

Launching the PCVE National Action Plans Task Force

The UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, recommends that *"each Member State should consider developing a national plan of action to prevent violent extremism which sets national priorities for addressing the local drivers of violent extremism"*. It is within this context, and under the auspices of the GCTF CVE Working Group, that Hedayah and the Global Center for Cooperative Security (GCCS) will launch the PCVE National Action Plans Task Force in September 2016.

Hedayah and the GCCS have been working together since 2013 to encourage Governments in priority regions to develop more holistic joined up approaches to Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE). The Dutch, German and UK Governments supported a conference in Abu Dhabi in January 2014 exploring good practice approaches to developing PCVE National Action Plans. This allowed a detailed exchange of information between Governments and also built the appetite of a number of countries in attendance, to develop these new strategic approaches.

Following this event, Hedayah worked with the GCCS to develop training content and, in 2015, formalised this with the publication of the 'Guidelines and Good Practices for Developing National CVE Strategies'. In the last two years there have also been a number of interactive programmes and workshops on this theme, with Hedayah and GCCS engaging with senior officials from a diverse range of countries, all at different stages of the strategy-building process.

The PCVE National Action Plans Task Force will build on, formalise, and significantly expand the work of Hedayah and the GCCS on this theme. Both organisations are happy to discuss this initiative further with any country that feels that they may be able in a position to fund and/or take part in a programme of National Action Plan Development

Within the first 18 months, there will be the capacity to work with at least four different countries to design, develop and implement realistic National Action Plans. A summary of the phased approach that will be applied is summarised below. There will also be the opportunity for additional work, with an 'a la carte' option allowing specific countries to avail of specific parts of the programme. For example, an introductory workshop to introduce Governments in the same region to this theme, or some work on revising and implementing an existing National Action Plan.

Proposed Programme Phases

This phased approach and timeline is subject to change. It will form the basis of a detailed Programme Plan but will evolve through the experience of what best suits the recipient country and also the lessons learned from similar Programmes in other countries.

1. Research, Analysis and Preparation (Month 1-3)

- Literature review of existing research into the drivers of violent extremism in Country X.
- Commissioning of short, focussed, up to date research of same and also the role of Government in reducing/exacerbating the threat.
- All of this will be used to provide a preliminary evidence base for the Programme in Country X (some content may be politically sensitive and parts may be used only to guide the facilitation team).
- Using the network of GCCS/Hedayah associates to establish a facilitation team that is experienced, diverse and culturally literate.

2. Scoping and Assessment Visit (Month 4)

- Building key relationships for the Programme.
- Meeting the Government appointed/recommended PCVE lead/s who will serve as the lead point of contact/s for the duration of the Programme.
- Meeting key actors from different Government Ministries and Agencies with a PCVE-relevant role (but not necessarily seen as traditional CT actors, e.g. Ministry of Education).
- Testing the appetite of all to develop a more holistic and joined up approach to PCVE.
- Low key engagement/fact-finding with carefully selected civil society actors.
- Working with the National PCVE lead/s, to agree the structure and participants for a multi-agency National Action Plan (NAP) Working Group, which they will chair.

3. Introductory Interactive Workshop on PCVE and the Role of National Action Plans (Month 6)

- Including all members of the NAP Working Group that will, in effect, serve as the drafting committee.
- Introducing the lexicon and Conceptual Framework for PCVE as relevant to Country X.
- Facilitating group discussions on the drivers of violent extremism in Country X, led by the participants and presented as the drawing out of local insight and expertise.
- Exploring elements of International Good Practice in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism: from Community Projects to National Action Plans.
- Focussing on the design and delivery of National Action Plans. This will draw on the Hedayah Guidelines and Global Good Practice Document and also a number of other important GCTF Memoranda.
- Formulating agreed and realistic next steps for the NAP Working Group.

4. Government/Municipality/Community Engagement (Month 7)

- Encouraging Government engagement with Civil Society Actors to understand and address negative perceptions/actual grievances that serve as drivers of violent extremism.
- Understanding the concern of local Government actors in key locations and establishing what their role might be as part of a National Action Plan.

- Producing a summary report to feed into the National Action Plan drafting phase.

5. Initial Drafting of the National Action Plan (Month 9)

- Short seminar to refresh participants on key elements from the interactive workshop.
- Group discussion on recent challenges in PCVE.
- A very detailed process will follow, potentially over a number of weeks, which will include agreeing key themes and then allocating key roles and responsibilities for drafting different elements of a realistic and achievable National Action Plan.
- The NAP Working Group will then agree a draft National Action Plan which will be forwarded to the Executive arm of Government for consideration and approval.

6. Building Momentum for the National Action Plan (Month 11)

- Redrafting the NAP with the Working Group, as required, following consultation and feedback from key local partners.
- Producing a complementary communication strategy which will explain the role of the National Action Plan and, more generally, raise awareness of violent extremism.
- Engaging with the Executive of Country X (directly and through funding Governments) to encourage publication and adoption of the draft National Action Plan.

7. Implementation and Monitoring Visits (Month 12-18)

- Three visits to Country X by the facilitation team over a six month period for meetings of the NAP Working Group and follow up meetings with representatives of the Executive and Embassies of the funding Governments.