

The FHI 360 Approach to Countering Violent Extremism

CIVIL SOCIETY AND PEACEBUILDING

FHI 360 helps citizens mobilize to influence policy, improve lives, and build peace. Our experts strengthen the capacity of local individuals, organizations, and institutions to:

- Promote peaceful solutions to conflict
- Advocate for social justice, democratic reforms, human rights, and better policies
- Improve local government responsiveness to citizens' needs
- Solve community problems and improve service delivery
- Engage youth in leadership and democracy
- Foster social dialogue and tolerance through the production of online, radio, television, social media content.



JESSICA SCRANTON/FHI 360

The complex and highly localized nature of violent extremism (VE) makes it difficult to predict, control, and prevent unless those closest to it are equipped with the tools they need to identify and understand the drivers, and devise community-led responses to prevent its spread and strengthen resilience to its pull.

For the last eight years, FHI 360 has been working with civil society actors on the frontlines of efforts to better understand, prevent, and counter VE in their countries and communities. **The starting point of our approach has always been to engage young people and their communities, including civil society organizations, local officials, and citizens, to identify and create their own constructive measures to mitigate local VE drivers and strengthen resilience to the pull of VE.** In some places, these alternatives are dynamic efforts to use local culture to connect with youth on the margins, while in other places this means work with charismatic leaders to disseminate compelling messages of tolerance and peace. Whatever the form, we have seen this localized approach yield the greatest success because it overcomes the risk to self-impose a “one-size-fits-all” solution to VE that does not exist, and it promotes local leadership that can be sustained for the future.

About FHI 360: FHI 360 is a nonprofit human development organization dedicated to improving lives in lasting ways by advancing integrated, locally driven solutions. Our staff includes experts in health, education, nutrition, environment, economic development, civil society, gender, youth, research, technology, communication and social marketing — creating a unique mix of capabilities to address today's interrelated development challenges. FHI 360 serves more than 70 countries and all U.S. states and territories.

FHI 360 HEADQUARTERS

359 Blackwell Street, Suite 200
Durham, NC 27701 USA
T 1.919.544.7040
F 1.919.544.7261

WASHINGTON DC OFFICE

1825 Connecticut Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20009 USA
T 1.202.884.8000
F 1.202.884.8400

ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE

19th Floor, Tower 3
Sinhorn Building
130–132 Wireless Road
Kwaeng Lumpini, Khet Phatumwan
Bangkok 10330 Thailand
T 66.2.263.5200
F 66.2.263.2114

EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE

333 Grosvenor Street
Hatfield Gardens, Block B
Hatfield, Pretoria 0083 South Africa
T 27.12.762.4000
F 27.12.762.4001

www.fhi360.org

CVE TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES

FHI 360 has proven tools and methodologies that empower and engage young people and communities in CVE. These include:

- **Community Youth Mapping.** Used by FHI 360 on two USAID-funded CVE activities: the Peace through Development (PDEV) program in Niger and Chad, and the current Sharekna pilot activity in Tunisia. Community Youth Mapping is a community-based methodology that empowers youth and adults to collect, analyze, and disseminate information that informs the creation of locally-driven positive alternative narratives to VE. This process incorporates youth's aspirations, assets, and factors of resilience in order to engage them as partners in countering violent extremism rather than as mere subjects of outside interventions.
- **SCALE+.** Used on USAID programs across the globe, including in Kenya, Mali, Malawi, Nepal, and Tunisia, SCALE+ provides a systems-based methodology for involving a multi-sectoral group of community stakeholders to identify and resolve key community challenges, often conflict- or VE-related. USAID has called the approach "one of the most accessible and practical implementations of systems thinking [we have] seen."
- **The Good Governance Barometer.** Applied on USAID programs in Senegal, Mali, and Nepal, the Good Governance Barometer (GGB) enables communities to define, monitor, and measure what good governance means to them. As a tool for strengthening inclusive governance, the GGB assists in diminishing one of the leading structural drivers of VE – poorly governed areas and perceptions of marginalization.

CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO INNOVATE THE CVE SPACE

At FHI 360, we are also driven by a desire to continuously innovate, and we are currently piloting new initiatives that empower youth and communities to lead CVE efforts. These efforts include:

- Long-term mentoring of organizations on the frontlines of countering violence and VE in their communities;
- The integration of positive youth development into CVE activities, so that youth are engaged by communities and empowered to be catalysts of positive change;
- The use of developmental evaluation methods to adaptively manage and evaluate the evolution of community-led responses to VE; and
- Ongoing initiatives to share and disseminate local perspectives, knowledge, and research for CVE.

Please contact ANNE SALINAS with questions regarding FHI 360's CVE work.
T 202 464 3820 | E asalinas@fhi360.org