeshi context is unique. Programming should acknowledge the following major areas, among others, where Bangladesh differs dramatically from its global peers, and adapt best practices accordingly:
 - i. Population density: In 2016, Bangladesh’s population reached approximately 166 million, making it one of the world’s most densely populated countries. Density of networks, whether peaceful or violent, in person and online, may be more important in Bangladesh than in other countries looking to implement PVE projects;

¹¹ Peter Romaniuk, “Does CVE Work? Lessons Learned From the Global Effort to Counter Violent Extremism,” Global Center on Cooperative Security, September 2015, p. 16.

- ii. Economic Conditions: Bangladesh is a lower middle-income country (LMIC), aiming to move to middle income by 2021. Though GNI per capita has been rising steadily, over 40 million Bangladeshi citizens live on less than \$2 a day, with schooling and other services sometimes provided by independent charities with political or religious leanings. The extent of poverty, both urban and rural, in Bangladesh may alter the transferability of best practices from elsewhere;
 - iii. Political Conditions: Political divisions, and the legacy of decades of intense political competition between parties, add a unique dimension to violence in Bangladesh that may not have been experienced in the same way elsewhere;
 - iv. International Context: Bangladesh does not have much experience with the sort of suicide attacks witnessed in Dhaka in July 2016. Official and societal responses to terrorism are very different in Bangladesh than in countries where such violence is more routine.
- b. UNDP guidelines produced at the Global Meeting on Preventing Violent Extremism & Promoting Inclusive Development, Tolerance & Diversity in Oslo, March 2016, list “promoting a rule of law and a human-rights based approach” as the very first of eleven critical “building blocks” that should underpin UNDP support for inclusive society programming. This is central to the UNDP’s mission as an organization, and cannot be compromised. While short-term responses to extremist violence around the world regularly see government crackdowns that violate individual freedoms in the name of security, UNDP does not believe these measures to be sustainable. UNDP’s role in Bangladesh will therefore focus on the developmental, sustainable objective of supporting tolerant and inclusive societal institutions.

iv. RELEVANT

Though programming in all fields of development aims to be relevant and impactful on some level, the need for local ownership takes on added importance in the context of supporting tolerant institutions. UNDP Bangladesh’s role must be, wherever possible, to support Bangladeshi initiatives, and to empower Bangladeshi nationals as the central actors. UNDP programming must facilitate, assist, and enable these discussions. This is in line with the UN Secretary General’s Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, which lists “Engaging Communities” as the third of seven priority areas to take action. Youth, Women, advocacy, media, religious and academic partners are the real agents of change in Bangladesh.

v. TIMELY

When responding to a threat as high profile and shocking as extremist violence, the focus has too often been on short-term solutions that, in an attempt to regain swift control over the problem, strain both resources and relationships. Though sometimes necessary, this is not an effective way to create lasting change, to forge enduring partnerships, or to support inclusive institutions. The ideal is to create tolerant society programming whose impact is designed to strengthen over time, to the point that progress is not only maintained, but continues to expand independently. Short-term responses to day-to-day violence must complement a range of longer-term, sustained projects that help to bolster Bangladeshi society’s ability to act compassionately and peacefully in a crisis.

All projects shall also adhere to a pre-approved workplan, schedule and budget, and will meet regular reporting deadlines. All activities should be completed within the three-year time-frame. Should further activities be deemed worthwhile and necessary, an extension period or a second phase of the project will be considered at that time.

III. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The objectives of the project’s three outcomes are as follows:

Outcome 1: RESEARCH FACILITY: Improve knowledge, understanding and provide insight into the drivers of violence in Bangladesh;

Outcome 2: CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT: Enhance inclusivity and tolerance through social engagement activities, both on and offline, with a focus on youth, women, migrants and multi-faith communities;

Outcome 3: GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT: Combine results from the first two outcomes to sensitize government agencies to emerging global best practices when developing policies that promote social inclusion and tolerance.

1. Research Facility (Outcome 1)

Rationale and Overview, Research Facility: Effective responses to public policy challenges depend on reliable, up-to-date evidence. In Bangladesh, PVE is a field with little-to-no established baseline.¹² Research into violence across South Asia has more often been focused on India, Pakistan or Afghanistan, while Bangladesh has received scant attention by comparison. As such, UNDP's primary task is to better understand the scope and nature of violence in Bangladesh, against which a PVE activity's impact can be measured.

Outputs and Activities:

Output 1.1 Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO) Maintained and Updated¹³: Hosted by the University of Dhaka, the BPO aggregates and maps violence across Bangladesh. The platform is already in its beta version; assistance is requested to expand and maintain it. The BPO uses a combination of open data and media reports, but will be expanded to integrate further data sources and a standardized coding procedure. The BPO also produces targeted analyses and bi-monthly updates, identifying new avenues for research. UNDP aims to further improve the methodological and technical capacity of researchers, media and CSO actors in collecting, coding, interpreting and promoting BPO data.

Output 1.2: Four Types of Research Publications Produced on drivers and dynamics of violence, including:

- a) BPO bi-monthly updates, reviewing recent literature and data, and updating recent BPO activities;
- b) BPO violence trend analyses, presenting recent data and trends on violence in Bangladesh;
- c) Regional micronarratives, examining regional and local experiences and their connection to violent attitudes;
- d) Quantitative national surveys, measuring national and regional attitudes towards peace, violence, and related issues;

Outcome 1 assists the BPO to aggregate data, but the Research Facility consists of more than just the Observatory itself. UNDP plans to promote this new data to engage with researchers in other countries, helping to integrate Bangladesh into a global network of researchers and practitioners. A variety of qualitative and quantitative methods will identify which dynamics push at-risk individuals to intolerance and extremism, and how this process might be peacefully interrupted.

Output 1.3 Capacity Building Assistance Provided to civil society, academia, media, and government partners to apply and adapt research findings in Bangladesh;

Output 1.4 Tools for PVE Mainstreaming Developed for partners to help them incorporate PVE insights and research into other ongoing projects;

The Research Facility will link data insights to media and civil society, leading to improved advocacy and informed policymaking. A series of tools will be produced, accessible online, that can be used by civil society or other partners to integrate PVE concepts into ongoing initiatives in related areas.

¹² Previous data initiatives, notably one run by the University of Dhaka's Micro-Governance Research Initiative (MGR), in partnership with the University of Ghent, Belgium, expired in 2013, just as extremist violence began to increase. Moreover, MGR's dataset has been used mainly to inform a small number of journal articles and was not accessible to external parties. The Bangladesh Police also publish crime data periodically, but their data lacks standardization, clarity, and granularity. Other international academic entities have collected and published data on Bangladesh, but their accessibility and impact have been limited.

¹³ In 2016, UNDP Bangladesh assembled a consortium consisting of the University of Dhaka, government security services and statistical agencies, civil society groups, and media outlets to establish Bangladesh's first public violence observatory. The observatory compiles available police data, media reports, and other partial datasets into an easily-accessible and interactive format.

Output 1.5 As described above, the “**Learning Lab**” will incorporate new research findings, skills training for UNDP project team, and independent monitoring and evaluation to strengthen the project over time, and contribute to global PVE best practices. The “**Learning Lab**” will thus focus on three key elements: Integrating and adapting new research into PTIB project programming, building the capacity of all UNDP and PVE partner practitioners in Bangladesh, and producing new knowledge products that can contribute to a global discussion on PVE best practices.

PVE and Rohingya Research: Persecution of the Rohingya community in Myanmar has caused large numbers of Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh, causing a humanitarian crisis in Cox’s Bazar and nearby districts. It is widely perceived that, allegations of religious persecution against Muslims in Myanmar may attract the attention of global extremist networks. To understand the depth of the problem, the project is considering commissioning research to investigate any possible extremism in relation to the Rohingya crisis.

Risk Mitigation, Research Facility: UNDP Bangladesh will work hard to involve government agencies as both suppliers and consumers of data produced by the research facility. Violence can be a sensitive political issue, and it is critical that government agencies continue to recognise that reliable information is an essential tool in improving services and in promoting tolerance and peace.

The Research Facility concept is built on the presumption that Bangladeshi academics have the capacity and the methodological understanding to produce robust, high-quality research on this complicated subject. Though this is a critical assumption, UNDP’s positive experience running pilot research with the University of Dhaka, BEI and BISS has made UNDP confident that Bangladeshi partners possess ample capacity for this sort of research. Even so, UNDP plans to build domestic research capacity further, by sponsoring training and methodological discussions with researchers, and to ensure researchers deliver products to UNDP’s global standard.

2. Citizen Engagement (Outcome 2)

Rationale and Overview, Social Engagement: UNDP Bangladesh proposes to apply the findings of the Research Facility (Outcome 1) and strategically empower local Bangladeshis who promote peaceful alternatives. UNDP’s citizen engagement strategy has two areas of focus: online engagement and offline engagement. This distinction is based on preliminary UNDP research which suggests that the internet may play a significant role in the spread of violent or intolerant narratives in Bangladesh and among Bangladeshi diaspora communities.

UNDP plans to empower a wide range of actors already working to promote tolerance on the ground. Valuable grassroots initiatives promoting peace and tolerance do exist across Bangladesh, but they are often under-funded and sometimes lack focus. These groups take various forms, often addressing inter-faith dialogue, violence against women and girls, or youth empowerment. Thus far, UNDP has been deliberately cautious in choosing which elements of offline engagement to pursue, given the potential security risk that comes with promoting organizations or narratives that contradict violent or intolerant appeals.

An initial focus on youth, migrant workers, and religious/ inter-faith leadership is justified by the pilot research. A focus on gender issues will also be supported throughout the project, in recognition of the unique pressures faced by women and girls as targets of violence.

Outputs and Activities:

Output 2.1 Quarterly Research Reports on Online Extremist Narratives Produced: In 2016, UNDP Bangladesh commissioned two specialist internet mapping companies to investigate and analyze extremist talking points on popular online platforms, including Facebook and Twitter. Fake news, deliberate misinformation and online religious incitement were flagged as significant drivers of violence. Regular research updates will help UNDP construct a more consistent picture over time, and to establish a baseline responsive to national trends.

Building on the methodology developed in the original baseline studies, UNDP will hire a contracted firm to repeat and produce regular and standardized analyses mapping the evolution,

spread, scope and influence of online extremist communities in Bangladesh. Research will examine the following:

- a. The range of violent extremist and exclusionary rhetoric in Bangladeshi cyberspace, outlining which issues are most salient to online communities of Bangla-speaking sympathizers;
- b. Estimates of the number of Bangladeshis attracted to, and active in supporting extremist narratives online, both inside and outside the country, as well as tactics used by extremists to attract sympathy and support;
- c. Important target audiences and key narratives that could form the basis of peaceful and inclusive counter-narrative programming, supported by either UNDP or partners;
- d. A better understanding of whether economic inequality, development, or human rights concerns in Bangladesh or among the Bangla-speaking diaspora shape violent or exclusionary narratives online.

The reports will pay special attention to content targeting Bangladeshi migrant workers abroad. This focus will be useful in relating PVE concerns in Bangladesh to regional trends, and may well inform UN programming in related fields.

The proposed research will also have a focus on how the Rohingya crisis is being used by extremist groups on social media. The pilot report, released in July 2017, noted that the persecution of Rohingya in Myanmar appeared to be a common grievance cited by international terrorist groups online. However, the pilot report was not instructed to analyze the Rohingya in detail. Moving forward, UNDP intends to commission follow-up reports on Bangla narratives which will also look specifically at how the Rohingya issue is framed by Bengali extremists and international networks, and the degree to which the Rohingya themselves interact with extremist content. Future reports will also break down extremist interaction online by region and district in Bangladesh, to establish an estimate for the level of extremist support online originating in Cox's Bazaar.

Output 2.2 Digital Khichuri Challenges Held: UNDP's online engagement strategy is based around Digital Khichuri Challenges – interactive events where teams of young people compete to produce digital platforms that promote a tolerant or inclusive vision of Bangladeshi society. Sponsored and facilitated by Facebook, these challenges empower local Bangladeshi content creators to recast Bangladesh's tolerant spirit in a digital format. These activities will be themed to respond to intolerant narratives identified by the online research described above.

The pilot Digital Khichuri in November 2016 was a qualified success, and a new localized model shall be employed in cooperation with the Bangladeshi government's ICT Division in 2017. These bi-lingual events will have a competitive selection process to choose male and female participants from different backgrounds. 30-60 young participants will work collaboratively with established cultural or technological mentors and judges. Further Challenges should take place at least 4 times per calendar year, developing a network of youth winners and online social enterprises.

Output 2.3: Women Engaged on PVE:

- a) RESEARCH on the specific role women can play in preventing violent extremism in Bangladesh or abroad;
 - b) WORKSHOPS to train and orient mothers on PVE issues, including Digital Literacy training to help them recognize divisive or incendiary rhetoric (applicable in Cox's Bazaar);
 - c) CAMPAIGN to popularize or spread information about female Bengali historic figures, with an emphasis on how they advanced society as progressive women of multiple faiths and backgrounds;
 - d) CULTURAL EXHIBITION showcasing the contributions of women of multiple faiths to a collective Bangladeshi identity;
 - e) WORKSHOPS and DIALOGUE sessions on PVE from a gender perspective;
- The above activities will be run in partnership with national womens' networks organized through both civil society and government. The goal is to involve both rural and urban women, from a cross-section of the population.

Output 2.4: Migrant Workers Trained:

- a) RESEARCH to understand extremism in migrant communities from Bangladesh and in

regional countries;

- b) MICRONARRATIVE research looking at extremism among Bangladeshi migrant workers in the Maldives to understand the interaction between Maldivian extremist networks and Bangladeshi migrants (in cooperation with UNDP Maldives);
- c) MATERIALS and TRAINING, conducted and developed in consultation with the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), to raise awareness of common extremist recruitment tactics before migrants leave Bangladesh;
- d) CAMPAIGN promoting online safety and critical thinking for Bangla-speaking migrants prior to departure from Bangladesh (conducted with recruiting agencies and BMET);

Output 2.5: Youth Engaged on PVE Themes:

- a) RESEARCH into extremist attitudes among the youth population from diverse backgrounds;
- b) TRAINING to improve Digital Literacy and online safety, to teach youth to identify fake news and think critically;
- c) CAMPAIGN to promote tolerance and inclusivity among youth groups, and support for youth organizations to incorporate a PVE element into existing programming;
- d) CONFERENCE support to send Bangladeshi youth delegates to regional, national and international peace conferences and challenges, with an emphasis on South-South cooperation;

Young people are crucial to preventing the spread of hateful and violent messages, both as a target demographic but also as proper agents of enduring change.¹⁴ “Empowering youth” is recognized by the Secretary General’s Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism as one of seven priority areas to take action, and is also enshrined in UN Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security.

UNDP Bangladesh’s youth strategy involves helping young people to develop critical thinking skills to question any divisive or inciteful rhetoric they may encounter online. UNDP also has significant experience promoting peace and dialogue among vulnerable youth through its Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF) project, and this successful youth engagement format from the CHT region may be effective in other parts of the country. UNDP’s PTIB project will pair youth engagement strategies that were successful in CHT to a digital literacy theme applicable at the national level and in other parts of Bangladesh.

Output 2.6: Religious Leaders (Inter and Intra-Faith) Empowered to Promote Peace:

- a) RESEARCH to better understand the theological discussions online that motivate extremism, and how to produce effective religious justifications for peace;
- b) STUDY TOURS to Japan for prominent religious leaders (as per a standing Japanese invitation), to witness ways of harmonizing traditionalism and modernity;
- c) DIALOGUE for community leaders and youth groups of different faiths (implementable nationally and in Cox’s Bazaar district), and;
- d) CONFERENCE support to send Bangladeshi religious leaders to conferences discussing peaceful and tolerant religious interpretations.

Possible Engagement with Rohingya and Host Communities in Cox’s Bazar: Though the above activities are planned at the national level, district and community-level PVE activities in Cox’s Bazar district are under discussion, given the challenges facing Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi host communities there. Activities may focus on helping vulnerable youth and women resist possible calls to incitement in Cox’s Bazar district. Dialogue and training sessions for traditional and religious leadership in the region might also assist affected communities in peacefully adapting to a complex humanitarian situation. For the moment, however, the above Rohingya activities are iterative and under discussion.

¹⁴ On 28 July, 2016, the Government of Bangladesh hosted a seminar “Recent Extremist Violence in Bangladesh: Response Options” at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies. Numerous presenters noted that much of the problem of rising extremism arises from an online narrative that targets impressionable, marginalized and troubled youth.

Risk Mitigation, Citizen Engagement: Careful attention must be given to the security and a willingness of the individuals promoting this content, whether at real-world events (hackathons) or in cyberspace, to best ensure their safety. Online alternatives may already offer a solution to this problem, as many popular internet platforms operate using pseudonyms or are protected by anonymity. Though anonymity is not always ideal when building a united front to promote a tolerant and inclusive society, should local actors be fearful of retaliation, online media might offer an effective means of ensuring that tolerant messages continue to be broadcast even where the risk might be high.

UNDP grassroots engagement strategy is deliberately flexible, and UNDP is prepared to tailor its activities to the capacity of new local and national implementing partners. Ideally, national or local partners should have a strong track record in promoting peaceful development. However, UNDP is aware that the capacity of many such organizations is very low. UNDP will invest in training and capacity-building to assist peace networks in the country to expand their reach and effectiveness.

3. Government Engagement (Outcome 3)

Rationale: UNDP will combine insights from the first two outcomes to help government agencies to develop their understanding of PVE principles, to produce effective policy. This project outcome seeks to inform and assist Bangladesh government institutions in implementing research findings, to exemplify a “whole-of-society” approach to policymaking.

UNDP Bangladesh is ready to partner with national, regional and local governments to further promote tolerant and inclusive institutions across the country. Bangladesh’s government has verbally committed to supporting violence prevention strategies, and has a broader commitment to improving transparency and human rights. SDG target 16.1 is particularly important, as it calls on states to “significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere”. In accomplishing this, SDG target 16.6 aims to “develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels”, while 16.7 calls on states to “ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels”. UNDP Bangladesh seeks to assist the Bangladeshi government in implementing its SDG targets.

Outputs and Activities:

<p>Output 3.1 Policymaker Understanding PVE Policy Options in Bangladesh Improved</p>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) TRAINING for Bangladesh Human Rights Commission on how to effectively promote human rights in a counter-terrorism environment, including a CAMPAIGN supporting pro-human rights messages in the Bangla language, with an emphasis on respecting the rights of minorities; b) RESEARCH series focussing on regional trends and dynamics from a PVE perspective, in cooperation with a Bangladeshi government think-tank (BISS). |
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<p>Output 3.2 Government Understanding of International PVE Best Practices Improved</p>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) SPEAKER series bringing PVE experts, policymakers and human rights champions from around the world to Bangladesh to inform government counterparts on how to inform policymakers and improve PVE-related policies;
UNDP seeks to cooperate with government agencies not traditionally associated with preventing violent extremism, to introduce PVE concepts into broader government discourse. Speaker discussions and training for government agencies can help diffuse these concepts and lead to creative new options. For instance, as described above, UNDP research has highlighted the potential vulnerability of Bangladeshi migrant workers to extremist and intolerant messaging once abroad. In response, UNDP has opened dialogue with the Bangladesh Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training, which is responsible for migrant skills development prior to traveling overseas. Cooperation with the state-sponsored Bangladesh Islamic Foundation could proceed in a similar fashion, and is currently under discussion. |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) SOUTH-SOUTH CONFERENCE support for high-profile government and military leaders to |
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attend conferences on PVE, to incorporate respect for human rights into counter-terrorism activities;

A UNDP-sponsored pilot exchange, organized for Bangladeshi government officials and members of civil society, sent 11 people from Dhaka to Jakarta in early December 2016. Bangladeshi delegates met Indonesian government and civil society counterparts, and attended a multi-day PVE conference sponsored by Hedayah. The exchange was organized in partnership with the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute. Further cooperation with Indonesia is being explored, and has thus far received a positive reception from both sides.

c) Geographic Information System (GIS) for Donor and Partner Contributions:

The international community and government of Bangladesh have an interest in ensuring that PVE contributions are coordinated and structured to maximize impact. UNDP proposes to assist this effort by mapping the scale, scope, objectives and target demographics for PVE activities across the country, and to present this information to partners on a regular basis. A Geographic Information System (GIS) model will help to identify underserved regions and demographics, and to ensure more efficient distribution of resources among international, government, and civil society partners. UNDP would be responsible for a) gathering data from all actors engaged in the PVE space in Bangladesh, b) developing innovative graphics and means of presenting the range of engagement activities across the country, and c) delivering this information to partners in the form of a regular report. This will complement the UN's ongoing role as chair of the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Working Group, currently led by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office.

Risk Mitigation and Sustainability: Predictability in this field is difficult, as complicated political developments can change government priorities and affect government desire to continue with specific projects. UNDP Bangladesh has experienced these changing priorities in the past, sometimes with a significant impact on programming. However, though individual projects may move up or down the government's agenda, the issue of reducing violence is likely to remain a priority for all stakeholders. UNDP programming may have to make adjustments to respond to the political climate, but it is expected that cooperation shall remain possible for the foreseeable future.

Partnerships & Stakeholders:

Partners will be engaged, not simply as passive recipients of assistance, but as active contributors to the design of specific activities and timelines. The University of Dhaka's Centre for Genocide Studies (CGS), for example, houses the Bangladesh Peace Observatory, providing expertise and leadership, to which UNDP Bangladesh provides oversight and support. Law enforcement agencies and the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics will provide additional data on criminal and political violence, much of which is already publicly available. Local NGOs like the Stop Violence Coalition, Rupantar, MOVE, South Asian Youth Association (SAYS) and Bangladesh Youth Leadership Centre (BYLC) could be involved in promoting and popularizing the new violence-tracking platform, and in using this information to better inform inclusive society programming of their own. Finally, local tech industry actors will assist in the development of the platform, and contribute to its update and maintenance.

Additional surveys, micronarratives, and research on target demographics (women, youth, etc) can be conducted in partnership with the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI), and the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS). Pilot research mapping the online narrative surrounding peace and violence, involved two specialist media analytics companies (Arizona State University and SecDev). Such research is due to be expanded, and may further incorporate local Bangladeshi data-mining firms. Facebook South Asia has already agreed to provide funding and support for the Digital Khichuri Challenges, and will also provide a built-in platform for promoting the winning content. Google Asia-Pacific is another potential peer-to-peer partner, interested in helping to promote Digital Khichuri in future.

For offline citizen engagement activities, the initiative is closely considering partnerships with local youth and women's rights organisations. Finally, partnerships within the UN, especially with UNWOMEN, UN Office of Drugs and Crime, and the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism could help expand the thematic reach when promoting peaceful narrative content.

Few organizations have experience with PVE in Bangladesh, but the first organization to work on the ground in this area was the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) pilot project¹⁵ that began in Bangladesh in August 2016. GCERF chose Cox's Bazaar as a priority region prior to the Rohingya crisis, and so have relevant experience in the region that UNDP will use to shape any future activities in the Cox's Bazaar district. GCERF's pilot support to local actors in three Bangladeshi regions marks a targeted, structured approach to peaceful community empowerment that UNDP Bangladesh is watching very closely, to learn and adapt best practices.

UNDP Added Value:

UNDP has both the partnerships and the profile to act as a catalyst in promoting tolerant and inclusive narratives in Bangladesh. The UNDP's status as a trusted international actor has already been critical to securing agreements with government agencies, private donors, and educational institutions, as its neutrality and intentions are well-respected. UNDP Bangladesh also already has a range of development interventions and partnerships that can be linked to reducing violence. These include partnerships with networks of urban and rural youth, and a major urban development initiative which works closely with both poor and middle-class women, local government, religious, and community leaders.

UNDP has successfully launched and contributed to violence-tracking projects in countries around the world, and can apply this experience in Bangladesh. Three notable examples are the National Steering Committee on Conflict and Peace-Building in Kenya, established in 2007, the Observatory of Violent and Conflict in Somalia, established in 2009, and the Civil Society Knowledge Centre in Lebanon, established in 2013. Regionally, UNDP Nepal has partnered with police services in establishing the Nepal Crime Observation Center (NCOC) in 2014, and another violence observatory is being established by UNDP Pakistan to be launched in 2017.

Sustainability and Scaling Up:

UNDP Bangladesh will have an indirect role in promoting content. Its role is to assemble a group of actors who, once connected, will then be capable of independently continuing to promote peaceful and tolerant platforms online with only minimal UNDP assistance. Once the Digital Khichuri concept is well established and adapted to the Bangladeshi context, for example, UNDP Bangladesh hopes that these events generate a momentum that will continue to build. Similarly, the BPO was designed from its inception to be self-sustaining. Maintenance and management costs are required for three years to allow the BPO to reach maturity, after which it will require only limited funding to maintain. The University of Dhaka's role in hosting the facility, and its reputation as one of Bangladesh's foremost academic institutions, lends credibility to the data and the results. A similar approach will allow UNDP to evaluate other activities, and to plan for them to be scaled up or further adapted, if successful.

IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

4.1 Management Arrangements

The PTIB project will operate under a Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) according to UNDP's rules and procedures. This initiative will be administered by UNDP Bangladesh under the direct leadership of Country Director and Deputy Country Director. The project's technical implementation will be led by a Project Manager, supported by a project team consisting of national and international experts and staff.

UNDP will also engage regularly with other UN agencies, notably the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and UNWomen. At the very onset of the project initiation, UNDP will form a Project Board consisting of government

¹⁵ Bangladesh has taken a leading role in seeking to develop new and innovative ways of building tolerant and inclusive societies, notably through its participation as a pilot country in the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF). GCERF is a public-private community development organization headquartered in Geneva. In its initial stages, GCERF chose only three countries globally in which to pilot its community level anti-violence programming, and Bangladesh was the only country selected from outside Africa. GCERF works in cooperation with Bangladeshi government agencies, chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as with civil society partners in implementing community-level tolerance programs across three Bangladeshi districts. The first disbursement of funds began summer 2016.

agencies and development partners to ensure continued support and active cooperation towards shared objectives.

4.2 Project Board:

The board serves as a vital element of the project's strategic advisory mechanism. The board will provide high-level policy direction and oversight to the Project. The overarching responsibility of the Project Board is to assist the UNDP Country Office to carry-out their oversight responsibilities, especially with regards to annual plans, strategic planning, overall quality assurance and risk management requirements as related to project outcomes. The PB will be chaired by the UNDP Country Director, and participants will include representatives of Ministries, development partners and relevant UN agencies.

4.3 Terms of Reference of Project Board:

The Committee will meet at least once in every six months. It will be a high-level policy formation body that will:

- Review progress of the project and discuss policy implications;
- Recommend actions to reflect new policy directions in national planning documents (GoB Periodic Plans, ADP allocation, Five Year Plan etc.);
- Provide proper policy guidelines to overcome the problems of the project and assist UNDP to implement development solutions, priorities and emerging challenges related to violent extremism in Bangladesh;
- Advise regarding opportunities for inter-departmental/ministerial cooperation and coordination;

4.4 Project Manager:

The Project Manager, recruited by UNDP, will be based in the UNDP Country Office. The individual selected will be an experienced, well-qualified professional. The Project manager will be responsible for day-to-day management of the project, to ensure that activities are carried out in accordance with approved annual work plans. He/she will report to UNDP Senior Management, and be responsible for overall coordination of project activities.

4.5 Project Management Unit:

The Project Management Unit (PMU) will support the implementation of the project's day-to-day activities, under the management of the Project manager and guidance of the Project Advisory Board. The PMU will have 10 posts (not including programme, finance and driver) to be filled throughout the three years of the project. The project will also receive advice and support from the Peace and Development Advisor of the UN Resident Coordinator's office.

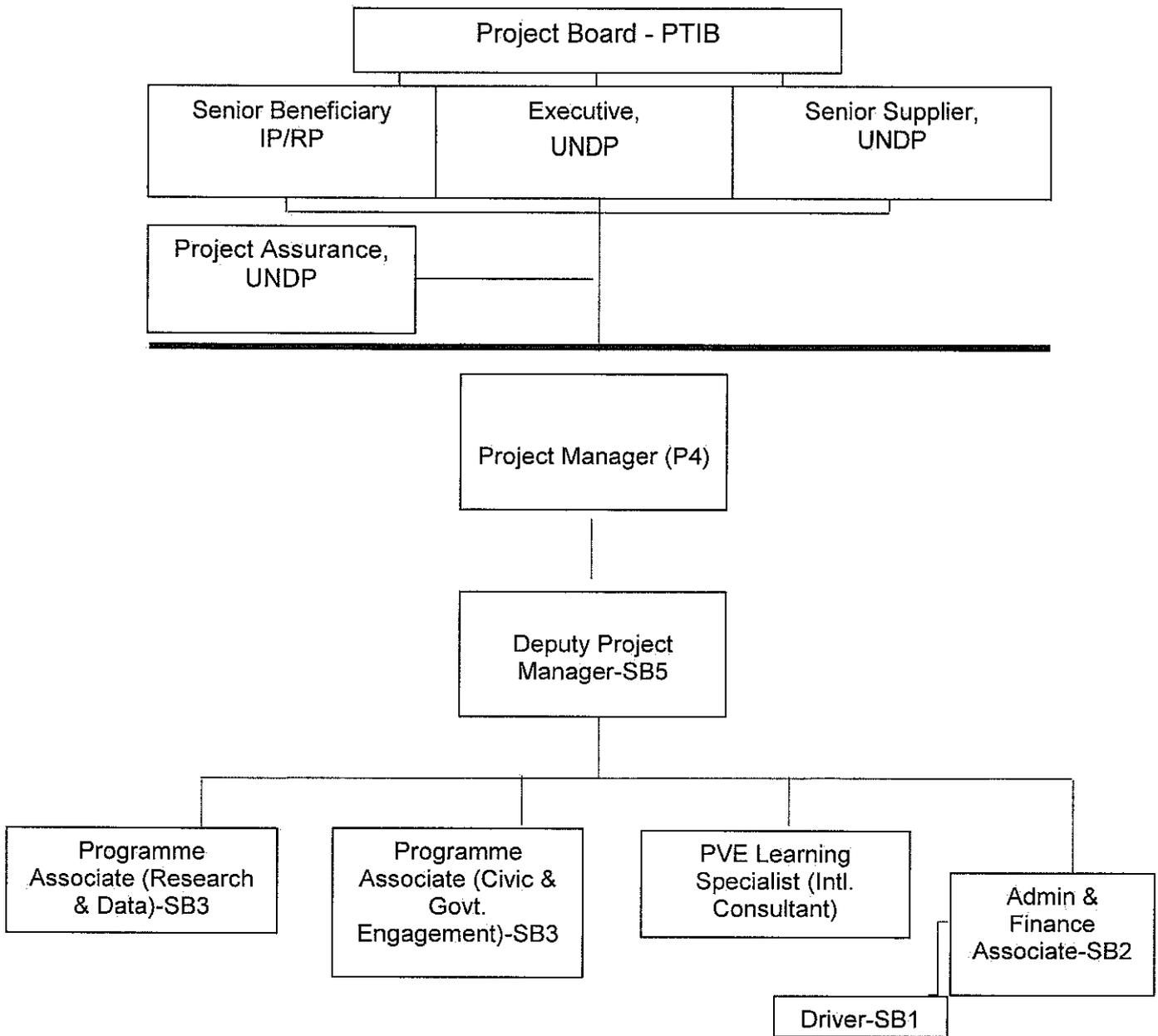
4.6 Financial Modality

Given the complexity of this subject, and the range of anticipated activities, contributions to a basket funding arrangement guideline will be followed. This will allow UNDP the flexibility to tailor its activities to new research as it arises, and to periodically reconsider its approach should circumstances change. Donors to the basket fund will be invited to join the Project Board, to monitor and strategize regarding the implementation of the project

4.7 Project Assurance

The UNDP Country Office will designate a staff member (Programme Officer) to carry out Project Assurance, including compliance with Annual Work Plans, Results reporting, liaising with donors and certifications of financial compliance.

4.7 Organization Chart



V. RESULTS FRAMEWORK¹⁶

Bangladesh UNDAF Outcome: No 2. Develop and implement improved social policies and programmes that focus on good governance, reduction of structural inequalities and advancement of vulnerable individuals and groups.

Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme [or Global/Regional] Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets:

Bangladesh

Indicator 2.1.1.: Extent to which there is a strengthened environment for civic engagement, including legal/regulatory framework for civil society organizations to function in the public sphere and contribute to development, and effective mechanisms/platforms to engage civil society (with a focus on women, youth or excluded groups)

Baseline (2016): low (on 3 groups), target (2020): medium (on 3 groups);

Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan: Outcome 2: Citizen expectations for voice, development, rule of law, and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance.

Project title and Atlas Project Number:

EXPECTED OUTCOMES & OUTPUTS	OUTCOME & OUTPUT INDICATORS ¹⁷	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)				DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	FINAL	
Outcome 1: RESEARCH FACILITY	1.1 Total Number of Research Publications Produced	UNDP	3	2017	20	16	16	55	
	1.2 Total Citations for Research Products	Google Scholar	0	2017	5	20	35	60	
	1.3 Number of Times research products are presented at PVE conferences	UNDP	2	2017	6	12	16	38	
	1.4 Number of instances media organizations reference Research Facility data in reporting	UNDP/ BPO	0	2017	15	25	40	40	

¹⁶ UNDP publishes its project information (indicators, baselines, targets and results) to meet the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards. Make sure that indicators are S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound), provide accurate baselines and targets underpinned by reliable evidence and data, and avoid acronyms so that external audience clearly understand the results of the project.

¹⁷ It is recommended that projects use output indicators from the Strategic Plan IRRF, as relevant, in addition to project-specific results indicators. Indicators should be disaggregated by sex or for other targeted groups where relevant.

Output 1.1: MAINTAIN and UPDATE the Bangladesh Peace Observatory	1.1.1 Number of months' data on various forms of violence available in the website of "Bangladesh peace observatory"	BPO	43	2017	55	67	79	79
	1.1.2 Number of people who have viewed the BPO website/ platform	BPO	250	2017	1000	2000	3000	6000
	1.1.3 Number of online citations of BPO data	Online Journals	0	2017	3	8	15	26
Output 1.2 RESEARCH publications (4 types)	1.2.1 Scale: Research conducted on identified areas, and research findings shared to relevant audiences ¹⁸	BPO	4/4 (scale)	2017	20	28	28	76
	1.2.2 Number of citations for research products	Online Journals	0	2017	3	8	15	26
	1.2.3 Number of times research papers are downloaded online	BPO	0	2017	50	150	300	500
Output 1.3 CAPACITY BUILDING to apply research	1.3.1 Percentage of attendees who felt training was 'useful' or 'very useful' once training session completed	UNDP	N/A	2017	60%	70%	80%	N/A
	1.3.2 Percentage improvement in scores from a test administered at start of training when compared to a test administered at the end	UNDP	N/A	2017	50%	55%	60%	N/A
	1.3.3 Number of organizations adding a PVE element to existing programming as a result of training	UNDP	N/A	2017	3	10	12	25
Output 1.4 LEARNING LAB (Independent M&E, Skills Training for UNDP)	1.4.1 Number of lessons learned and applied from conferences	UNDP	N/A	2017	10	15	15	40
	1.4.2 Number of recommendations implemented from independent monitoring or evaluation reports	UNDP	N/A	2017	5	8	10	23

¹⁸ Scale from 0 to 4: (a) 1st point- research area identified (b) 2nd point- research done (c) 3rd point- report developed (d) 4th point- report shared to relevant audience

Outcome 2: CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT	2.1 Total number of civil society organizations adding a PVE or digital literacy element to existing programming, with support of UNDP training or information materials	UNDP	N/A	2017	3	10	12	25	
	2.2 Percentage improvement in scores from a test administered at start of training when compared to a test administered at the end	UNDP	N/A	2017	50%	55%	60%	N/A	
	2.3 Total Number of beneficiaries who have come into contact with campaigns	UNDP	N/A	2017	4m	6m	8m	18m	
2.1 RESEARCH into online extremist narratives	UNDP	4	2017	16	16	16	16	48	
2.2 DIGITAL KHICHURI Challenges	2.2.1 Number of Applicants, per event, for Digital Khichuri Challenges	UNDP	350	2017	500	600	700	N/A	
	2.2.2 Number of viewers the night of a challenge vote	UNDP			5000	8000	10000	23000	
	2.2.3 Number of Facebook likes for Digital Khichuri page	UNDP			2500	8000	15000	25500	
	2.2.4 Number of visitors to Challenge winners' websites and platforms after 6 months	UNDP, Winners			10000	40000	70000	12000	
2.3 PVE and GENDER:	2.2.5 Low viewer bounce/exit rate from websites produced as a result of Digital Khichuri	UNDP, Winners	N/A	2017	30%	20%	10%	10%	
	2.3.1 Percentage of women who felt training was 'useful' or 'very useful' once training session completed	UNDP	N/A	2017	60%	70%	80%	N/A	

19 Scale from 0 to 4; (a) 1st point- research area identified (b) 2nd point- research done (c) 3rd point- report developed (4) 4th point- report shared to relevant audience

	2.3.2 Percentage improvement in scores from a test administered at start of training when compared to a test administered at the end	UNDP	N/A	2017	50%	55%	60%	N/A	
	2.3.3 Number of female beneficiaries attending training sessions or discussions	UNDP	N/A	2017	300	600	900	1800	
	2.3.4 Number of listeners to media campaigns promoting female historic figures from minority backgrounds	UNDP	N/A	2017	2m	3m	4m	9m	
2.4 MIGRANT WORKERS	2.4.1 Percentage of migrants surveyed after a workshop who felt training was 'useful' or 'very useful' once completed	UNDP	N/A	2017	60%	70%	80%	N/A	
	2.4.2 Percentage improvement in scores from a test administered at start of training when compared to a test administered at the end	UNDP	N/A	2017	50%	55%	60%	N/A	
	2.4.3 Number of workers given training or materials to recognize and defend against extremist recruitment tactics	UNDP	N/A	2017	1000	3000	5000	9000	
2.5 YOUTH	2.5.1 Number of youth organizations adding a PVE or digital literacy element to existing programming	UNDP	N/A	2017	3	10	12	25	
	2.5.2 Number of listeners to a campaign on digital literacy, or number of clicks on advocacy website	UNDP	N/A	2017	2m	3m	4m	9m	
	2.5.3 Number of youth trainers in digital literacy trained	UNDP	N/A	2017	40	80	120	240	
2.6 RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP	2.6.1 Number of religious organizations adding a PVE or digital literacy element to existing programming	UNDP	N/A	2017	3	10	12	25	
	2.6.2 Number of religious leaders given training or materials to recognize and defend against extremist narratives in their communities	UNDP	N/A	2017	1000	3000	5000	9000	
Outcome 3: GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT	3.1 Number of government agencies adding a PVE element to existing programming as a result of engagement activities	UNDP	N/A	2017	1	3	5	10	

		UNDP	20	2017	150	100	100	100	370	
	3.2 Total number of policymakers (civil servants, military, politicians) who participated in PVE training or engagement activities									
3.1 Conference fund for government to attend conferences on PVE	3.1.1 Number of presentations made by Bangladeshi delegates, or documents submitted to conferences	UNDP	N/A	2017	3	6	12	21		
3.2 TRAINING for government officials on PVE	3.3.1 Percentage improvement in scores from a test administered at start of training when compared to a test administered at the end	UNDP	N/A	2017	60%	70%	80%	N/A		
	3.3.2 Number of government agencies adding a PVE element to existing programming as a result of training	UNDP	N/A	2017	1	3	5	10		

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the project will be monitored through the following monitoring and evaluation plans:
Monitoring Plan

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (if joint)	Cost (if any)
Track results progress	Progress data on the results indicators in the RRF will be collected and analysed to assess the progress of the project in achieving the agreed outputs.	Quarterly.	Slower than expected progress will be addressed by project management.		
Monitor and Manage Risk	Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results. Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP's audit policy to manage financial risk.	Quarterly	Risks are identified by project management and actions are taken to manage this risk. The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken.		
Learn and Integrate New Knowledge	Knowledge, good practices and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the project.	Quarterly, through Learning Lab	Relevant lessons are captured by the project team and used to inform management decisions.		
Annual Project Quality Assurance	The quality of the project will be assessed against UNDP's quality standards to identify project strengths and weaknesses and to inform management decision making to improve the project.	Annually	Areas of strength and weakness will be reviewed by project management and used to inform decisions to improve project performance.		
Review and Make Course Corrections	Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision making.	Quarterly, through Learning Lab	Performance data, risks, lessons and quality will be discussed and used to make course corrections.		
Project Report	A progress report will be presented to the Project Board and key stakeholders, consisting of progress data showing the results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level, the annual project quality rating summary, an updated risk long with mitigation measures, and any	Annually for donors, quarterly for internal reference			

	evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.				
Project Review (Project Board)	The project's governance mechanism (i.e., project board) will hold regular project reviews to assess the performance of the project and review the Multi-Year Work Plan to ensure realistic budgeting over the life of the project. In the project's final year, the Project Board shall hold an end-of-project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to socialize project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences.	Annually	Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress should be discussed by the project board and management actions agreed to address the issues identified.		

Evaluation Plan

Evaluation Title	Partners (if joint)	Related Strategic Plan Output	UNDAF/CPD Outcome	Planned Completion Date	Key Evaluation Stakeholders	Cost and Source of Funding
Yearly Evaluation	Independent Specialists or Companies					TBC, Budgeted at approx. \$80,000/year

VII. MULTI-YEAR WORK PLAN

Bangladesh UNDAF Outcome: No 2. Develop and implement improved social policies and programmes that focus on structural inequalities and advancement of vulnerable individuals and groups.

Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme:

Bangladesh

Indicator 2.1.1.: Extent to which there is a strengthened environment for civic engagement, including legal/regulatory framework for civil society organizations to function in the public sphere and contribute to development, and effective mechanisms/platforms to engage civil society (with a focus on women, youth or excluded groups)

Baseline (2016): low (on 3 groups), target (2020): medium (on 3 groups);

Output from the UNDP Strategic Plan: Outcome 2: Citizen law, and accountability are met by stronger systems of democ

Project Title: Partnerships for a Tolerant, Inclusive Bangladesh

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed budget		
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Outcome 1: Research Facility	1.1 Maintain and update the Bangladesh Peace Observatory	206,607.33	247,423.00	217,423
	1.2 Additional research publications	40,000.00	40,000.00	
	1.3 "Learning Lab": (skills training and independent M&E)	104,500.00	125,300.00	160,300
	Total: Outcome 1: Research Facility	\$351,107.33	\$412,723.00	\$377,723
Outcome 2: Citizen Engagement	2.1 Research into Online Extremist Narratives	155,000.00	230,000.00	230,000
	2.2 Youth engagement: (Digital Khichuri Challenges, Campaign)	205,000.00	330,000.00	335,000
	2.3 Gender and PVE: (Training, Campaign and Dialogue)	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000
	2.4 Migrant Workers: (Research, Awareness and Training material)	65,000.00	15,000.00	15,000
	2.5 Religious/Interfaith Leaders: (Publication, Study Tours, Inter-faith Dialogue, Conferences)	100,390.00	84,132.00	84,132

	Total: Outcome 2: Citizen Engagement	\$575,390.00	\$709,132.00	\$714,132.00	\$1,998,654.00	
Outcome 3: Government Engagement	Output 3.1 Improved Government Understanding PVE Policy Options in Bangladesh: (Speaker series, conference)	255,373.00	510,158.00	505,158.00	1,270,689.00	UNDP
	Total: Outcome 3: Government Engagement	\$255,373.00	\$510,158.00	\$505,158.00	\$1,270,689.00	
UNDP Management and Operations Cost	Including: Admin and Operations staff, Transportation, UNDP Premises, UNDP Security, Communications and Audio-Visual (internet, mobile, etc), Equipment, Supplies, Office Meetings, Project Audit., General Management Service.	128,833.44	171,082.30	168,592.35	468,508.09	UNDP
	Total: UNDP Management and Operations Cost	128,833.44	171,082.30	168,592.35	\$468,508.09	
Grand Total		\$1,310,703.77	\$1,803,095.30	\$1,765,605.35	\$4,879,404.42	

VIII. LEGAL CONTEXT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Select the relevant one from each drop down below for the relevant standard legal text:

1. Legal Context:

- Country has signed the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)
- Country has not signed the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)
- Regional or Global project

2. Implementing Partner:

- Government Entity (NIM)
- UNDP (DIM)**
- CSO/NGO/IGO
- UN Agency (other than UNDP)
- Global and regional projects