

# Peacebuilding and Preventing Violent Extremism

CIVIL  
SOCIETY

## *Using locally owned and sustainable tools to bring peace and prevent extremism*

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 and gaming content.



Photo credit: Mark McFarlane for FHI 360

In countries scarred by conflict, FHI 360 helps governments, local organizations and leaders develop the skills, expertise and resources they need to build peace and foster stability. Our peacebuilding activities prevent and reduce violent conflict through locally owned, adaptive and sustainable solutions. These solutions leverage the inherent resiliency of communities and people and strengthen communities' capacities for peace.

### OUR PROGRAMS

**PARC-Cameroon (*Programme d'Appui à la Résilience Communautaire au Cameroun*)** (2022–2027) is a five-year U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)/West Africa project to strengthen civil society organizations' (CSOs) capacities to better serve 20 communities in the Far North region and advance development goals. Activities respond flexibly to community needs and violent extremism (VE) dynamics and are implemented under two sub-purposes: (1) develop and strengthen the institutional capacity of strategic partners and CSOs to advocate for citizen rights and necessary service provision, respond to the marginalization of women and youth in restricted civic spaces in the Far North, and collectively respond to the stigmatization of communities; and (2) support and help CSOs more effectively represent and serve their constituencies, respond to disrupted services and livelihoods, and contribute to stronger social cohesion. The implementation approach promotes locally led solutions and enables the project and communities to pilot and adapt activities as well as progressively transfer responsibility to local partners.

**Ma3an** (2018–2025) (meaning “all together” in Arabic) is a seven-year USAID/Tunisia project that works in 33 vulnerable communities across Tunisia to increase Tunisian youth civic development in Tunisia. To do so, Ma3an works toward the following objectives: (1) youth have improved access to skills, services and opportunities for civic engagement and economic empowerment, and (2) Tunisian youth lead and meaningfully participate in activities to address

**About FHI 360:** FHI 360 is a global organization that mobilizes research, resources and relationships so people everywhere can access the opportunities they need to lead full, healthy lives. Our staff of over 4,000 experts work in more than 60 countries around the world.

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engagement and economic empowerment to advance progress toward sustainable, inclusive youth and community priorities. In its first five years of implementation, Ma3an's programming also focused on equipping young people and community stakeholders to address youth grievances and prevent VE and strengthened the capacity of the National Counter Terrorism Commission and its representatives working across Tunisia's governorates.

**Networks for Peace** (2019–2024) is a five-year regional project funded by USAID/Regional Development Mission for Asia that fosters positive, collective engagement across Asia and supports communities and organizations to promote intra-faith and interfaith harmony in Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the Tibetan community in exile in India. Working across three pillars — promoting intra and interfaith dialogue, addressing dangerous speech and promoting positive narratives, and promoting youth champions for ethnoreligious harmony — the project's activities strengthen the capacities of, and linkages among, CSOs and key influencers to promote religious tolerance. The project integrates USAID's Women, Peace, and Security Strategy with gender, equity and social inclusion activities designed to empower women and marginalized groups.

**Conflict Sensitivity Integration Hub** (2021–2023) is a two-year PEACE IQC Task Order to integrate conflict and violence prevention into USAID programming and to increase evidence and learning on conflict sensitivity for USAID/Honduras and its partners.

**Sahel Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) research** (2020–2021). Mixed-methods research on the role of gender and VE in the Liptako-Gourma region shared by Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso.

**Jamaica Local Partner Development** (2017–2023) is funded by USAID under the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative to tackle youth crime and violence through secondary and tertiary prevention. The project strengthens CSOs to provide sustainable services that reduce youth crime and violence in Jamaica, builds the capacity of private sector organizations to support youth crime and violence prevention efforts, and engages the government to design and sustain effective crime prevention strategies.

**Cameroon Strengthening Capacity for Political Dialogue** (2018–2020), funded by the U.S. State Department Bureau for Conflict and Stabilization Operations, facilitated an inclusive preparation process for dialogue, identifying and equipping selected CSOs to build constituencies within affected communities and to support dialogues that reflect community priorities, especially those of women and young people.

**Local Solutions to Address Conflict and Violent Extremism in the Middle East and North Africa** (2014–2019) supported the USAID Middle East Bureau's ability to understand and address democracy and governance issues related to VE by offering context-driven programs, research, knowledge generation, and training support. Through pilot activities, such as the Sharekna project in Tunisia and two Maghreb-Sahel Regional Pilot activities, FHI 360 developed CSO capacity to implement locally owned strategies to counter violent conflict and extremism.

**Georgia Violent Extremism Risk Analysis and Training Task Order** (2018) supported USAID/Georgia with an analysis of the nature of the VE and radicalization risk in Georgia and provided training to USAID and embassy staff on USAID's foundational CVE policy and programming guides, which informed the mission's decisions about its strategy and programming in the CVE space in Georgia.

#### **BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITIES FOR PEACE**

Our experience has shown that investing in the capacity of our local partners leads to more sustainable results. Our approach is customized to the needs of our partners but draws on FHI 360 methods and tools, including (1) robust capacity assessment and development tools, such as the Capacity 2.0 tool for organizational development and the Youth Programming Assessment Tool to improve youth-serving programming and institutional practices; (2) thematic training material and tools, such as the CVE Reference Guide ([www.cverefereceguide.org](http://www.cverefereceguide.org)); and (3) combining training with small grants so organizations apply knowledge and skills gained, test approaches and tools, and share learning.