

# The FHI 360 Approach to Preventing 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 and social media content.



## THE FHI 360 APPROACH TO PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

The complex and highly localized nature of violent extremism (VE) makes it difficult to predict, manage and prevent. When those closest to it—especially youth—are equipped to identify and understand the drivers, they can devise community-led responses to prevent its spread and strengthen resistance to its pull.

**For more than a decade, FHI 360 has engaged young people and their communities—including civil society organizations, local officials and religious leaders—to identify and create their own constructive measures to mitigate local VE drivers and strengthen resilience to the pull of VE.**

## PVE TOOLS AND INNOVATIONS

FHI 360 is driven by a desire to continuously learn and adapt, and we pilot approaches to empower youth and communities to lead their own preventing VE (PVE) efforts. These efforts include:

- Capacity building and mentoring of organizations on the frontlines of countering violence and VE in their communities;
- Integrating positive youth development approaches into PVE activities so that youth are engaged in their communities and empowered to identify and address local drivers of VE;
- Using developmental evaluation methods to adaptively manage and evaluate the evolution of community-led responses to VE; and
- Sharing and disseminating local perspectives, knowledge and research for PVE.

FHI 360 has proven tools and methodologies that empower and engage young people and communities susceptible to VE. While there is no “one-size-fits-all” solution to preventing and countering VE, our localized approach and adaption of the following tools—among others—have yielded sustainable results:

- **SCALE+** provides a systems-based methodology for involving a multi-sectoral group of community stakeholders to identify and resolve key community challenges, including vulnerability to violent extremism and conflict. We have implemented this methodology cross the globe, including in Mali and Tunisia to address community-level drivers of conflict and extremism.

**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.

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- **Community Youth Mapping**, grounded in Positive Youth Development (PYD) principles, empowers youth to collect, analyze and disseminate information on youth's aspirations, assets and factors of resilience. The findings inform the creation of community-led activities and alternative pathways and narratives for youth. This process engages youth as partners in PVE rather than as mere subjects of outside interventions. We have applied this methodology to PVE initiatives in Niger, Chad and Tunisia.

#### **SELECTED EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK**

FHI 360 is a holder of the USAID-funded **Programming Effectively Against Conflict and Extremism (PEACE)** Indefinite Quantity Contract. Through PEACE, FHI 360 designs and delivers conflict-sensitive development programs globally to manage and mitigate the sources and consequences of violent conflict.

Through the **Countering Violent Extremism in the Middle East and North Africa** Project (CoVE-MENA), FHI 360 is providing research and training, and is implementing pilot activities to support the Middle East Bureau's ability to understand and address issues related to conflict and VE. Under the research component, FHI 360 and its partners have conducted VE risk assessments, literature reviews, desk studies and field-based research to inform evidence-based USAID CVE programming. Pilot activities include:

- The **Sharekna Project to Support Youth and Empower Local Communities** to strengthen the resilience of four Tunisian communities to economic, political and social stresses, including the threat of VE. Sharekna applies both SCALE+ and Community Youth Mapping, supporting youth to work with community stakeholders to create alternative pathways for youth through activities that emerge from community workshops.
- The **Maghreb-Sahel Regional Pilots** to build technical capacity and regional networks to identify and respond to the drivers of violent extremism. Participating civil society organizations (CSOs) from Algeria, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Niger and Tunisia have developed their capacity to identify local VE drivers, develop participatory community-led efforts to prevent VE and design and implement local initiatives to respond to gaps and needs in countering violent extremism (CVE) research and programming. The pilot has fostered CVE knowledge sharing and collaboration among CSOs in the Maghreb and Sahel regions.

FHI 360 is implementing the **Georgia VE Risk Analysis and Training** contract to provide USAID/Georgia with a VE risk analysis, including a literature review and field-based qualitative research, and a three-day P/CVE training session for select USAID/Georgia staff and implementing partners.

Through the **Peace through Development (PDEV)** Project, FHI 360 employed Community Youth Mapping to empower youth and adults to collect, analyze and disseminate information that informed the creation of locally-driven positive alternatives to VE. In Niger and Chad, this process enabled youth to identify local opportunities and income generating activities and created valuable linkages between youth, government and business leaders.

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