

## Enhancing the Role of United Nations Field Presences in Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism (Phase II)

- **Brief description of the project**

- Objective of the project

Enhance internal coordination and coherence to ensure that the UN system provides stronger and more efficient capacity-building support to host states' justice and security institutions on CT and PVE.

- Why is the project required?

In 2016, the Secretary-General committed, in his Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE), to integrate PVE into relevant activities of UN peacekeeping operations and special political missions in accordance with their mandates, as well as into relevant activities of United Nations country teams in order to build the capacity of Member States.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, the president of the General Assembly's high-level debate on peace and security held the same year underscored the need "to further reflect on tools and means for the Organization and the Secretariat to respond in meaningful ways to the threat of terrorism and violent extremism in various contexts where the UN is confronted with this increasingly complex phenomenon, particularly where peace operations are deployed."<sup>2</sup>

As UN field presences are increasingly tasked with implementing mandates, programmes and projects in complex threat environments where they may confront terrorism and violent extremism, it is critical to develop a more nuanced understanding of the opportunities and risks associated with the current drive to integrate PVE into relevant activities of those UN field presences.

The UN Plan of Action on PVE further notes that such efforts should be undertaken through such mechanisms as the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, the United Nations common country assessments, youth advisory boards, the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law, and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform programming.

- What is the expected impact of the project?

In 2022, OROLSI successfully implemented the project on Enhancing the Role of Peacekeeping Operations in CT/PVE, funded by the Peace and Security Sub-Fund of the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund, and during which concrete and result-oriented projects were implemented in five countries hosting a peacekeeping operation. Among the lessons identified, the need to expand support to non-mission settings was highlighted, building on OROLSI's role as a system-wide service provider for mission and non-mission settings.<sup>3</sup>

In that context, the next phase of the Network of Peacekeeping Mission Focal Points on Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism, established through the 2022 project, will involve expanding the Network, and offer additional support, to special political missions, regional offices, and UN country teams.

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<sup>1</sup> UN General Assembly, Report of the Secretary-General on the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, 24 December 2015, A/70/674, par. 58 (b).

<sup>2</sup> UN General Assembly, "Conclusions and Observations by the President of the Seventieth Session of the UN General Assembly", 19 May 2016.

<sup>3</sup> Report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 under section 3, Political affairs, and section 5, Peacekeeping operations, and the proposed budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 related to the peace and security reform, 1 March 2018, A/72/772, para. 50.

The Network will contribute to improving how field presences analyze and plan operations, programmes and projects, support host-government institutions and communities, carry out mediation and good offices work, use early-warning and early-response systems, monitor human rights, facilitate or support CT-PVE interventions, manage risks, and develop exit strategies, transitions or sustaining peace strategies. The Network will also answer the need for a more strategic and cohesive approach at UN Headquarters and among member states, while also ensuring that field presences are sufficiently resourced and empowered to meet the demands of their mandate, programmes and projects, and to address operational realities at the field level.

- **Expected outcomes, outputs and proposed activities**

<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Proposed Activities</b>
Enhanced cohesion, exchange, support and coherence among field presences involved in support of CT and PVE efforts	<p>The network of CT and PVE focal points is expanded</p> <p>Four meetings of the network held to exchange lessons and good practices</p> <p>Two documents on lessons and good practices are produced and disseminated, focusing on field presences' experiences in supporting CT and PVE</p>	<p>Expand and rename the Network of Field Focal Points on CT and PVE, nominated from among UN field presences with a rule of law and security institutions (ROLSI) capacity, mandate or programme (one focal point per field presence)</p> <p>Facilitate the exchange of lessons and best practices on capacity-building support in the area of CT and PVE</p>
Strengthened capacity of host states' justice and security institutions in undertaking CT and PVE initiatives	<p>Five assessments performed to identify needs and gaps of host states' justice and security institutions involved in CT and PVE</p> <p>Five pilot or first-phase projects for capacity-building are designed and initiated, through the relevant field presences</p>	<p>Identify needs and gaps within host states' justice and security institutions involved in CT and PVE</p> <p>Design, implement and monitor and evaluate pilot or first-phase projects to address the identified needs and gaps</p>

- **Implementation timeline**

This project is designed to be implemented over a period of three years, but this proposal is budgeted for the second year only, with the option of extending to third year if funding is available.

- **Explain how the project will further the implementation of the A4P+ priorities.**

The project output and outcome will contribute directly and explicitly to A4P commitments related to strengthening the impact of peacekeeping on sustaining peace and to improving the safety and security of peacekeepers. The project will also contribute directly and explicitly to A4P+ priorities, especially towards strengthening cooperation with host countries, focusing on helping them assess and respond to gaps in the capacities of national justice and security authorities to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism.

- **How have gender aspects been included in the design and implementation of the project? How does it help the Department implement its women, peace and security and gender parity commitments?**

This project will ensure that the implementation of the system-wide strategy on gender parity will be followed and will proactively encourage women's participation in all activities. In addition, this project will take into consideration the gendered dimensions of the CT-PVE projects implemented in the field.

- **Brief explanation of any risks that the implementation of the project may face and how to mitigate them.**

There is a risk that it may be hard to engage directly with national counterparts as a result of limited travel to conduct the assessments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This risk can be mitigated by relying on pre-existing personal contacts between national counterparts and colleagues working in the respective field presences. The project will aim to advance COVID-19 knowledge awareness and its impact within fragile, conflict and post-conflict settings for more effective countermeasures and interventions.

- **Proposed budget**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>
Programmes	Seed money for launch and implementation of five national CT-PVE programmes or projects	\$200,000.00
Consultants	One level C consultant for 3 months to perform the task of assisting with gaps and needs assessments	\$26,850.00
Personnel costs	Programme Officer and Coordinator of the Network of Field Focal Points for 12 working months at the category/level P3	\$196,400.00
Personnel costs	UN operational costs for staffing-related services	\$17,860.00
Travel: Personnel and Consultants	Staff travel from New York to three field presences for seven days each to participate in and support joint programming or joint monitoring and evaluation of field projects and programmes	\$22,198.00
Contractual Services	UN contractual fees for staffing-related services	\$1,135.00
Programme Support Costs (13%)		\$60,377.59
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$524,820.59</b>