



Country: Bangladesh
Initiation Plan

Project Title: Partnership for a Tolerant, Inclusive Bangladesh

Expected CP Outcome(s): Develop and implement improved social policies and programmes that focus on good governance, reduction of structural inequalities and advancement of vulnerable individual and groups

Initiation Plan Start Date: 26 January 2017

Initiation Plan End Date: 26 January 2018

Implementing Partner: UNDP Bangladesh

Responsible Party: UNDP Bangladesh

Brief Description

“Partnerships for a Tolerant, Inclusive Bangladesh”, is a one year initiative to understand and prevent violence and extremism in Bangladesh. The partnership program is in line with the United Nations Secretary General’s Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (SGPoA, December 2015) and Sustainable Development Goal #16 (SDG16) which aims to create “just, peaceful and inclusive societies”. The SGPoA was endorsed by the Government of Bangladesh in April 2016, at the UN-Swiss Conference on Preventing Violent Extremism in Geneva. The Plan emphasizes the need for every country to craft a strategy to prevent violence, assess the local drivers, priorities and partners, and to coordinate these plans at the regional and global levels. In August 2016, the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh encouraged the UN Resident Coordinator to develop PVE programming in Bangladesh.

This program aims to identify drivers of violence and social cohesion in Bangladesh, then pilot social engagement actions to understand what resonates with young men and women in vulnerable communities both online and offline.

Programme Period: 12 Month

CPD Programme Component: Develop and implement improved social policies and programmes that focus on good governance, reduction of structural inequalities and advancement of vulnerable individual and groups

Atlas Award ID: 86326

Project ID: 93612

PAC Meeting Date: January 24, 2017

Total resources required	\$5,50,000
Total allocated resources:	\$5,50,000
• Regular (BPPS)	\$ 5,00,000
(TRAC)	\$ 50,000
Unfunded budget:	_____
In-kind Contributions	_____

Approved by:

Sudipto Mukerjee
Country Director, UNDP Bangladesh.

I. PURPOSE

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is committed to viewing violence as an avoidable phenomenon, one that is prevented through inclusive institutions, transparent politics, and a commitment to fundamental human rights. Progress involves reforming exclusionary narratives, processes, and behavior that are often deeply rooted – advances may not be achieved immediately, nor easily, but stable, peaceful, effective and tolerant dynamics are worth the investment. The goal in developing violence prevention programming is not solely to discredit violence in the short-term, but to reinforce sustainable conditions in the long-term that make it difficult for violent rhetoric to succeed.

The need for programming in Bangladesh arose after a spike in violent extremist attacks from 2013 to 2016. While Bangladesh has a proud heritage of tolerance and diversity it has cyclically been challenged by intolerance and violence throughout the nation's history: Extremist violence visited upon the country in 1971, from the political left in the 1970s, Islamists in the 1990s and 2000s, and ethno-religious strife in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) throughout the 1970-90s. Most recently, an alarming uptake in extremist attacks has surged since 2013, peaking in the July 2016 attacks in a Dhaka Café and at the Sholakia Eid festivities that killed almost 30 people, targeting foreigners and Muslim worshippers respectively.

In response to these trends, the government wishes to reaffirm a peaceful, tolerant and inclusive society. UNDP is one of many organizations now looking to map and better understand the scope of the problem and respond with activities centered around common bonds, shared values, and a diverse Bangladeshi identity serves as a positive alternative to exclusionary appeals that underpin violence. The UN Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE), gives UNDP a clear mandate to assist Bangladesh in developing tolerant and inclusive society programming. The Secretary General's Plan emphasizes the need for every country to craft a strategy to prevent violence, assessing local drivers, priorities, strategies, and partners, and to coordinate these plans at the regional and global levels. This is all to be directly linked with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and SDG 16 in particular.

II. OVERALL OUTCOME

This program aims to identify drivers of violence and social cohesion in Bangladesh, then pilot social engagement actions to understand what resonates with young men and women in vulnerable communities both online and offline.

III. EXPECTED OUTPUT

1. **RESEARCH & ANALYSIS:** Improve knowledge, understanding and provide insight into the drivers of violence in Bangladesh;

Over recent decades Bangladesh has experienced many forms of violence – political, ethnic, communal, criminal, gender-based, as well as extremist. There are limited data systems that highlight the full range of this violence - trends over time, geographical distribution, and impact. The absence of reliable, structured, and accessible open source data is a major knowledge gap that restricts the ability of public institutions, civil society, academia, and the media to form a better understanding and effectively discuss or address violence. Designing effective responses to public policy challenges is heavily dependent on evidence. Evidence is dependent on good data. In the present day “Open Data” is the future. More data has been produced globally in the last two years than in the previous 3000 years of human activity. Most of this data is openly accessible. Therefore, the future challenge for decision-makers is not finding data: the challenge is efficiently managing and digesting the explosion of public data.

Expected Results from Research Facility

- 1.1 An enriched and informed scholarly engagement with the public on the drivers of violence in Bangladesh;

- 1.2 Improved reliability and accessibility of open source information on violence of all sorts, identifying national, regional and local trends geographically and through time, as well as types of incidents, impact and agents involved; for instance “The Bangladesh Peace Observatory”¹
- 1.3 Increased capacity of academics, media and civil society organizations to conduct research, analysis, awareness and advocacy that can inform and impact policy making in social cohesion, violence prevention.

2. SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT: Enhance inclusivity and tolerance of young Bangladeshis through social engagement activities with particular reference to online narratives;

The rationale to openly engage young people in building social inclusivity is informed by Bangladesh’s youth bulge, the increasing size of Bangladesh’s online bulge and through a growing body of global experiences where radicalization has taken place online and in vulnerable young communities. 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. Half of Bangladesh’s population is less than 25 years old, and more than 40 percent of the population is in the 18 to 39-year-old age group. These demographics pose a particular challenge when combined with urbanization, unemployment, and social exclusion. Many of these youth are ‘digital natives’ born into the 24x7 cyberspace age, and adept at leveraging cyberspace to empower themselves for social, political, and economic change. The number of Bangladeshis online has risen from 1 million users 10 years ago, to over 60 million today. On mobile platform the numbers rise to above 100 million. With Bangladesh moving towards middle-income status these numbers are set to grow way above the 100 million mark in the coming years. 80% of Bangladesh’s netizens are on Facebook, which is the most popular social networking platform in Bangladesh. We are already seeing how the internet, and in particular the Facebook platform, can be used to fuel attacks on minority communities and the extremist attacks of July 2016 were carried out by young men from educated and relatively affluent backgrounds. In attempting to explain the mindset and the radicalization of these young attackers, much attention has been directed online, to extremist websites and propaganda.

Expected Results from Social Engagement

- 2.1 Enhanced understanding of extremist narratives and activity online;
- 2.2 Enhanced inclusivity among targeted internet users;
- 2.3 Enhanced capacity of young content creators to produce powerful and effective narratives online
- 2.4 Enhanced capacity of young netizens to engage with audiences;
- 2.5 Enhanced inclusivity and tolerance among young people in target communities;
- 2.6 Enhanced understanding of what content resonates with target themes and audiences;
- 2.7 Enhanced capacity of young content creators to produce powerful and effective narratives; Ex- “The Digital Khichuri Contest”²
- 2.8 Increased capacity of partners to think critically, resolve conflicts amicably and encourage young men and women to question narratives they hear and read in online, public and private spaces;
- 2.9 Increased capacity of youth & women partners to build inclusive institutions and activities at regional and community levels.

3. GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT: Sensitize the Government of Bangladesh to good policy and practice that strengthens social inclusion and tolerance in vulnerable communities.

UNDP Bangladesh has a working relationship with Bangladeshi government agencies, and is ready to partner with national, regional and local governments to further promote tolerant and inclusive institutions. Bangladesh’s government has committed to supporting violence

¹ The Bangladesh Peace Observatory brings together different streams of publically available data (crime statistics by the national police, media reports on violence and other incidents with impact on the lives of people and their possessions, census data, and other partial datasets) on Bangladesh, analyses and visualizes them in a useful and interactive way for decision makers, civil society and media to understand, consume, and debate .

² The Digital Khichuri Challenge was a special, unique competition held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in which six teams comprised of young changemakers from around the country created new digital stories and online campaigns to promote the strength of Bangladesh’s history of diversity, tolerance, and pluralism.

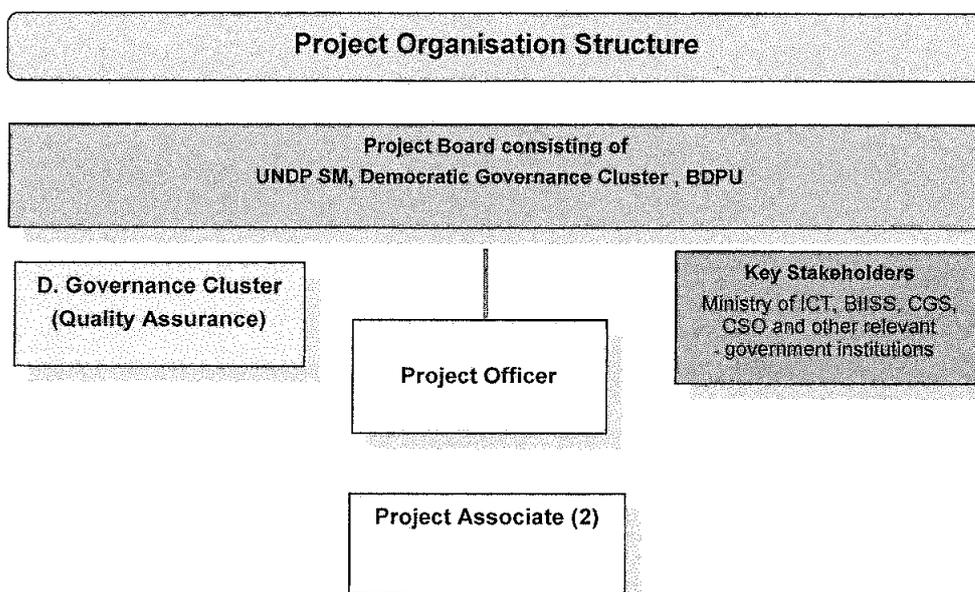
prevention strategies and the SG's Plan to Prevent Violent Extremism, and has a broader commitment to improving transparency and human rights. This programme stream seeks to engage Bangladesh government institutions so that they are sensitized to the results of the research facilities analysis of violence in Bangladesh and the results of the social engagement carried out in streams one and two respectively. The third part of this stream is to sensitize government institutions to positive policies and practices that can be used to foster a inclusive and tolerant Bangladesh. This will include international exchanges and studies and cooperation. The goal of Government Engagement is sensitizing the Government of Bangladesh to good policy and practice that strengthens social inclusion and tolerance in vulnerable communities.

Expected Results from Government Engagement

- 3.1 Improved representation of the Bangladeshi perspective on discussions in international forums about extremism and social inclusivity.
- 3.2 Enhanced understanding amongst government agencies of the potential of promoting social inclusivity programs in line with SDG16;

IV. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Project Executive Board shall be consist of UNDP senior management, Partnership and Business Development Unit and Democratic Governance Cluster. The Project Executive Board shall be shall be chaired by the UNDP Country Director as well as responsible for taking management decisions for this project. The Project Executive Group shall monitor the overall progress and provide necessary guidance in project implementation. The targeted key stakeholders of this project shall be Ministry of ICT, Bangladesh Institute of International Strategic Studies (BIISS), Center for Genocide Studies (CGS) and CSOs. The Programme Staff for this project shall be comprised of Advisor- Political Governance, Project Officer and two Project Associate. Under the close supervision of the Team Leader of Democratic Governance (DG) Cluster, Advisor- Political Governance of DG Cluster will lead this project implementation process along with the support of UN Project Officer, Project Associate and relevant parties.



Project Management- Main Responsibilities

Terms of Reference of Key Persons

1. Project Officer (PO):

The Project Officer will be the key person for Partnership for a Tolerant, Inclusive Bangladesh (PTIB) IP. S/he will be responsible for day to day IP management, including reporting, updating risk & issues log, submission of M&E plans and other relevant management issues in consultation with the project team and cluster. In addition, s/he will also be responsible for:

Description of Tasks:

- i. Identifying and obtaining any support and advice required for the management, planning and control of the project
- ii. Reporting project through regular updates (e.g. meeting, email briefing, etc)
- iii. Responsible for project monitoring through the maintenance and update of the on-line Tracker (RMG Implementation Toolkit)
- iv. Delivery of the projects deliverables as outlined in the Project Initiation Document (PID)

2. Project Associate:(1)

The Project Associate will directly report to the PO to support the PTIB program on research and maintain liason with donor activities.

Description of Tasks:

- i. Supports and assists the PTIB team to implement the project.
- ii. Provides support in developing and implementing M&E systems.
- iii. Provide inputs in publishing annual reports and other publications.
- iv. Assist Project Officer to organize different donor meeting and workshops.
- v. Coordinate and facilitate with consultant and consulting firms to provide necessary support for quality report.

Project Associate:(2)

The Project Associate will directly report to the PO to support the PTIB program on administrative tasks and Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO) activities.

Description of Tasks:

- i. Supports and assists PTIB team to implement the project.
- ii. Assists PTIB team to document various types of workshops, consultations and training programmes.
- iii. Assists experts and team members of PTIB to enhance the capacity of the BPO team.
- iv. Coordinatig field implementation and stakeholder's performance and provide necessary feedback for further improvement.
- v. Provides support in developing and implementing M&E systems.

V. MONITORING

The project officer is required to submit a project M&E plan and timeline noting dependencies and constraints, within the first week of the project. As part of this the PO is required to review milestones and targets integrating these into the project timeline.

Each quarter the PO is to submit a progress report for the previous quarter and action plan for the following month. These reports shall be brief and consist primarily of bullet points, a table detailing progress against milestones and targets. The reports will also note major activities, issues and risks to both keep the CO informed and help the PO with planning. The entire project team should meet with their designated CO contact

person on a monthly basis to discuss the monthly and plan report. Apart from the quarterly report the result and resources framework, issues and risk log of the project will be updated periodically. The IP will also go through a mid year and year end review process to measure key progress and challenges.

At the end of the project, the PO must submit a Project Closure Report of the project detailing lessons learnt, successes and failures, ROAR and other documents as required by country office.

Report

- **Quarterly Review and Report.** A quarterly review report shall be prepared by the project officer/ advisor and report will be shared with the Cluster. As minimum requirement it shall consist of the Atlas standard format for the QPR covering the quarter year with updated information for each above element of the QPR as well as a summary of results achieved against pre-defined quarter targets at the output level.
- **Annual Report.** An annual review report shall be prepared by the project officer and shared with the Head of DG Cluster. As minimum requirement it shall consist of the Atlas standard format for the annual report covering the whole year with updated information for each above element of the year as well as a summary of results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level.
- **Annual Evaluation.** Based on the above report, an annual project review shall be conducted during the fourth quarter of the year or soon after, to assess the performance of the project and appraise the annual work plan for the following year. This review will be a final assessment. This review is driven by the project advisor and may involve other stakeholders as required. It shall focus on the extent to which progress is being made towards outputs, and that these remain aligned to appropriate results.

VI. ANNUAL WORK PLAN

Year: 2017

EXPECTED OUTPUTS <i>And baseline, indicators including annual targets</i>	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List activity results and associated actions</i>	TIMEFRAME				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount
Output 1 Data stream, research and analysis Baseline: Indicators: Targets: Related CP outcome:						UNDP	28120	International Consultant	83,600.00
						UNDP	28120	Trn. Wk. & Conference	8,000.00
						UNDP	28120	Contractual service co.-Research(LOA)	60,000.00
						UNDP	28120	Micro capital grant	25,000.00
						UNDP	28120	Contractual Service co.	5,000.00
						UNDP	28120	Printing & Publishing	2,000.00
						UNDP	28120	Travel	1,000.00
						UNDP	28120	National consultant	26,125.00
						UNDP	28120	Trn. Wk. & Conference	2,500.00
						UNDP	28120	Direct project cost-staff	17,710.00

1.1 Support Bangladesh peace observatory activities for developing mapping and data analytics technology

1.2 Conduct research to improve knowledge ,understanding and insights.

