Country: Ethiopia
Initiation Plan

Project Title: Preventing Violent Extremism in Ethiopia

Expected CPD Outcome(s): Citizens' expectations for voice, development, the rule of law and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance.

Expected output: At the end of the initiation plan all the necessary preconditions including assessments, consultations and program designed will be attained for a launching of a well-organized maximum impact program on PVE in Ethiopia.

Initiation Plan Start Date:	June 01, 2018
Initiation Plan End Date:	December 31,2018
Implementing Partner:	Ministry of Federal and Pastoralist Development Affairs

Brief Description

Ethiopia is experiencing, especially recent years growing tendencies of radicalization and violent extremism. The country is currently being engaged with extremists within its territories, across its southern and south-eastern borders and internally. New conflict hotspots emerge in various parts of the country from time to time, stirred by violent extremists and the material conditions contributing for their prevalence. Because of the conflicts, scores of populations die and valuable property is destructed. Most importantly, development gains have been eroded and/opportunities are lost and livelihoods of significant populations are disrupted. Violent extremism has serious ramifications on the peace and development of the countries in the Horn of African Sub region. Hence, violent extremism is one of the serious potential threats identified by the country's policy makers as potentially impacting the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals and the Growth and Transformation Plan of Ethiopia.

This project focuses on preparatory works for UNDP Ethiopia's long-term engagement to empowering national and sub-national governments and local communities towards preventing extremism in all its forms through system building, facilitating inter communal understanding and mutual trust including inter-religious dialogue and tolerance. Furthermore, the initiative puts greater emphasis on increased consideration of the psychosocial needs of vulnerable groups and communities based on 'Do No Harm' and by mainstreaming conflict-sensitive practices; finally, by (re)building trust between communities and the government through strengthening of an inclusive and rights-based governance system and public space. The government of Ethiopia through the Ministry of Federal and Pastoralist Development Affairs and religious institutions in the country through their umbrella organization - the Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia will be responsible parties of the project. The project shall also ensure the participation of all relevant stakeholders including public and democratic institutions, civil society organizations, traditional institutions, youth and women. This Initiation Plan is intended to respond to guide the inception of a full-fledged programme on Preventing Violent Extremism in Ethiopia. It is well aligned with UNDP's multi-year and multi-stakeholder regional PVE programme designed to strengthen the development responses to mitigate the growth of violent extremism in Africa and which categorizes Ethiopia under *spill over countries.*

Programme Period: May1- Dec 31, 2018	**Total resources required:**	US $ 100,000
CPAP Programme Component: Democracy and good governance are maintained through people's participation and social justice is secured.	**Total allocated resources:** • **Regular**	US $ 100,000 US $ 100,000
Atlas Award ID: _____		
PAC Meeting Date: N/A		

Agreed by UNDP: _~signature~_   21/6/2018

I. PURPOSE

Ethiopia is one of the countries which are highly affected by the trends of violent extremism in Africa. Recent past incidences of religious based conflicts and violence in various parts of Oromia Region (Bale, Jimma, Arsi and Harar), Amhara Region (Wollo, Gojam, and some parts of Shewa), Tigrai Region, Afar and Benshangul Regions have demonstrated the dire need of intensified interventions to counter the narratives of extremists as well as empower local communities to de-radicalize the youth who are innocent victims of the radical ideologues who manipulate them into violent extremism. The country is also located in the very volatile part of Africa, the Horn of African Sub Region where there are spill over threats of violent extremism from the neighbouring countries such as Somalia. The situation of conflict ridden crises, proliferation of arms and conflict economies in the region has exacerbated the threat from violent extremism to a great extent.

In the Ethiopian context, poverty creates a breeding ground for violent extremism by exposing frustrated youth to practices and narratives of extremist groups. Youth bulge and rising unemployment, coupled with problems of governance has exacerbated the prevalence of violent extremism and communal conflicts in the country. Heavy handed tactics by security forces will further lead to increased radicalization among the youth since feelings of marginalization, alienation and suppression leads to frustration and aggression among the youth.

Extremist groups exploit perceived historical, social and political grievances and draw on extreme interpretations of their religious ideologies to craft propaganda narratives. Ethnic differences, competition for resources, inequitable access to public services and economic opportunities (perceived or real), as well as political power imbalances are exploited to justify and promote radicalism and violent extremism. Extremist groups also take advantages of structural marginalisation, the breakdown of family and community structures, the proliferation of criminal gangs, youth unemployment and corruption, human rights abuses, individual and collective trauma, among other factors, to create environments conducive for the spread of extreme ideologies and narratives, especially among vulnerable youth. The situation of poverty, lack of democratic political culture, prevalence of ages old communal conflicts and political marginalization are believed to create the conducive atmosphere for extremists in Ethiopia.

The prevalent level of illiteracy among the sizable portion of the rural and urban populations and exclusion of women from active social life has also contributed for lack of capacity to invalidate radical thoughts and portrayed images of other communities. The youth also are allured into extremism through social rewards such as glorifying them as defenders of their faith or ethnic communities. The traditional gender roles ascribed for youth as defenders and fighters and women as unquestioning participants and mentors of the youth also has contributed towards the recruitment of the youth and proliferation of violent extremists. Furthermore, in peripheral areas of the country where there is a vacuum in policing and rule of law, the youth consider it advantageous to receiving arms and trainings by extremist groups to defend themselves, their loved ones and valuables.

In areas where security deteriorates and "rule of the jungle" is applied, local militia aligned with extremist forces are options for community security replacing formal structures. Unemployment and poverty, often referred by many as economic marginalisation by the state, were assigned significant importance as major push factors contributing to violent extremism, significant part of which are widespread poverty, corruption and lack of good governance. Widespread distrust for security forces and generally the government; decline in investment leading into widespread unemployment; increased tensions and traditional grievances among communities and political groups; and breaking down of traditional structures are direct consequences of violent extremism. Some studies also reaffirm that poverty and communal conflicts on the one hand and the prevalence of violent extremists are directly correlated in Ethiopia.

As indicated in a desk review report by Inter Africa Group, religiously motivated confrontations have been observed in Addis Ababa (in 2005, 2009, 2011), Harar in 2001, Kamise in 2001, Jimma in 2006, Dessie in 2009, and Gondar in 2009 (Abubeker, 2010; Ephrem, 2008; Hiruey, 2007; Hussein, 2006; Erlich, 2005;

Medhene, 2004). Various ethnic groups in southern Ethiopia (e.g., the Borana and Guji), in the Lower Omo Valley (e.g., the Dassanech, the Nyangatom, and the Turkana), in southwestern Ethiopia (e.g., the Surma, the Dizi, the Shaka, and the Bench), in western Ethiopia (e.g., the Anuak and the Nuer), and in eastern Ethiopia (e.g., the Somali, the Afar, and Oromo) have been engaged in recurrent violent conflicts due to a combination of factors.

The role of religious messaging as a driver of violent extremism is also one factor. Some religious schools and institutions of worship inculcate the messages of violence including emphasizing the need for a holy war to promote the "goals of the creator and of the religion". Extremist religious discourse which is promoted in social gatherings such as weeding, funerals and holidays plays significant roles in youth recruitment processes.

II. JUSTIFICATION

Violent Extremism has serious negative impacts and dire ramifications on the economic, social and political lives of the country unless it is tackled in a systematic and decisive manner. Violent Extremism has destroyed families with members of families falling victim to vicious attacks and the youth recruited to destructive engagements in their societies. Violent extremism aggravates the situation of poverty by destructing valuable investment from highly affected areas. Violent extremism breeds intolerance among social, religious and political groups thereby impacting the development of democratic discourse.

To date, initiatives related to the Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) in Ethiopia are religious based while obscuring non-ideological factors that contribute to violent extremism. The role of the state (both federal and local), civil society and religious leaders as well as their institutions are not systematically identified and mainstreamed. The country is yet to develop and put in place a coherent and well-thought out prevention strategy.
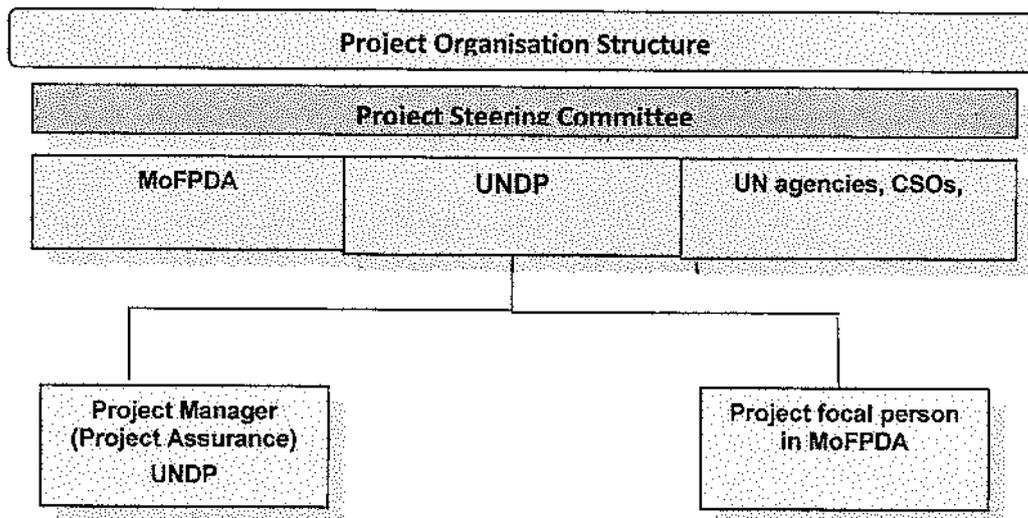
This Initiation Plan is necessitated by the need to undertake basic steps facilitating for the development and launching of a full-fledged PVE programme. The Initiation Plan outlines activities and outcome areas which are relevant to starting up the PVE programme including various assessments, consultative meetings, baseline studies, basic capacity building for partners, sensitization and programme promotion activities. These activities will contribute to UNDP's SP Outcome, i.e. Citizens' expectations for voice, development, the rule of law and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance. It will also contribute to CPD Outcome: National capacities strengthened for reintegration, reconciliation, peaceful management of conflict and prevention of violent extremism in response to national policies and priorities.

III. EXPECTED OUTPUT

At the end of the initiation plan all the necessary preconditions including assessments, consultations and programme designed will be attained for a launching of a well-organized maximum impact programme on PVE in Ethiopia. Efforts of this Plan will capacitate national and local authorities and other stakeholders to prevent conflict and promote peace and security through improved capacities to analyse, prevent and respond to conflicts.

IV. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The key implementing partner will be the Ministry of Federal and Pastoralist Development Affairs. The Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia, a Consortium of all religious institutions in the country will also have a prominent role. Overall coordination and quality assurance responsibilities rest on UNDP.

Project Organisation Structure		
Project Steering Committee		
MoFPDA	UNDP	UN agencies, CSOs,

Project Manager (Project Assurance) UNDP	Project focal person in MoFPDA

The implementing partner shall assign a Project Focal Person responsible for overseeing project implementation on a regular basis jointly with a UNDP Project Manager based in the implementing partner. The Project Manager will report to the UNDP Governance and Capacity Development Team Leader liaising with the Governance Programme Specialist who will manage the project on behalf of UNDP based on the approved Initiation Plan. The SC composed of MoFPDA, MoFEC, MoWCA, MoYS and the IRCE meets bi-annually to provide policy and strategic guidance.

V. MONITORING

The Governance Programme Specialist will undertake regular monitoring and reporting based on this Initiation Plan, which will form the basis for tracking progress, and tackling implementation challenges. Progress and financial reports in line with approved work plan and budget, and based on standard reporting template of UNDP will be regularly submitted. Stakeholders regular review meetings will be held to assess project performance.

The initiation plan will be monitored on quarterly basis and at the end of the six-month. The aim of the Monitoring exercise will be to assess the attainment of all the objectives of the initiation plan and to ensure that the full-scale programme have a well levelled ground towards optimal impact.

II. ANNUAL WORK PLAN

Year: 2018

EXPECTED OUTPUTS And baseline, indicators including annual targets	PLANNED ACTIVITIES List activity results and associated actions	TIMEFRAME Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount USD
Output 1: A comprehensive multi-year programme on PVE in Ethiopia developed and endorsed	*Activity Result 1.1. Stakeholders and project beneficiaries reached consensus on project relevance, approaches and outcomes*								
Baseline: 0	**Action 1.1.1.** Organize consultative meetings for stakeholders to build consensus on PVE project relevance			10,000		UNDP	RR	Workshop costs	10,000
Indicators: Number of project documents produced to lead UNDP Ethiopia's engagement in PVE	**Action 1.1.2.** Conduct PVE mapping and rapid assessment on drivers of violent conflicts in Ethiopia with actionable recommendations			16,740		UNDP	RR	Travel costs	20,000
Targets:	**Action 1.1.3.** Stakeholders consultation for validation of assessment results and recommendations			10,000		UNDP	RR	Workshop costs	10,000
• One rapid assessment report finalized	**Action 1.1.4.** Project design with a realistic resource mobilization plan and baseline establishment				25,000	UNDP	RR	Consultant fees, Travel costs	25,000
• Two stakeholder consultations organized and reported	**Action 1.1.5.** Undertake LPAC meeting								
• One project document produced									
Related CPD outcome: Citizens' expectations for voice, development, the rule of law and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance.									
Output 2: Interim activities (start-up activities) accomplished *Baseline: 0*	*Activity Result 2.1. Key kick-off activities identified, implemented and reported*								

Indicators / Targets	Action	Amount	Funding Source		Budget Description	Amount
Indicators: Number of baseline reports established and shared *Targets:* • *One project baseline report* • *Two events (project launching and an initial training) conducted and reported* • *One resource materials pack for the capacity building produced* *Related CPD outcome: Citizens' expectations for voice, development, the rule of law and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance.*	**Action 2.1.1.** Conduct project launching workshop	5,000	UNDP	RR	Travel costs	5,000
	Action 2.1.2. Conduct awareness seminar with law enforcement and security sector actors in preventing violent extremism strategies and action roadmap	5,000	UNDP	RR	Workshop costs	5,000
	Action 2.1.3. Develop resource materials for the capacity building of relevant actors in PVE	10,000	UNDP	RR	Workshop costs	10,000
	Action 2.1.4. Conduct initial training for media practitioners, religious and community leaders, etc.	15,000	UNDP	RR	Production costs	15,000
	Action 2.1.5. Organize an updated situational analysis report					
DPC (100,00*0,0326)						3,260
TOTAL						100,000

United Nations Development Programme

LOCAL PROJECT APPRAISAL MEETING NOTE

Date: 5 June 2018
Venue: UNDP, Lemat Conference Room
Time: 9:45am

Present:

Louise Chamberlain	Country Director, UNDP-Ethiopia, on Chair
Hulluf Weldesilassie	Deputy General Secretary, Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia
Mamo Wejega	Director, Peace Department, Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia
Shimels Assefa	Team Leader, Governance and Capacity Building Unit, UNDP-Ethiopia
Fisseha Mekonnen	Governance Programme Specialist, UNDP-Ethiopia
Getawa Destaw	Director General, Religion and Faith Affairs Directorate, Ministry of Federal and Pastoralist Development Affairs
Atkilt Daniel	UNDP Programme Officer, Ministry of Federal and Pastoralist Development Affairs
Feresenbet Woldetensay	Director, Peace Culture, Ministry of Federal and Pastoralist Development Affairs

Agenda: Appraising and Initiation Plan for Preventing Violent Extremism Project

Introduction:

UNDP Country Director welcomed participants to the meeting. She highlighted the objectives of the meeting as follows: a) to solicit feedback from stakeholders and develop an updated document that would help to promote PVE through an Interim Project Implementation arrangement. The CD encouraged participants to provide substantive inputs and feedback on what's missing and mentioned that the comments from the session will be incorporated in the project documents and circulated back to the participants.

Presentation of the Initial Plan:

A brief presentation that highlighted the rationale for the Plan; UNDP's comparative advantage; intended objective; outputs and key activities; implementation modality and strategies was made.

The current context which lacks proactive thinking in terms of promoting PVE; implementation of reactive and legalistic interventions rather than proactive has been part of the presentation; and that government has identified the issues as it needs for a more robust intervention.

Discussion/Comments:

The CD mentioned that PVE is a huge agenda globally and at region level. She also mentioned that there is a growing movement in promoting PVE. The Initial Plan is to put in place a national PVE project for 2019 and to support a few critical activities that will be implemented until end of 2018. This include mapping, research, assessments, awareness creation and training to stakeholders. It was also mentioned that UNDP

will closely work with IRCE and the MoFPDA. She stressed also the Plan will help to mobilize resources and linked to the Regional PVE programme led by the RSCA.

Specific comments:

- PVE is agenda of the day. Government considers VE as destabilizing factor in the region which should be averted with the engagement of all stakeholders based on situational assessment. It was further noted that country should maintain it development gains without security threats such as VE. Hence, it was recommended to develop a programme to mobilize interventions that could sustainably prevent violent extremism including sustainable preventive mechanisms such as policy frameworks and strategies which should be leading directions to the development of a more comprehensive national programme;

- Related to the title, a question was raised to explain the difference between "Countering" and "Preventing". It was explained that "Countering" is more reactive and legalistic without necessarily working on root causes. PVE recognizes that It is not enough to counter violent extremism. There is a need to prevent, and this calls for forms of soft power to prevent a threat driven by distorted interpretations of culture, hatred, and ignorance;

- Government and other institutions working in PVE have been using the constitution as a fundamental guiding legal document in the absence of policy. It was recommended that the Initiation Plan should include activity related to improving policy/legal documents;

- The purpose of the Initiation Plan should be primarily to respond to urgent government needs to prevent extremism in all its forms which will be covered in large scale project document. Hence, there is a need to lay foundations to strengthen the suggested activities of the plan to tackle possible spillover effects of VE in the region to Ethiopia. It was also recommended that the plan and the upcoming project to include radicalization by ensuring government buy-in;

- Consensus building on PVE relevance and capacity development are two critical areas that require adequate focus both in the Initiation Plan as well as in the new PVE project;

- By way of information, it was noted that government is approached by other institutions to jointly develop strategy document (ECSU + AAU + MoFPDA + IAG). A Steering and Technical Committees are established to work with on this engagement. The advice was to avoid duplication while realizing that the government needs meaningful technical support in both comprehending the issue as well as in programming. Activities such as dialogue, awareness raising with law enforcement and security sector actors in PVE are recommended. It was also communicated that IGAD and the UNDP RSC implement a joint PVE initiative focusing on dialogue, research and assessment. Hence, establishing a community of practice including CSOs, think-thanks, academia (Wello University) to step up efforts in sharing knowledge, policy issues/inputs and strategies;

- As a final remark, the chair thanked participants for the quality discussion which displayed commitment and interest to push the Initiation Plan forward. It was indicated that all comments will be incorporated in the final approved plan will be circulated to all participants;

- Virtual comment by MoFEC: Use of official data and reports will increase credibility of analysis; Expected output o the IP should state as: All the necessary preconditions including assessments, consultations and program designed will be attained for a launching of a well-organized maximum impact program on PVE in Ethiopia; In the management arrangement MoFPDA must be considered as a key partner.

The session was adjourned at 11:00am.