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Final Evaluation

Partnering Against Violent Extremism (PAVE)

JUNE 2021

UNDP Sudan Country Office

FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

Conducted By

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&

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Project/outcome Information		
Project/outcome title	Partnering Against Violent Extremism	
Atlas ID	00107381	
Corporate outcome and output	3.2.1. National capacities strengthened for reintegration, reconciliation, peaceful management of conflict and prevention of violent extremism in response to national policies and priorities.	
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Evaluation information		
Evaluation type (project/ outcome/thematic/country programme, etc.)	Project	
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	2017	2021
Evaluators	Eiman Kheir	
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	9 May 2021	25 June 2021

¹ This is the entity that has overall responsibility for implementation of the project (award), effective use of resources and delivery of outputs in the signed project document and workplan.

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List of acronyms:

BADYA	BADYA Centre for Integrated Development
CDF	Child Development Foundation
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 19
CVE	Countering Violent Extremism
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FFC	Forces for Freedom and Change Alliance
GoS	Government of Sudan
IS	Islamic State
KII	Key Informant Interview
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
PAVE	Partnering Against Violent Extremism
PVE	Preventing Violence Extremism
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
SNCCT	Sudan National Commission for Counter Terrorism
SRCG	Sudan Research and Consultancy Group
TMC	Transitional Military Council
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToC	Theory of Change
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
VE	Violent Extremism
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism

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Executive Summary

In light of identified religious factors, ideologies and economic factors that solicit violent extremism in Sudanese youth groups, UNDP developed and initiated the Partnering Against Violent Extremism Project (PAVE). The project aims to counter and mitigate risk to joining Violent Extremist (VE) groups, address vulnerabilities and reduce risks that foster stability and prevent re-occurrence as well as strengthen national capacities and civil society in Sudan to counter and prevent VE by effectively responding to the drivers of violent radicalization.

This final evaluation was performed to capture and demonstrate through evaluative evidence of UNDP-PAVE programme contributions towards preventing conflict and strengthening social cohesion that will contribute to a peaceful community. It assesses relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and connectedness of the project outputs through primary and secondary data sources in two evaluation areas.

In light of the domestic challenges such as political transition in addition to economic burdens, and globally the major shifting dynamics including COVID-19 pandemic and a weakened Islamic State (IS), the relevance of UNDP-PAVE remains high. The current project structure needs to include components which tackle specific VE risks associated with COVID-19 and government containment measures within the Sudanese context taking into account Sudan's political make-up during the transitional period and the risk of VE.

In terms of effectiveness, the findings of the evaluation showed that there has been a steady rate of progress relative to supporting the development of a national strategy on PVE and capacity development of government/ civil society partners. The activities implemented in both areas have been innovative and successful in tackling the root drivers of VE and are sufficient to indicate that there is general progress towards achieving the intended outputs of the project relative to supporting disengagement, rehabilitation and (re) occurrence of VE. Refinement is needed with regards to developing and implementing strategic communication and advocacy strategies that enables dialogue and counter-narratives and promotes tolerance and lead to peaceful coexistence.

Sustainability is evidenced through sustained support by the Government of Sudan (GoS) to continue to work towards and create a conducive environment for initiatives such as PAVE that are aimed at combating VE. Short term sustainability was demonstrated through benefits accrued by project beneficiaries, though more deliberate interventions will need to be put in place to overcome the factors that impede long term sustainability of the project. An evaluation of efficiency identified some capacity, funding and institutional gaps echoing the need for a large and diverse human resource base

to support the complex and multi-pronged efforts of the project. Additionally, both SNCCT and implementing partners of the project have echoed the need for additional funding to support initiatives they currently have in the pipelines and for which demand from beneficiaries have been raised. Such support comes at an opportune time as the project initiatives can be synergised with the Juba Peace Agreement implemented by the transitional government. Institutional barriers and Covid-19 pandemic did cause delay in carrying out of the project activities, which necessitates prudence in developing mitigation strategies. Upon review, PAVE follows a robust M&E strategy though identified gaps in communication can be bridged in order to strengthen reporting mechanisms and ensure greater accountability.

Finally, in assessing the connectedness of the project, the evaluation reflected positive synergy with other efforts in the state as manifested in its joint engagement with UNOCT in developing the national strategy on PVE as well as synergy between the outputs of the project and the aims of the government as evidenced through the sustained political will in addressing the root causes of violent extremism.

Overall, the evaluation also captured several good practices and lessons; the positive role of vocational training, public private sector enterprise involvement, VLSA's and innovative media communication methods such as film making in combating VE. Based on the findings of this evaluation, some of the recommendations laid were; developing an ongoing research repository on the intersectionality of political, economic and social structures and VE, preferably by onboarding research institutions and a knowledge hub accessible to all will strengthen the institutional documentation of VE in Sudan; conducting pre-intervention screenings to ensure compliance with the "Do no harm" ethical code; ensuring strategic communication through diversifying communication routes and establishment of mitigation measures.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Project background:

At the projects inception in 2017, Sudan faced major challenges to addressing Violent Extremism (VE) within its borders. Sudan was classified as an at-risk state by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in their report titled Regional and Multi- Country Project Document- Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in Africa: A Development Approach.² This classification meant that the state has no violent extremist groups actively present in the country but has exhibited some of the same socio- economic and governance related factors as countries characterised by widespread violent extremism stemming internally or from neighbouring states. However, this classification did not render the state immune from dynamics of violent extremism, rather VE is manifested through isolated attacks or incidents undertaken by small populations who exhibit some signs of radicalization.³

In order to gain increased insights into violent extremism in Sudan, UNDP, in conjunction with the Sudan National Commission for Counter Terrorism (SNCCT) and some civil society actors, commissioned an empirical study to probe the drivers of violent extremism. In completing the study, the research team interviewed former violent extremists' combatants, former members of violent extremist groups and their families and associates. The findings of the study indicated that 94% of persons who join VE groups are categorized as radicalized youth- aged between 16-34 years of age. Furthermore, the study identified religious factors and ideologies as some of the primary causes for youths joining violent extremist groups. In addition, economic factors and its intersectionality with education levels and emotions associated with joining VE groups were all posited as contributors to VE.⁴

Project:

In 2014, the UN Security Council passed a resolution condemning VE calling upon Member States to support efforts to adopt longer-term solutions to addressing underlying causes of radicalization and VE, including by empowering youth. The resolution, which provides a basis for the UN Global Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism presented to the UN General Assembly in 2015, notes effective responses require promoting political and religious tolerance, economic development, social cohesion, inclusiveness, resolving armed conflicts, and facilitating reintegration and rehabilitation. In particular, the PAVE programme will build upon the stage set by the UN system, complementing the work of other

² United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Regional and Multi- Country Project Document- Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in Africa: A Development Approach, 2020, available at: [UNDP_RBA_Preventing_and_Responding_to_Violent_Extremism_2016-19 \(1\).pdf](#)

³ ibd

⁴ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Violent extremism in Sudan: an evidence-based study, 2017, p 28, available at: [Violent Extremism in Sudan - UNDP SNCCT 2017 \(1\).pdf](#)

actors through partnerships, collaboration and coordination assisting the Government of Sudan's (GoS) efforts to mitigate VE. Linkages with existing UN frameworks globally includes Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions; specifically, indicator 16.10 aimed to "Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime". In light of above dynamics, UNDP developed and initiated the Partnering Against Violent Extremism Project (PAVE). The project combines analysis gained from study findings with cutting edge research on Preventing/ Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) undertaken by leading think tanks and bi-laterals in Europe and the United States, the PAVE identified evidence- based strategic entry points for intervention based on the following Theory of Change (ToC):

IF drivers of violent extremism are better understood through the joint survey conducted by UNDP, SNCCT and civil society on trends of VE and used to underpin strategy and programming, **THEN** a more holistic approach will be formulated to tackle complex causes, reduce the number of people joining VE and help rehabilitate and reintegrate effectively people returning from VE.

Premised on the above ToC as derived from the study findings, UNDP developed the following goals, objectives and outputs for the project.

Table 1: Description of the goals, objectives and outputs of the project.

Goals	The PAVE initiative will support the Government of Sudan (GoS) and civil society stem the tide of VE leading to peaceful coexistence.
Objectives	To counter and mitigate risk to joining VE groups, address vulnerabilities and reduce risks that foster stability and prevent re-occurrence.
	To strengthen national capacities and civil society in Sudan to counter and prevent VE by effectively responding to the drivers of violent radicalization.
Outputs	1. Assist the SNCCT to develop a national PVE strategy and policy taking into account regional and Sudan specific VE drivers. Capacity development of government and civil society partners.
	2. Continue and augment the PVE research.
	3. Support the disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration of persons exposed to radicalization and VE by designing and implementing socio-economic livelihoods and social cohesion programmes. To design gender and

	youth PVE approaches enhancing VE resilience through development and implementation of evidenced based programme innovations.
	4. Develop and implement a strategic communication and advocacy strategy that enables dialogue and counter-narratives, and promotes tolerance and lead to peaceful coexistence.

The project's main target groups include individuals, communities, institutions and organizations in Khartoum (Mayo and Haj Yousif communities), Kassala, White Nile state Gedaref and Gazeira states, comprising both female & male genders. The project is inclusive of various components, namely: capacity development; gender responsiveness; research; policy development; social cohesion and livelihoods; youth; and strategic communications, advocacy and counter- narrations. Key stakeholders include but are not limited to community members, implementing partners, government, civil society groups and beneficiary institutions.

Purpose of evaluation:

The purpose of this evaluation is to capture and demonstrate evaluative evidence of UNDP-PAVE programme contributions towards preventing conflict and strengthening social cohesion that will contribute to a peaceful community. This will be achieved by:

- a. Assessing the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and connectedness of the project;
- b. Identifying implementation challenges facing the project and provide recommendations;
- c. Identifying cases of good practices and success stories on supporting larger development and peacebuilding strategy with a focus on prevention of violence and community stabilization via creating livelihood opportunities;
- d. Reviewing the inclusion of gender equality and women's empowerment throughout PAVE project activities as a methodology for addressing gender-specific issues and violent extremism

Through this process, the project management team will be better equipped to develop evidence- based implementation strategies and conceptualize measures for improved effectiveness. The review recommendations will be shared with key stakeholders, including government counterparts and funding partners for their endorsement. Ultimately, findings of the final evaluation will contribute to supporting

larger development and peacebuilding strategy with a focus on prevention of violence and community stabilization via creating livelihood opportunities.

Scope of evaluation:

The evaluation sought to assess relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and connectedness of the project outputs through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). The scope of the evaluation is limited to the projects activities that have been implemented from the inception of the project during the last 4 years (2017 - 2021). For the purposes of the evaluation, the projects selected geographical areas were (1) Mayo, Khartoum, and (2) Katarajah in Al-Jazeera . In Khartoum, the activities assessed were implemented by BADYA Centre for Integrated Development (BADYA) and in Al-Jazeera state the activities were implemented by the Child Development Foundation (CDF).

Evaluation areas:

(1) Katarajah, Jazeera State.

The village of Katarajah is situated on the outskirts of the capital city Madani. The village of Katrajah is divided into the eastern and western parts. The eastern part has 800 houses with an average of 8 individuals per household and the western part has 1550 homes with an average of 8 individuals per household. The original residents of the area were the waste and health workers of the Al-Jazeera Agricultural Scheme. The area is currently inhabited by persons displaced as a result of conflict in Darfur, South- Kordofan, Western Abukarshola and the Nuba Mountains. Currently, no primary or secondary school exist in the area, requiring children undertake a 45-minute walk to the locality of Barakat. The village does not have a health centre, police station or social areas. Residents of the village are primarily engaged as low-income manual laborers.

(2) Mayo, Khartoum

Mayo is about 15km south of Khartoum and is part of the Jebel Awlia locality. The area is comprised of a number of informal settlements including Gabdoush A, Gabdoush B, Gabdoush C, Mandela, Angola, Mayo SQ 7,8 and 12. The area is inhabited by about 11,200 families of different

ethnicities but who mainly originate from Darfur and South- Kordofan. As in Katrajah, residents of the area primarily serve as manual laborers as well as sell food items and operate small kiosks.⁵

Evaluation Team:

The evaluation team consisted of Eiman Kheir and Ahmed Khair who was the delegated consultant of the Sudan Research and Consultancy Group (SRCG). The team was responsible for the design of the inception report, development of data collection tools, conducting data collection, analysing the data, drafting of the evaluation report.

⁵Multi-Sector Rapid Assessment Khartoum (Mayo, Al Gailli and Al Salaama areas), 2019, available: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/assessments/190902_khartoum_rapid_assessment_report.pdf

CHAPTER 2: METHODOLOGY

The methodology applied on this evaluation considered both primary and secondary data sources which were triangulated in order to get the most accurate reflection of the prevailing dynamics relative to progress of the project.

The secondary data sources examined were: activity progress reports; monitoring and evaluation (M&E) reports; research studies; administrative documents prepared by implementing partners in the course of the project cycle; reports prepared by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs); and national data and grey literature.

Regarding the primary data, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were the main data collection tools. This evaluation employed purposive sampling in determining participants for both the KIIs and FGDs.

The choice for utilizing non probability sampling is informed by its efficiency in light of the study time frame, and purposive sampling was employed because it allowed the researchers to select a sample which is most useful for the purposes of this study, namely, persons and institutions targeted by the project. Furthermore, it is also relevant in that the findings of this study are intended to focus and be interpreted only for the population under study (targeted PAVE stakeholders) and are not meant for general conclusions regarding VE in light of the overall population. Where such inferences are made in the study, it will be on the basis of information collected from secondary data sources.

Data collection:

Data collection was conducted in Khartoum state and in Al- Jazeera state. Data was collected in the form of KIIs and FGDs. Both FGDs and KIIs were intended to examine the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and connectedness of the project. The participants who took part in the study were identified following a desk review of all the project documents and consultations with UNDP and implementing partners.

Prior to any discussions with project stakeholders, the research team identified themselves and informed the participants about the objectives of the evaluation. Following the introduction, the participants were provided with written consent forms which a member of the research team explained to them, those

who agreed to partake in the evaluation were requested to sign the consent form, in cases where the participants were minors, consent was sought from their parents or guardians.

FGDs were held with beneficiaries of PAVE project activities (vocational training, livelihood support, community security and policing and small business support) which are linked to output 3 which aims at preventing (re) occurrence, disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration. All FGDs were conducted in line with the social and cultural norms of a given community. The table below indicates the areas where FGDs were convened, the numerical and gender makeup of the groups and the topics which were covered.

Table 2: Summary description of the FGD's convened.

No	Area	Participants	Topic discussed
1	Mayo, Khartoum	6 female participants, 4 male participants	Vocational training
2	Katrija, Al- Jazeera	6 male participants	Vocational training
3	Katrija, Al-Jazeera	4 female participants	Vocational training
4	Katrija, Al- Jazeera	5 female participants	Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA)

KIIs were primarily conducted with project beneficiaries, implementing partners (Badya Center for Integrated Development and Children Development Foundation), government institutions (Sudan National Commission for Counter Terrorism, Ministry of Social Development and Labour and a representative of the police) international organizations (United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism and the United Nations Development Programme), embassies (Embassy of Norway, Embassy of Netherlands), community members and beneficiary institutions. A total of 12 KIIs were conducted towards the completion of this research. KII and FGD questions are included in the annexes section.

Data storage, analysis and transcription:

KIIs and FGDs were recorded, subject to the consent of the participants, using voice recorders. Recordings were collated, organized and stored in an encrypted Universal Serial Bus (USB) and analysed during the data analysis stage of the evaluation. Data from the recordings was transcribed, coding and thematic analysis of the data was performed, to identify key themes. Themes were extrapolated and synthesised into the evaluation matrix recommendations.

Ethical considerations:

The evaluation team was committed to conducting the evaluation with the utmost compliance with the principles outlined in the Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation (UNEG 2008) which ensures that the evaluation processes and products are credible.

In this regard, the research team ensured strict compliance with the communities ethical and social norms in order to guarantee smooth access to targeted localities. In line with this, the research team took the following steps to guarantee that these norms are respected:

- a. Engaged with community and religious leaders to grant smooth access and acceptance of the targeted groups;
- b. Engaged with local implementing partner staff from the targeted region who have good awareness of the local socio- cultural, religious and political context;
- c. When working with vulnerable groups, the evaluation team guaranteed their anonymity;
- d. FGDs were, in communities where such religious and social norms applied, convened according to the gender of the participants.

COVID-19:

The evaluation team recognized that the field of research is subject to significant risks associated with COVID-19 for the researchers and research participants. As such, the team endeavoured to comply with all related COVID-19 safety precautions as set by the Sudanese Ministry of Health and UNDP guidelines during the data collection process. This included ensuring social distancing between participants, conducting the data collection in well ventilated spaces and having face masks readily available.

Limitations of the study:

The major limitation of this study was the span of time allotted for its completion. Time limitations meant that the research team was unable to visit all the project sites in order to provide a comprehensive view of the progress of the project. As such, two areas were selected on the basis of PAVE project activities density. Furthermore, for the project sites which were visited, the research team was unable to spend the necessary amount of time to conduct in- depth data collection hence we resorted to carry out more FGDs compared to KIIs.

CHAPTER 3: FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

This section aims to highlight the findings of the data collected from the field and analyse it in light of the evaluation criteria, namely, relevance, effectiveness, sustainability, efficiency and connectedness. In addition, throughout this section unique case studies relative to the outputs will be pointed out. The findings were deduced using the below evaluation matrix.

Table 3: Evaluation matrix.

Evaluation Criteria	Questions	Focus Group Discussions	Key Informant Interviews	Desk Review (Project Records, Governmental Policies, Secondary Reports).
Relevance	Transformation relative to dynamics of VE within communities since inception of the project.		x	X
	Extent of project contributions towards community stabilization, peaceful co-existence, social cohesion and local economic development.		x	x
Effectiveness	Activities achieved towards implementation of respective outputs.		x	x
	Activities currently in the pipelines towards realization of the intended outputs.		x	x
	Organization engagement towards realization of outputs and status of such engagement.		x	
	Coordination modalities between UNDP and the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT).		x	x
	Added value brought in by UNOCT.		x	
Efficiency	Utilization of human resources and funds to achieve desired outputs.		x	x

	Capacity, funding and institutional gaps inhibiting full realization of intended outputs.		X	
	Obstructions caused by COVID-19, political instability or any other unforeseen circumstances.		X	X
	Risks associated with the program at a local and national level.		X	
	Management structures for PAVE to deliver timely and efficient project implementation (steering committees, UNDP country office and field office)		X	X
	M&E procedures applied by UNDP and implementing partners and UNOCT to ensure greater accountability.		X	X
Connectedness	Extent of coordination between PAVE and other interventions.		X	X
	Political landscape and potential for renewed opportunities and coordination with government institutions and organizations.		X	
	Processes to ensure that the project matches individual and local capacities/needs.		X	
Sustainability	Exit strategies and steps taken to ensure community stabilization and women empowerment persists following the end of the project.		X	X
	Communities supported through the project.		X	
	UNDP support for implementing partners towards ensuring sustainability.		X	X
	Institutional advantages of implementing partners towards achieving objectives of the project and how they have been leveraged to ensure sustainability		X	X
Impact	Description of programs, personal and societal transformation, benefits, real life application, trickle down messaging and lessons learned.	X		X

RELEVANCE:

Projects are always at risk of changing dynamics which impact the relevance. The PAVE project has not been immune to fluctuations in its relevance, particularly since the inception of the project in 2017 there have been significant changes both nationally and globally. Nationally, a major shift in political power was witnessed in 2019 following the Sudanese revolution that led to the ousting of former president Omar Al-Bashir. The political transition in addition to economic burdens continue to be a domestic challenge. Globally the major shifting dynamics include the COVID-19 pandemic and a weakened Islamic State (IS). This section aims to assess the relevance of the project mindful of the intersectionality of the aforementioned dynamics.

Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused widespread loss of life and has threatened the basic fibres which ensure the wellbeing, safety and prosperity of societies and communities. The realm of VE has also been impacted by the pandemic. According to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), COVID-19 measures instituted by governments world-wide, including Sudan, can aggravate the situation of violent extremism by resulting in increased online recruitment, halted and reduced international security missions and halted peacebuilding and development initiatives. In Sudan, as indicated by representatives of the SNCCT, there is a fear that terrorist groups which always engaged in online forms of recruitment will gain further reach with the pandemic. The government restrictions risk causing a loss of employment, decreased access to basic commodities and services and increased food insecurity. COVID-19 containment measures also disrupted informal workers, particularly women with roles in community such as tea sellers. Thus, the pandemic has given rise to renewed risks of VE and greater impetus for sustained programming to tackle these issues. The relevance of VE programming in this regard remains high, however, the project as structured needs to include components which tackle specific VE risks associated with COVID-19 within the Sudanese context.

The dwindling influence of Islamic State (IS)

At the time of the project's inception, the world was combatting scourge of the Islamic State (IS). At the time, the group had very advanced and effective recruitment methods which transcended national

identities, ethnic backgrounds, state borders, language and culture. In practice, this meant that the group was able to attract recruits all over the world. Although relatively minimal, Sudanese were not exempt from IS recruitment, as a matter of fact, the study on perceptions of VE which was jointly conducted by UNDP and SNCCT focused to a large extent on this phenomenon. As things stand the Global Coalition to defeat IS has liberated all territories belonging to the group, removed its key leaders and the group is on the precipice of complete annihilation. The relevance of the project is impacted in that a major trickle down in the number of recruits joining the group has occurred, this includes persons of Sudanese nationality, however, it is important to note that the efforts of the project should be sustained since there are still risks posed by Sudanese youths joining groups such as Al-Shabab and Boko Haram both of whom wield a significant degree of influence and pull.

Violent extremism in light of the political transition

The year 2018 was a vanguard year in terms of political change in Sudan. In December of that year, a wave of protests began and was shortly followed by a civil disobedience movement which culminated with the 11 April 2019 coup d'état that deposed the 30-year regime of Omar Al- Bashir. Following the coup, disputes over the transitions emerged from the different political factions in the state- on the one hand there were the armed forces components, under the Transitional Military Council (TMC), and on the other, the civilian components, which by in large were under the umbrella of the Forces for Freedom and Change Alliance (FFC). Following extensive negotiations, these two factions signed the political agreement and draft constitutional declaration that initiated the transitional period which would be overseen by the Sovereignty Council of Sudan.

The political, economic and social dynamics which permeated the final years of the Al-Bashir regime led to the classification of Sudan as an at-risk country and formed the basis of developing the PAVE project and the subsequent policies laid down by the transitional government which now intersect with the project and impact its relevance. These dynamics included, rampant inflation, high rates of unemployment among youth groups, widespread human rights violations, ethnic divisions and violent conflicts in Darfur, Blue Nile, South Kordofan and parts of Eastern Sudan. All these factors taken together, some as cited in the joint UNDP and SNCCT study, fuelled rises in the cases of VE.

In gauging the current relevance under which the PAVE project, it was evident that while the transitional government of Sudan is instituting substantive economic reforms, the state is still in dire conditions economically and basic commodities are becoming harder to acquire, unemployment rates remain high and the country still faces rampant inflation. Thus, in terms of the economic factors the project still remains relevant to addressing the root causes of violent extremism, if anything the project is now more relevant than it was at the time of its inception.

In the political sphere, particularly relative to VE rooted in marginalization and groups reverting to armed violence in Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan and Eastern Sudan, the transitional government has made significant headway in bringing peace visible in the 2020 Juba Agreement for Peace in Sudan which was signed by the transitional government and many of Sudan's warring parties. The agreement addresses complex issues such as nation building, transitional justice, resource sharing and federalism. Taken together in the context of violent extremism, the peace agreement provides drastic improvements in combatting general root causes of VE.

The foundations of governance and policy making over the past 35 years have been in one form or the other posited on the principles of Sharia law which means that a large segment of society has its identity, morality, relations with the state and fellow citizens and actions shaped by the precepts of Sharia. The transitional authorities have exhibited an openness to considerations and calls for a move away from this status quo towards a state defined by secular modes of governance. This issue has given rise to citizen protractors and reactors; the tensions between these two groups can trigger new waves of violent extremism. It is important that additional research on whether this issue can serve as a flashpoint for violence be conducted in order to assess its impact on the relevance of this project.

The impetus and relevance for the PVE strategy was deemed essential and worthy of support, following the examining of the dynamics of VE within the state vis-a-vis the existence of root causes; the political and national ownership from the government for the development of the strategy; and that international organizations and donor states.

An assessment of these factors, garnered through KIIs with UNDP, embassy representatives and the SNCCT indicates that these groups continue to sustain the belief that addressing VE in Sudan has to be channelled through an overarching strategy. In addition, a reading of the above indicates that some of core dynamics which prompted the development of the PAVE project and by extension the development of a PVE strategy still remain in place and, as such, it is still vital that the strategy be developed to address them. Lastly, donors during the KIIs reiterated their commitments to supporting the development of a national PVE strategy.

Research continuation policy and development

Due to the fluidity of the situation in Sudan, it is vital that the PAVE project be flexible and constantly updated in line with the changing dynamics in the state. What this means in practice is that the relevance of output 2 is now more than ever integral to the project because being aware of these dynamics and effectively responding to them requires a significant degree of research continuation, policy and

program development. Lastly, although there have been positive dividends occurring in the VE landscape, the aforementioned analysis also points to an aggravation of previously existing drivers of VE and the emergence of new ones, what this means is that the state will inevitably continue to witness trends of VE and it is essential that implementation of output 3 be maintained, namely supporting the disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration of persons exposed to radicalization and VE by designing and implementing socio- economic livelihoods and social cohesion programs.

EFFECTIVENESS:

Assessing the effectiveness of the project was aimed at determining whether there has been sufficient progress on achieving each of the core outputs of the project, this meant gaining deeper insights on the current activities being implemented, those in the pipelines, partnership development, the support sought by the various groups engaged in the project and means of improvement.

OUTPUT I: Assist the SNCCT to develop a national PVE strategy and policy taking into account regional and Sudan specific VE drivers and capacity development of government and civil society partners

There has been a steady rate of progress relative to achieving output 1 on supporting the development of a PVE national strategy and capacity development of government/ civil society partners. In order to achieving this output several steps were taken:

- UNDP and SNCCT signed in 29 May 2017 a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) aimed at collaborating in the areas of PVE. This MOU is a significant step which ensures that there is a guiding framework for all the key activities of the project towards the development of a PVE strategy.
- A roadmap was completed between UNDP and SNCCT on the development of a PVE strategy. In light of this, a series of national dialogues on the subject matter were held in the states of Khartoum, White Nile, North Kordofan, and Al- Jazeera. During these dialogue sessions, UNDP provided participants with insights on international lessons learned on PVE.
- UNDP in conjunction with UNOCT have signed an agreement with an international NGO to support the development of national PVE strategy.
- A series of workshops were conducted by UNDP, UNOCT and SNCCT. These included a CVE workshop to understand the concept and dynamics of VE globally and in Sudan, the root causes, approaches and best practices; and workshops discussing the emotive elements of radicalization. There are also several activities currently in the pipelines with achieving the

overall objective of the project, these include: convening in August 2021a workshop with relevant government bodies on issues of PVE, these included members of the armed forces, civil society organizations and the Ministry of Justice, of particular note addressing issues of ethnic division, genocide, apartheid and hate speech.

- Finalizing the recruitment of the international consultant tasked with supporting the development of a national strategy on PVE;
- Engaging in additional consultations with the relevant PVE groups to better understand the current dynamics of PVE.
- Amongst the means of sustaining national ownership and strengthening political will is ensuring that the project activities continue to be needs based. The request by SNCCT for the development of a national manual on PVE is indicative of need that should be given due consideration.

OUTPUT II: Research continuation, policy and program development

The project management team views the realization of this output as essential to the successful realization of the goals of the project. In this regard, UNDP and SNCCT have begun engagements with the Centre of Immunization and Intellectual Dialogue and Peace Research Institute of the University of Khartoum. However, this form of engagement has been limited, it is essential that partnerships be developed with local think tanks, research oriented civil society organizations, universities, researchers and academics to further the objectives of the project. This is particularly important in states dealing with transitions characterised by political, economic, social and cultural fluidity.

Overall, the research continuation approach can be significantly strengthened by developing a knowledge management system for the discovery, capture, dissemination and application of learnings gained through project implementation. Such a system would feed into the continuous learning cycle by codifying lessons learned and best practices and will inform studies conducted throughout the project cycle.

OUTPUT III: Support the (re) occurrence, disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration of persons exposed to radicalization and VE by designing and implementing socio- economic livelihoods and social cohesion programs



Participants of the vocational training program in Al- Jazeera State. The activities were implemented by the Child Development Foundation (CDF).

Field visits to the locality of Mayo in Khartoum state and Katrajah in Al- Jazeera state were conducted in order to gauge and witness first-hand the progress made on implementation of output 3 of the project.

Table 3 below provides a list of some of the activities implemented by the Child Development Foundation and the BADYA Centre for Integrated Development.

Table 4: Overview of activities implemented by implementing partners in Khartoum and Al- Jazeera State.

Activities Implemented
BADYA Centre for Integrated Development (Mayo Locality)
Provided vocational training for 15 female beneficiaries on soap manufacturing, make- up and hairdressing and Henna.

Provided vocational training for 11 males and provided them with material to support an income generating activity.
Conducted film screening of the movie IMAN for 701 participants.
Child Development Foundation (Katrajah)
Training workshops for community members on the Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) model and on management practices for small scale businesses.
Establishment of two VSLA committees each composed of 25 persons. One includes 25 female members and the other 22 female and 3 male members.
Training workshop for community leaders on violent extremism. The workshop was composed of 4 females and 22 males.
Training workshops on the basic principles of the movie IMAN and the rights of the child. The number of participants was 34, of which 28 were male and 6 were female.
Training workshop for 22 members of the community policing committees.
Screened the movie IMAN for 350 students in Madani Vocational College.
Convened an awareness raising session targeting members of the VSLA committees.
Established a local hair saloon and provided beneficiaries with the necessary materials needed for its operation.
Provided vocational training for females on soap manufacturing, make- up and hairdressing and Henna.
Provided mechanical and electrical vocational training for a group of males and one female.

The table above provides a precise list of activities conducted as per output 3 of the project, this section will be dedicated to providing general observations of the activities implemented. Based on the findings of the data collection, the activities implemented in both Katrajah and Mayo have been successful in tackling the root drivers of VE and are sufficient to indicate that there is general progress towards achieving the intended outputs of the project relative to supporting disengagement, rehabilitation and (re) occurrence of VE. One beneficiary stated, “because of the income I now make from my soap

production business, my family and other members of the community respect me more and I feel that they look up to me”. In this case, as with others, the project led to positive dividends in both the social and economic standing of beneficiaries. In addition, the youth groups who participated in the vocational training schemes indicated that their participation in the program has made them averse to joining violent extremist groups. Furthermore, the sustained effectiveness of the project is also evidenced by the fact that both implementing partners have initiated plans towards the development of additional activities to build upon those delivered. These include providing additional livelihood inputs for the beneficiaries to support them to scale up their initiatives and developing partnerships with government, academic, the private sector and civil society organizations.

It is important to point out that one aspect of the interventions in Mayo is the lack of programming targeting the ‘enabling environment’. Participants indicated that the local market is one of the essential economic and social pillars of the community and serves as a site for radical mentors, elders, peers and religious leaders to engage in radicalization of youth groups. The findings of the evaluation indicate that there needs to be additional research to better understand the role such spaces play in radicalization and subsequently develop project components targeting them.

Furthermore, the findings indicate that diversifying the range of subjects for training is essential to ensuring that all participants are able to maximize their gains and earn a sufficient income to support their endeavours. It is important that implementing partners conduct market surveys to identify new areas of training to avoid flooding the market with a single form of trade, increasing unnecessary competition and reducing income gained. This point was noted by project beneficiaries in both localities and limited attention to the matter might cause tensions between project beneficiaries.



There have been several exemplary cases exhibiting the effectiveness of the project in the localities of Katrajah and Mayo. Pictured above is Mawahib, who is the only female participant in the mechanical training and represents a unique case study in the implementation of the project in Katrajah. Growing up she had always wanted to become a mechanic, when the opportunity for admissions into the vocational training programs presented itself, she refused to join the activities designed for females and insisted on joining the mechanical training. Following completion of her training, she began to work in her dad's automobile repair workshop, she states that she constantly gets stares from passers-by and occasionally faces verbal harassment but she has received nothing but support from members of her community who, as a form of support and appreciation, wait outside to greet her when she returns from work.

In Mayo, one of the beneficiaries of the vocational training on soap production has now expanded her business beyond Khartoum to include Jabal Awliya and Al- Jazeera state. Another soap production beneficiary, expressed that because she continues to support school pupils with soap to maintain a respectful appearance, she has now assumed the role of a mentor for children and youth in the community.

OUTPUT IV: Develop and implement a strategic communication and advocacy strategy that enables dialogue and counter- narratives, and promotes tolerance and leads to peaceful coexistence

Strategic communication and advocacy followed a two-pronged approach. UNDP targeting external stakeholders i.e. Donors, UNDP regional office, etc have primarily been pillared on the movie IMAN; The Implementing Partners targeting grassroots communities for activities in the field, this included screening the movie IMAN, dialogue sessions, flyers, etc. The project management team has been successful in screening the movie to multiple national and international stakeholders and partners. In addition, implementing partners have also played a pivotal role in screening the movie and convening workshop and roundtable discussions around it, table 3 provides insights into some of these film screenings. Furthermore, the movie has also been disseminated to members of government, CSOs, diplomatic community and academia. In addition, the project management team has also developed a communication strategy and media kits for screening the movie.

Relative to the entirety of the PAVE project, the project management team has developed flyers and fact sheets which are disseminated to the different UN agencies primarily through internal UNDP communication channels.

Special attention on relevance needs to be given to the movie IMAN, throughout the data collection the movie was the subject of a great amount of discussion and reflection by communities, implementing partners, government institutions and the UNDP management staff. Most of these stakeholders echoed that the utilization of movies is an effective communication and advocacy tool for engaging on sensitive issues such as VE. However, many also highlighted that in 2021 the movie is no longer relevant to the context of VE in Sudan or their specific communities. The representatives of SNCCT commended the movie IMAN and further requested that there is need for production of a series of films or theme-based productions responding to the current context of VE in Sudan.

The KIIs conducted with UNDP and implementing partners indicates that they are already aware of the contextual deficits of the movie. Particularly of note in this regard to UNDP are the views of project beneficiaries in Al- Jazeera who conclusively believe that the movie does not tackle issues which are relevant to their communities and as such, there is the risk that the movie screening may have the opposite effect of transplanting inexistent forms of VE to their communities. In this regard, one respondent stated during a KII:

Accordingly, and in line with the “do no harm” approach of this project, it is important that implementing partners take due diligence in first assessing the forms and understandings of VE within a particular community and respectively assess the pros and cons of screening the movie. What this analysis indicates is that strategic communication and advocacy strategies still constitute a relevant avenue to enable dialogue and counter narratives and promote tolerance and lead to peaceful co-existence, but this requires that communication tools must be tailored to the circumstances of each community to avoid the adverse effect of alienating or causing harm within communities.

SUSTAINABILITY:

An assessment on sustainability sought to assess policy level sustainability, environmental sustainability and whether there are sufficient exit strategies for the community stabilization programs to continue following the end of the project, vis a vis the sustainability of the benefits accrued by project participants.

One means of ensuring suitability of the project at the policy level is having the norms and objectives it encapsulates be embedded in policy making and programming. Data collection findings in addition to desk reviews of news reports, research papers and other relevant documents indicates that there is sustained support by the Government of Sudan (GoS) to continue to work towards and create a conducive environment for initiatives such as PAVE that are aimed at combatting VE. This is evidenced in the governments engagements in bringing peace dividends between the different warring factions in the state, the culmination of which is the 2020 Juba Agreement for Peace in Sudan and the on-going negotiations with Abdelaziz Al-Hilu aiming to bring peace to the nation. In addition, although the government’s current economic policies including currency devaluation and fuel subsidy costs may aggravate VE root causes by leading to economic contractions and social tensions, its policies aimed at building social safety nets for poor families, such as Thamarat, help sustain projects aimed at tackling the root causes of VE. Furthermore, steps taken by the SNCCT to engage in international fora on lessons learned and best practices relative to VE is also a case in point in ensuring that the project itself and progress made is sustainable. This form of engagement is particularly important as Sudan, by virtue of its geographic location, is susceptible to some of the most destructive violent extremist groups, including Al-Shabab, Boko Haram and Al-Qaeda. Ultimately, as pointed out by representatives of UNDP during data collection, the most effective means of ensuring that the current activities undertaken and there exists sustained attempts at combating the root drivers of VE is by developing a cohesive strategy on the prevention of VE. In this regard, vital to consolidating progress made is UNDP continuing to support the government in realizing this objective.

The image shows an open VSLA record keeping book. The right page contains a grid with blue triangular stamps. The left page is blank. Both pages have headers in Arabic and summary boxes at the bottom.

قيمة السهم الواحد		عدد الأسهم في البداية		التاريخ	
				4	3
				4	10
				4	17
				24	4
				1	5
				8	5
				22	5

Summary boxes at the bottom of the pages:

- Left page: عدد الأسهم المشتراة في نهاية هذه الصفحة / جملة الأسهم في هذه الفترة
- Right page: عدد الأسهم المشتراة في نهاية هذه الصفحة / جملة الأسهم في هذه الفترة

VSLA record keeping book provided to each member. Each stamp is indicative of a contribution of SDG 100.

In terms of sustainability of the benefits accrued by project beneficiaries, the findings suggest that beneficiaries generally believe that they are able to sustain themselves in the short- term but in order to ensure long-term sustainability of the benefits they gained the following must be considered:

- For those who have been provided with material to support livelihood initiatives, additional material inputs, and basic marketing and branding skills should be provided to support them in scaling up and ultimately better position them to sustain their business endeavours;
- Relative to beneficiaries who have received vocational training, there must be secondary support to ensure that beneficiaries are matched with employers in their area of training;
- The provision of additional training on best management and financial practices for small and medium sized enterprises;

- Support in enrolment to federal and regional Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) centres should be provided for interested project beneficiaries;
- Provide Training of Trainers (ToT) for project beneficiaries who engaged in vocational training to allow them to pass their skills on to other member of their community;
- Initiate additional VSLA training as evidence indicates that it positions beneficiaries to expand the initiatives being undertaken by them as a source of income. In addition, it provides additional social safety nets for members experiencing hardships as members pool money together for the provision emergency relief support for other members and in Katrajah considerations are being made to provide support for members of the community not part of the VSLA committees.

Beneficiaries note that one of the major impediments to the long-term sustainability of the project relative to the livelihood support is the rampant occurrence of inflation which makes it harder for beneficiaries to restock and to sell their items due to price increases. In this regard, the aforementioned financial and business management trainings can integrate models to help beneficiaries avert risks incurred as a result of inflation.

In terms of environmental sustainability, none of the participants indicated that their activities resulted in any sort of environmental impact. However, CDF in the subsequent phase of the project intends, in line with its livelihood support engagements, to rent out plots of land in Al-Jazeera and provide them to project beneficiaries to farm as a source of income. The goal is to implement environmentally sound farming practices be applied to ensure that the activity does not cause any form of environmental degradation.

EFFICIENCY:

The evaluation in its assessment of the efficiency of the project sought to examine the following:

- Whether there are any capacity, funding or institutional gaps inhibiting full realization of the project's outputs;
- The obstruction or slowdown in the implementation of any of the project outputs as a result of COVID-19, political instability or other unforeseen circumstances;
- Whether existing management, communication and M&E procedures applied ensure greater accountability and produce the most appropriate results.

The research team, in its discussions with the various stakeholders, had identified some capacity, funding and institutional gaps. Both UNDP and the SNCCT have limited human resources working on PAVE, and yet have managed to achieve sustained progress on combating the root causes of VE. However, the project in addition to its complexity and multi-pronged efforts spanning the entire state would need a large and diverse human resource base. In this regard, a capacity needs assessment in light of the VE agenda in general and PAVE needs to be conducted in order to support the UNDP and SNCCT to bring together the sufficient manpower needed to realize its mandate. In terms of funding gaps, both SNCCT and implementing partners of the project have echoed the need for additional funding to support initiatives they currently have in the pipelines and for which demand from beneficiaries have been raised.

Relative to donor interests for funding, discussions with donors indicates an interest in supporting projects aimed at supplementing the government of Sudan's efforts in realizing the particulars of the 2020 Juba Agreement for Peace in Sudan. In order to sustain donor support, it is vital that the program management team works towards ensuring synergy between activities in the next phase of the project and the objectives of the 2020 Juba Agreement for Peace in Sudan.

As stated in the relevance section of this evaluation, COVID-19 has halted and reduced peacebuilding and development initiatives worldwide. In the context of Sudan, KIIs with representatives of UNDP, implementing partners and SNCCT which were corroborated with evidence gained from desk reviews indicates that peacebuilding and development programming, including PAVE, have been significantly delayed by the pandemic. All stakeholders faced significant difficulties in implementing the program due to the governments COVID-19 restrictions which have included closure of schools, airports, ports, land crossing, gatherings, social events and domestic travel between states. Although these restrictions have been eased, authorities could reimpose, extend, further ease, or amend any restrictions with little to no notice depending on the prevailing circumstances relative to the disease spread. As such, it would be prudent that program mitigation measures be developed by all stakeholders to ensure that they can mitigate future delays as a result of government policies. Since this project requires working in close conjunction with government counterparts, these delays are also aggravated by the political instability of the past 4 years caused by the initial protest movements and subsequent inception of the transitional government. These delays have been caused by widespread backlogs in the governments administrative and decision-making processes which manifested as a result of the constant rotations of officials and changing government agendas. Although it cannot be reasonably expected of the project management team to foresee all the changes that could occur it is expected that they commission studies which provide insights on the dynamics of the state and ensure that they are cognizant of the trends developing to support their ability to be adapt and respond to political changes.

In terms of the efficacy of the M&E procedures, findings from KIIs with implementing partners and UNDP as well as review of M&E documentation suggests that progress reports which include achievements in implementation are being submitted regularly. Furthermore, in line with the project document, programme staff have conducted field visits in order to verify the items mentioned in the progress reports. These field visits included engagements with implementing partners, community members, project beneficiaries and sites of vocational training and potential areas for project expansion. The project board members have engaged in field visits to observe progress on implementation of the project. While the PAVE follows a robust M&E strategy, the discussions with representative of UNOCT indicates that there is no M&E strategy being applied between UNOCT and UNDP on the development of the national strategy⁶, the need for developing such a strategy is vital particularly as the organizations have already tentatively agreed on their areas of contributions and engagement, namely, the provision of training for researchers, analysis, drafting of the strategy and peer review.

With regards to M&E in the field, many of the areas where the projects are implemented are not accessible to the project board members or Implementing Partners after night fall due to security concerns. It was recommended that community members be trained on the basics of monitoring and reporting to allow for continuous monitoring and better evaluation of the project.

The current communication mechanisms in place seem to depend on personal connections rather than a communication system to keep donors and stakeholders abreast of the prevailing dynamics of the project. This is exasperated by the fact that there is no single reporting mechanism being applied to share progress with all donors and has rather been done on an ad-hoc basis, this approach has left discrepancies in terms of information. To remedy these issues, it is essential that UNDP take a more strategic and deliberate approach to report progress on the project. In this regard UNDP can implement the following measures to ensure that donors are satisfied with the communication mechanisms:

- Utilize multi-channel approaches for information sharing, these can include in- person, emails, texts, social media posts with relevant hashtags, website posts and regular newsletters;
- Undertake regular field visits to project implementation sites;
- Ensure that stakeholder meetings are undertaken more frequently;
- Develop regular concise reports to share with stakeholders, these may be one-page reports sent out on a weekly basis;

⁶ UNDP stated that they have developed its own M&E plan including for the development of a national strategy. However, UNDP also recognize the significance of a joint M&E plan with UNOCT and will discuss the matter with UNOCT.

- Ensure that there exists a knowledge management system to track real time progress on the project and readily is accessible to all stakeholders

CONNECTEDNESS:

In assessing the connectedness of the project, the evaluation sought to determine whether the engagements have been coordinated with other interventions and whether the current political landscape offers renewed opportunities for coordination with government institutions.

The project management team has taken steps to ensure that the project is in synergy with other efforts in the state. This is particularly manifested in its joint engagement with UNOCT in developing the national strategy on PVE. These efforts are in line with UNOCT's agenda of providing capacity building support to the government of Sudan on countering illicit forms of financing, border security, legislation reforms and improving understandings of human rights.

In terms of the connectedness of the project with the current political dynamics, a desk review and discussions with representatives of SNCCT affirms that there is synergy between the outputs of the project and the aims of the government and there is sustained political will in addressing the root causes of violent extremism.

PROGRESS TABLE:

An assessment of progress made is surmised in the below table.

Table 5: Overview of progress made against respective outputs.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)			Final Evaluation results
		Value	Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	
Output 1 Support to Development of PVE National Strategies and Capacity Development of government/civil society partners	1.1 PVE national strategy drafted and endorsed in a consultative process	No strategy	2017	PVE NS drafted and endorsed	-	-	In Progress/Partially Achieved
	1.2 Action plan developed within the framework of PVE national strategy	No action plan	2016	Action plan developed and implemented	Action plan implemented	Action plan implemented	In Progress/Partially Achieved ⁷
	1.3 PVE national action plan disseminated among government and civil society partners	No action plan	2016	1,000 copies PVE national action plan	1,000 copies	1,000 copies	Final targets not achieved.
	1.4 Capacity development plan developed and implemented	No capacity dev. plan	2016	Capacity dev. Plan developed and implemented	Capacity dev. Plan implemented	Capacity dev. Plan implemented	
Output 2 Research Continuation, Policy and Program Development	2.1 Extended research conducted and completed	Preliminary research on PVE in Sudan	Early 2017	Extended research designed and started	Extended research continued	Extended research completed	Final target achieved.
	2.2 Extended research results shared with national and int'l stakeholders	Preliminary research final paper	Early 2017	Progress report developed and shared	Progress report developed and shared	Final report developed and shared	Final target achieved.

⁷ Partially achieved since consultations did take place + the ongoing work with UNOCT on creating a strategy and NAP.

It is clear that the delay was due to political instability in the country, COVID19 and the changes at SNCCT.

	2.3 National policy or legislation guided by research findings	No policy or legislation	2016	-	Policy or legislation drafted	Policy or legislation endorsed	Final targets achieved.
Output 3 Preventing (re-)occurrence - disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration	3.1 Psychosocial innovative support and behavioural insights designed and implemented, and # of people (disaggregated by sex)	No innovative approach attempted	2016	Psychosocial innovations & behavioural insights designed and implemented, 4000 youths (3200 men, 800 women)	Psychosocial innovations & behavioural insights implemented, 6000 youths (4800 men, 1200 women)	Psychosocial innovations & behavioural insights implemented, 6000 youths (4800 men, 1200 women)	In Progress Psychosocial insights were evident in engagement with SNCCT analysis, and SNCCT joint activities with other partners, i.e. Gaming.⁸ UNDP documents/projects reviewed did not provide any psychosocial innovation.
	3.2 Youth at risk programming designed and implemented, and # of youth (disaggregated by sex) disengaged from extremist groups.	No youth focused approach designed	2016	Youth focused approach designed and implemented, 1000 youths (900 men, 100 women)	Youth focused approach implemented, 1000 youths (900 men, 100 women)	Youth focused approach implemented, 1000 youths (900 men, 100 women)	Achieved. Youth focused approaches implemented. (Numbers need to be verified across the different Ips)

⁸ The UNDP led capacity building provided to SNCCT can be deemed as a instigator to psychosocial innovation within SNCCT.

	3.3 Gender responsive interventions designed and implemented, and # of people (disaggregated by sex) receive the support.	No gender responsive intervention designed	2016	Gender responsive interventions designed and implemented, 1000 people (200 men, 800 women)	Gender responsive interventions implemented, 1000 people (200 men, 800 women)	Gender responsive interventions implemented, 1000 people (200 men, 800 women)	Achieved. The target #s need to be verified across the different Ips.
	3.4 Livelihood support plan designed and implemented, and # of people (disaggregated by sex) receive the support	No livelihood intervention designed	2016	Livelihood support plan designed and implemented, 500 people (350 men, 150 women)	Livelihood support plan designed and implemented, 500 people (350 men, 150 women)	Livelihood support plan designed and implemented, 500 people (350 men, 150 women)	Final target achieved.
	3.5 Rule of Law (corrections) & inclusive governance designed and implemented, and # of interventions	No rule of law and inclusive governance plan designed	2016	Plan designed and implemented, 1 initiative implemented	Plan implemented, 2 initiatives implemented	Plan implemented, 2 initiatives implemented	Final target achieved.

Output 4 Strategic Communications, Advocacy & Counter-narrations	4.1 Advocacy film produced, and # of events on film screening or radio or TV programmes on preventing violent extremism organized.	Advocacy film produced but no media campaign conducted	Early 2017	Advocacy film premiered in Sudan and other countries, uploaded on line, and at least 8 events conducted	At least 8 events conducted	At least 8 events conducted	Final target achieved.
	4.2 # of sensitization workshops, conferences or trainings conducted per year.	Imam workshop conducted and a couple of conferences conducted	Early 2017	3 sensitization workshops, conferences or trainings planned and conducted	3 sensitization workshops, conferences or trainings planned and conducted	3 sensitization workshops, conferences or trainings planned and conducted	Final target achieved.
	4.3 Counter narrations developed and # of PI materials and publications designed on PVE/CVE.	No counter narrations developed	2016	Counter narrations developed and 1 PI material produced	Counter narrations developed, 1 PI material produced, and used in PI campaign	Counter narrations developed, 1 PI material produced, and used in PI campaign	Final target achieved.

CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSION, GOOD PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions:

The evaluation captured and evaluated the progress of the PAVE project through an assessment of the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and connectedness of the project. In this regard, it identified implementation challenges facing the project and also provided cases of good practices and success stories. Throughout the evaluation, the research team was purposive in ensuring that the basis of their evaluation was human centred and as such, the experiences, feelings and sentiments of the beneficiaries are significantly posited in the report.

The findings of the evaluation indicate that changing political, economic and social changes in Sudan combined with shifting global dynamics relative to IS and COVID-19 have impacted the overall relevance of the project. The impacts of these dynamics on VE is not linear, and continue to affect the relevance of the project. In the case of COVID-19, literature reflect that the pandemic has given rise to new forms of VE which require targeted interventions to address and that government policies, such as travel bans, restrictions on social gatherings and economic shutdowns, may aggravate the conditions of VE by causing unemployment and reduced access to basic services. Relative to IS, the on the ground success of the Global Coalition to defeat IS has led to reduced numbers of international recruits to the group which in turn has reduced the impetus for targeted programming for this particular group, however risks for recruitment still remain from Al- Shabab and Boko Haram. The political will of the government is vital to addressing the root causes of VE and the 2020 Juba Agreement for Peace in Sudan presents an important milestone towards achieving that goal. However, deteriorating economic conditions and debates on a transition to a secular state may serve as flashpoints for violent extremism.

In terms of the overall effectiveness of the project, the project management team, implementing partners and other relevant stakeholders have made impressive headway in realizing the objectives of the project. There has been sustained progress towards the development of a national PVE strategy, capacity development of government and civil society partners, supporting the (re) occurrence, disengagement, rehabilitation of persons exposed to radicalization, the development of strategic communication strategies and research continuation. In addition, all relevant stakeholders by virtue of this progress have begun conceptualizing initiatives for scaling up the project. There have been multiple challenges throughout the project implementation including delays caused by COVID-19, funding deficits and unpredictable political dynamics.

As to the sustainability of the project, the findings indicated that in terms of environmental sustainability, none of the initiatives have had an impact on the environment. In terms of the benefits accrued by beneficiaries, the research team found them mostly to be short term gains, additional inputs

and training are needed in order for there to be long term sustainability for beneficiaries. The political will of the government to combatting VE through their peace agenda and the provision of social welfare programs combined with efforts aimed at developing the PVE strategy all represent important indicators for the long-term sustainability of the project itself and the benefits gained by beneficiaries.

The need for resources, both financial and human was evident. More specifically, the need for additional funding for SNCCT and implementing partners to scale up their activities, and the need for human resource support for UNDP and the SNCCT.

Information and Communication; The innovative approach of the creation of a Sudanese film to raise awareness about the study was applauded as a creative approach by all stakeholders. Many stakeholders felt the need of similar approaches but with a content relevant to the current 2021 VE experiences. Formal communication structures were deemed insufficient particularly as it relates to: (1) frequency of communication events; i.e. Annual Meetings, (2) response times i.e. Ad- hoc requests; and (3) access to general basic information - especially with new onboarded focal points due to turnover rates and end of diplomatic tenures.

Relative to the connectedness of the project, the project management team has made considerable efforts in ensuring that the project is in synergy with the efforts of other UN actors, particularly UNOCT, these efforts are positively supported by the Government of Sudan's political will to tackle the root causes of VE.

Good Practices and Lessons Learned:

1. The vocational training provided to beneficiaries led to concrete gains in terms of addressing the root causes of VE. UNDP should engage with implementing partners to ensure the provision of additional financial literacy training, training of trainers and livelihood inputs to allow beneficiaries to scale up and pass on their expertise which would in turn guarantee the long-term sustainability of the project;
2. Private-public sector enterprises or schemes, such as Al Jazeera Scheme, and federal and regional training centres can be leveraged in order to provide access to the labour markets and additional support for beneficiaries of the vocational training. In this regard, it is vital that a labour market assessment be conducted in sites of project implementation;
3. VSLAs have served a critical role in supporting beneficiaries to expand their businesses and as a safety net for members of the community experiencing hardships. The replication and scaling up of VSLAs can have a lasting impact on the project.

4. The film IMAN had direct and indirect benefits to communicate the findings of the VE research. The innovative approach succeeded in raising awareness amongst a diverse audience; tackled the misconception of a single narrative to recruitment and supported the film industry. There was a recurrent request for the development of a series of films or theme-based productions responding the current context of VE in Sudan

Recommendations:

Based on the findings of this evaluation, the project management team makes the following recommendations:

- **Research Repository:** To mitigate the risks resulting from the fluidity of Sudan's current status, it is encouraged to developing an ongoing research repository on the intersectionality of political, economic and social structures and VE, preferably by onboarding research institutions. Key research areas should include the impacts on VE of COVID-19 and the 2020 Juba Agreement for Peace in Sudan.
- **“Do no harm” compliance:** It is recommended that an assessment of forms and understanding of VE within communities is conducted prior to the screening of the movie IMAN to ensure that it aligns with the needs and sentiments of the community;
- **Knowledge Hub:** Developing a knowledge hub accessible to all will strengthen the institutional documentation of VE in Sudan as well as the research and communication components of the project. It includes research, dissemination and application of learnings gained through project implementation. These include National CVE Training Manual.
- **Strategic Communication:** Diverse communication assets i.e. reports, key messages, research, etc. should be created and disseminated to all stakeholders regularly through different channels. Mitigation Measures: Development of risk mitigation measures in general and COVID19- measures specifically which can be shared with the stakeholders, i.e. national partners, implementing partners and Donors, will enhance confidence, capacity, and resilience in the PAVE.
- **Women and Gender** The evaluation reflects that a gender sensitive and inclusive methodology was adopted by the Project, i.e. Soap making workshop is an outlier approach since it allowed women with skill, economic empowerment without interfering with their family and households duties.
- **People with Disabilities (PwD);** the need to curate activities for PwD was noted by SNCCT and interviewed communities. In the context of C/PVE, mental health is

regarded as a disability if it affects or can affect your day to day activities currently or in the future. Accordingly, efforts to map out strategies for inclusion of people living with disabilities are important especially during the reintegration phase.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME	
Terms of Reference for the Evaluation of Partnering Against Violent Extremism (PAVE) Programme 2017 – 2021	
Position Information:	Project Evaluation
Title:	Partnering Against Violent Extremism (PAVE)
ATLAS ID	00107381
Corporate Outcome/Output	3.2.1. National capacities strengthened for reintegration, reconciliation, peaceful management of conflict and prevention of violent extremism in response to national policies and priorities.
Country/Duty Station:	Khartoum, Sudan with frequent travel to the field
Type of Contract:	Individual Consultant
Post Level:	National Consultant
Language requirements:	English (Arabic highly desirable)
Starting Date:	02 May 2021
Duration of assignment/Planned end date:	5 weeks (25 working days)
Direct Supervisor:	PAVE Programme Manager
Project Implementing Party	BADYA CENTRE FOR INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT, CHILD DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (CDF), CAFA DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION RAIRA FOR AWARENESS AND DEVELOPMENT ORG CHILD RIGHT CARE SOCIETY BUILDING RESILIENCE DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZA



1. Background and Context

The 21st century is experiencing a proliferation of violent extremism and terrorism that is sweeping across the globe, taking the lives of many in different nations. The list of attacks from violent extremists continues and is on the rise. While all persons are impacted, the main victims continue to be Muslims from the Islamic world including Iraq, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, Somalia, Yemen, Sudan, Central African Republic, Indonesia and Cameroon amongst others. The growth of violent extremism and devastating impact of groups espousing violent ideologies is setting in motion a dramatic reversal of development gains previously achieved and threatening to stunt prospects of

development for decades to come. Religious-inspired extremism alone has claimed the lives of more than 18,000 people in Africa in the last several years, according to the Global Terrorism Database.

Radicalization, an important precursor to violent extremism, is also on the rise globally, impacting different age groups regardless of gender, faith, education, employment status, etc. The impact on the lives and livelihoods of those who have lost family members, friends and colleagues in the multiple tragedies in marketplaces, universities, places of worship and schools is immeasurable. As a result of increasing levels of violence and insecurity, many children and students across the African continent are no longer able to attend school or university, undermining their quality of life both now and prospects for the future. Indeed, the phenomenon is disproportionately impacting youth. Marginalized from political processes, lacking viable employment options and suffering from an increasing sense of marginalization and isolation, youth are easy targets for recruiters who lure or coerce boys and girls and young men and women with a diverse mix of religious narratives, financial incentives, a glimmer of hope, a sense of belonging and identity, and often, with violence.

In 2014, the UN Security Council passed a resolution condemning VE calling upon Member States to support efforts to adopt longer-term solutions to addressing underlying causes of radicalization and VE, including by empowering youth. The resolution, which provides a basis for the UN Global Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism presented to the UN General Assembly in 2015, notes effective responses require promoting political and religious tolerance, economic development, social cohesion, inclusiveness, resolving armed conflicts, and facilitating reintegration and rehabilitation. In particular, the PAVE programme will build upon the stage set by the UN system, complementing the work of other actors through partnerships, collaboration and coordination assisting the Government of Sudan's (GoS) efforts to mitigate VE.

The project will be implemented by UNDP alongside a government counterpart, the Sudan National Commission for Counter Terrorism (SNCCT). Linkages with existing UN frameworks globally includes Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions; specifically, indicator 16.10 aimed to "Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime".

Aligned with the current CPD (2018-2021) Outcome 2: By 2021, community security and stabilization of people affected by conflict is improved through utilization of effective conflict management mechanisms, peace dividends and support to peace infrastructures and durable solutions that augment peaceful coexistence and social cohesion.

Output 2.1. Conflict-affected livelihoods revitalized and stabilized (national).

Output 2.2: Local and national peace infrastructures boosted.

Confronted by the wave of radicalization towards VE in neighboring countries and the region by groups such as the Islamic State, Al-Shabaab, Boko Haram, Al Qaeda and others, Sudan is affected by structural 'push' factors including the perception by youth of their exclusion in the social and political fabric of society, inequalities associated with high unemployment, economic disparities, sub-optimal governance performance and rule of law (RoL), insecurity and social isolation related to the youth of Sudanese origin, who migrated back to Sudan from other countries. The country also harbors 'pull' factors associated with identity and individual motives for radicalizing and joining VE groups, such as attaining a sense of purpose and belonging, a sense of adventure and means to increase status through material and social incentives (marriage, money), material awards in the afterlife and fear of repercussions for disengagement among others. Recalling Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on peace, justice, and strong institutions, the Partnering Against Violent Extremism (PAVE) firmly

positions the GoS in the driver's seat for Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) efforts with national ownership and capacity development being cornerstone of the PAVE.

As a means to better understand the trends of VE in Sudan, UNDP in coordination with the SNCCT and some civil society actors set precedence by undertaking a ground-breaking gender inclusive study in 2016-17, exploring the drivers behind radicalization and VE in Sudan. Representing a foundational shift in P/CVE for Sudan, 377 key people were interviewed, including former VE group members from the Islamic State and former Guantanamo Bay prisoners, their families, as well as community members and leaders. As is the case in other contexts, evidence suggests several trajectories for radicalization towards VE in Sudan. Specific to Sudan, some persons begin the radicalization process in country. Upon migration into a neighbouring, or non-contiguous country, the process escalates towards VE. A secondary dynamic occurs whereby a person is radicalized towards VE while in Sudan, and then migrates to a foreign country to carry out a violent act. In addition, persons migrating from Sudan are subject to human trafficking where they are coerced into joining VE groups and are subsequently radicalized. The study also suggests that such people move to the Mediterranean coast and onwards to mainland Europe, while some others move into countries such as Libya, Syria and Iraq. The study also showed differences between 'why' people actually associate and join VE groups, and the 'perceptions' of why they join.

Confronted by the wave of radicalization and terrorism in neighboring countries, especially the threats posed by the spread of the Islamic State and other terrorist groups, Sudan currently faces major challenges in addressing radicalization towards violent extremism within its own borders. Sudan is considered an "at risk" country surrounded by violent extremism and affected by push factors that include youth marginalization; social and political inequalities associated with high unemployment, economic disparities, and systematic and institutional corruption. Sudan also harbors pull factors demonstrated by high rates of radicalization, rendering the country particularly vulnerable and a major contributor to violent extremism. While Sudan faces a daunting mix of political, economic, and security challenges, a number of developments and events over the past years represents a potential turning point, notable among them is addressing ongoing conflicts within Sudan, the constitution of the Sudan National Commission for Counter Terrorism (SNCCT), and partial lifting of the sanctions imposed by the United States (US) for the recognition of the efforts made by the Sudanese Government in countering violent extremism and terrorism in Sudan.

Situational Analysis: Sudan's context dynamics of radicalization & violent extremism

Sudan demonstrates several distinct dynamics and characteristics that the PAVE project considers in the formulation of this project document. Currently 46.5% of the population lives below the poverty line. The national Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy (2012) indicates that poverty remains persistent due to inefficient development plans and strategies, reduced public expenditures on basic services and erosion of land and natural resources. Significant disparities between urban and rural areas contribute to an increasingly urban informal sector accounting for more than 60% of Sudan's gross domestic product (GDP). Investments and services are concentrated in and around Khartoum state. This encourages a rural-urban migration weakening agricultural productivity and deepening poverty in both urban and rural areas. (UNDP Sudan website). The net primary school enrollment rate has reached 67% (male 69% vs. female 64%) in 2009, however, regional disparities account for variances in drivers towards violent extremism. The integration of the joint United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and SNCCT evidence-based survey underpinning drivers of radicalization of former violent extremists is contextualized cognizant of these. UNDP's regional PVE project document classifies Sudan an 'at risk' country. Transposing this into a policy framework, strategy and programme response benefits from knowing when interventions can occur for persons on the ladder of

radicalization towards violent extremism, what options are available, at which point options are no longer viable.

Evidence suggests that persons in Sudan may begin the radicalization process in country, and then upon migration into a neighboring, or non-contiguous country, the radicalization process escalates towards violent extremism. This indicates strategic entry points for intervention exist that requires identifying persons on this trajectory and acting prior their physical migration abroad (out-migration), at which point they are no longer accessible by Sudanese partners. This requires a well-structured aspect of regional coordination found embedded towards the end of the PAVE narrative. A secondary dynamic occurs whereby a person is radicalized towards violent extremism while in Sudan, and then migrates to a foreign country to carry out the terrorist act. The programmatic implication within Sudan is that communities and government entities require closer linkages and coordination vertically and horizontally. Meetings with the SNCCT revealed that institutional entities and mechanisms exist to support persons at risk, with a gap being in identification and referral systems. Both cases point towards a PVE response.

A third dynamic addressing persons disengaged from the ISIS, Guantanamo Bay releases, potential Boko Haram members and others – taken together these are referred to as ‘formers’ – and form the basis from which primary evidence and survey data is derived for violent extremists. This points to the need for rehabilitation, de-radicalization and reintegration. To address these in an inclusive and customized manner, PAVE uses an innovative approach called Reversing Violent Extremism (RVE) to disengage persons, commonly youth, prior to out-migration at which point they are no longer accessible by Sudanese partners. RVE aims to prevent persons from radicalizing into violent extremism by putting in place response measures for persons undergoing rehabilitation, de-radicalization and reintegration following disengagement.

Sudan presents unprecedented opportunities to engage. Comparatively, the government and SNCCT display an open and transparent model for engagement unique for such a security sensitive caseload. Sudan is a stable state in a region beset by fragility, conflict and state failure – all conducive for violent extremist fomentation. The impetus to act cannot be understated. Sudan is a supplier of violent extremism regionally and globally, and while enjoying the luxury of not having terrorist attacks on its soil, this may not last. As a stable state the conditions are ripe to test and pilot programme assumptions based on evidence and analysis and go to scale. The lifting sanctions in January 2017 demonstrate the will of the international community to re-integrate Sudan into the global community while recognizing its unique position in contributing to regional and global P/CVE efforts.

As a follow-up, and in response to the increasing trend of violent extremism in Sudan, the Government of Sudan (GoS) established the SNCCT in 2014. Since then the Commission has made significant strides addressing P/CVE. Noteworthy among them is a study conducted in Sudan by UNDP in coordination with the SNCCT that explores the drivers behind violent extremism in Sudan. Preliminary findings from our statistical analysis indicate that believing in religious ideologies (17.7%) supporting the creation of the Caliphate (18%) and economic factors (18%) are the three main factors why individuals join violent extremist groups in Sudan. The reasons individuals remain within the violent extremist group vary, 9% believe that the violent extremist groups can bring change to their situation as Muslims, and 22% out of responsibility and duty, 44% have faith in the ideology of the violent extremist groups. A further 19% remain for the financial benefit. Another interesting findings concerned emotions associated with joining violent extremist’s groups, 51% of respondents cited anger towards international community and GoS as a reason for joining.

2. Purpose of the Evaluation

The purpose of this Evaluation is to capture and demonstrate evaluative evidence of UNDP-PAVE programme contributions towards preventing conflict and strengthening social cohesion that will contribute to a peaceful community.

The objective of this evaluation is to gain insights into the design and implementation of PAVE as well as identify the programme's shortcomings and recommend timely corrective measures. The review recommendations will be shared with key stakeholders, including government counterparts and funding partners for their endorsement. Such recommendations will be integrated into ongoing PAVE activities to help refine the programme. Therefore, the evaluation is expected to provide an independent assessment of past and ongoing PAVE activity and should provide an opportunity to generate findings and recommendations which are expected to assist in identifying appropriate strategies and operational approaches to strengthen the ongoing programme activity.

The evaluation findings and conclusions must be based on concrete and credible evidence that will support UNDP's strategic thinking for its new programme cycle.

3. Scope and objectives of the Evaluation

The evaluation will cover PAVE activities carried out during the last 4 years (2017 - 2021) in Khartoum (Mayo and Haj Yousif communities), Kassala, White Nile state Gedaref and Gazeira states.

Undertaken mainly under through the PAVE programme outcomes and outputs highlighted below:

Outcome I: At-risk youths and vulnerable people detached from extremist movements and reintegrated into society.

Output i.i: Former members and affiliates with violent extremist groups '*disengage*', undergo rehabilitation and become well adjusted, functioning members of their communities of return contributing to peace and security, as well as PVE efforts as part of the reintegration process.

Output i.ii: Those considered vulnerable to the affects of violent extremist groups, including provision of support, sympathizers and under threat of coerced recruitment, eschew violence and are offered viable social, psychosocial and livelihood alternatives to violent extremism.

Outcome II: Communities and institutions resilient to the effects of violent extremism.

Output ii.i: Key persons trained through the PAVE programme are capacitated to identify '*at risk*' behavior associated with the radicalization-escalation process and are further able to identify and prioritize the appropriate blend of programmatic responses and interventions on the PVE process.

Output ii.ii: Relationships become robust in communities where PVE and RVE are being undertaken as demonstrated by enhanced governance and RoL adherence leading to increased trust and confidence between affected communities, state, and local administration officials.

Outcome III: National and State's capacity strengthened to prevent and address violent extremism in Sudan and the region.

Output iii.i: The GoS develops and promulgates a *National PVE Strategy* translated into a national policy for dissemination and rollout to the States that takes into account global, regional and sub-national issues affecting violent extremism and its impact on peace and security.

Output iii.ii: Each of the ten States affected in Sudan is able to translate the *National PVE Strategy* and policy into custom tailored programmatic responses and can effectively report back results of interventions that can be used to modify efforts and inform regional and global practices.

Given the sensitive and complex context of PAVE implementation, it should be seen as a component of a much larger development and peacebuilding strategy with a focus on prevention of violence and community stabilization via creating livelihood opportunities. For this reason, it is prudent that an evaluation be undertaken to understand the extent to which the PAVE process has been successful

especially considering its importance in the outreach provided for preventing violence OR stabilizing communities and preventing violence .

The main objectives of the evaluation is to assess the PAVE outreach and activity and the results achieved so far towards meeting the overall objective of the programme ; as well as to generate lessons learned; and best practices and to develop recommendations for future replication of the programme in other parts of Sudan. Special attention will be given to:

1. Contribution of the programme at the community level to improve security through capacity development of community members, establishment of community security committees, and community policing
2. Contribution of the programme to address the economic push factors of VE such as poverty, exclusion and unemployment, and mitigate frustration of youth, women and other vulnerable populations, and reduce risk of joining violent extremism via access to alternative and sustainable livelihood opportunities in the target communities through vocational training and small business support
3. To what extent the workshops, screening of IMAN and discussion created awareness of risk of radical ideas that lead to violent extremism
4. To what extend the programme has promoted women empowerment in the targeted communities

4. Evaluation Criteria and Key Guiding Questions

The evaluation will be conducted based on the assessment PAVEs strategic, conception and theory of change. The evaluation criteria, to be considered by the evaluation, include relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, connectedness, sustainability, and inclusiveness within the framework of the following guiding questions as outlined below.

Relevance

1. Has UNDP been able to help design PAVE processes within the context of local and national recovery and other development strategies in Sudan?
2. Do the partners, target groups and beneficiaries consider that the interventions contributed to community stabilization, peaceful co-existence, social cohesion and local economic development?
3. Have PAVE interventions responded to the needs and priorities identified during the study analysis that was carried out (2017) which informed the design of the programme?

Efficiency

1. Have the resources (funds, human resources, time, etc.) of PAVE interventions been efficiently used to achieve the relevant outputs?
2. Have PAVE interventions been implemented within intended deadlines and cost estimates?
3. What were the strengths and weaknesses of PAVE approach and strategy?
4. Have associated risks of the programme at the national and local levels been anticipated and addressed?

5. Were management capacities of PAVE adequate to deliver activities in a timely and efficient manner? Management capacity should be assessed on all levels: steering committees, UNDP country office and field offices.
6. What measures were taken to assure the quality of development results and management practices, both in relation to process and products?
7. What monitoring and evaluation procedures were applied by UNDP and partners to ensure greater accountability? Has the M&E set up and capacity been appropriate to deliver information needed for the program?
8. Provide a general description of the program set up to include; the organisation, management, the field offices, the various staffing at UNDP, SNCCT and others, the management steering and decision making model (steering committee, project management etc), the financing from different sources, overview of participating local government offices, NGOs and implementing partners

Effectiveness

1. Have PAVE's expected results been achieved and what were the supporting or impeding factors?
2. Were the programme approaches for the different components (inclusive livelihoods, awareness raising, the social, peacebuilding and women empowerment components) relevant to achieving the intended outcome and outputs in supporting community stabilization, peacebuilding and social cohesion in targeted areas?
3. Have the programme contributed to the capacity building of NGO implementing partners and also Government partners?
4. Have the programme been implemented with appropriate and effective inter-agency and partnership strategies? What has been the nature and added value of these partnerships?
5. Were UNDP's comparative advantages perceived/interpreted well to contribute to community stabilisation reflected in the division of responsibilities in implementing the programme?
6. To what extent has the SNCCT contributed in advancing PAVE programme?
7. To what extent has the capacity development of NGOs and government counterparts strengthened the services delivery?

Connectedness

1. To what extent the PAVE interventions, at the local level, were coordinated with other interventions?
2. Have the programme built on / match the individual and local capacities/ needs?
3. To what extent did the programme formed as part of as integrated package

Sustainability

1. To what extent was sustainability considerations taken into account in the design and implementation of PAVE interventions, results definition and monitoring of reintegration?
2. Were exit strategies appropriately defined and implemented, and what steps have been taken to ensure sustainability of results to support community stabilization and women empowerment?
3. How did the development of partnerships at the national and state level contribute to sustainability of the results?
4. Assessed whether the community support given has been able to establish self-sustained development (as regards, CMCs, youth clubs, Peace committees, livelihood activities etc. etc.).
5. How many communities have been “graduated” in that sense of the communities supported? If communities supported have NOT been able to sustain – what are the reasons for that? To me this is a key question

Impact

1. What has been the general effect (both positive and negative) of the programme on its direct and indirect beneficiaries?
2. The PAVE program contain distinct and different programmatic parts (e.g. security committees, livelihood activities, awareness raising). Have all parts been effective in delivering against the objective? If not, why? How can the outcome of help in the design of the next phase of PAVE? What aspects should be included in the next phase, and what could we perhaps leave out?
3. Mention the different forms of impact that can be distinguished: direct and indirect, intended and unintended for project beneficiaries.
4. On trainings offered, what has happened with the knowledge gained in the training initiatives and skills development for project beneficiaries? How has the advocacy promoted prevention? Will it be recommended for the next phase? What are the lessons learnt and best practices of the screening ?
5. Did project participants usefully apply their knowledge and use it to further develop/improve their role in society?
6. Was there clear evidencing of PAVE results and recognition of the role of UNDP and the donors

5. Evaluation Approach and Methodology

The evaluation methodology should employ a participatory results-oriented approach that involves project implementers, targeted beneficiaries and other community members and relevant stakeholders and provide evidence of achievement of expected outputs through the use of quantitative and qualitative methods. On the basis of the evaluation objectives and questions, it is expected that the consultant will propose an evaluation methodology and agree on a detailed plan for the assignment as part of the evaluation inception report. This inception report should be finalized and approved in consultation with the project team as well as other relevant UNDP staff. More specifically, the findings of the evaluations and the recommendations will be grounded in evidence and analytical work derived from the following methods at minimum:

- Desk review of PAVE relevant documents and reports
- Meetings/ discussions with Stakeholders including Government partners, NGO Implementing Partners, donors etc.
- Field visit (at least two- States) to meet and consult with beneficiaries and state level stakeholders and to collect quantitative & qualitative data from beneficiaries and community members, partners, implementing partners, government, beneficiary institutions.
- Interviews with key informant and Focus Group Discussions with sample of project beneficiaries
- Assistance will be provided by UNDP in the identification of key stakeholders, and in organizing the schedule of interviews, focus groups, and site visits
- Ensure gender equality and women's empowerment are included in the methodology for addressing gender-specific issues.
- Evaluation cross-cutting issues such as Human rights , Anti-corruption ,Gender Equality ,Climate change , Governance, tolerance and the rule of law sample questions for Human rights; To what extent have poor, indigenous and physically challenged, at risk communities and other disadvantaged and marginalized groups benefited from PAVE interventions

6. Evaluation products/Tasks and Deliverables

The evaluation shall be led by an independent consultant. The consultant shall have the overall responsibility for conducting the evaluation including the development and submission of the draft and final evaluation reports.

The key tasks of the consultant include:

- Develops an inception report detailing the design, methodology (including the methods for data collection and analysis criteria for selection of field locations, required resources), and work plan of the evaluation.
- Advise on the data collection and analysis tools including review of all relevant documentation.
- Oversees and quality assures the preparation of the evaluation and takes a lead in the analysis of the evaluative evidence.
- Takes the lead in the analysis of the evaluative evidence and administrates the analysis of the results of the data collection exercise.
- Leads the stakeholder feedback sessions, briefs UNDP on the evaluation through informal sessions and finalizes the report based on feedback from the quality assurance process.
- Delivers draft and final evaluation reports.

It should be noted that above list of deliverables, together with the implementation time-frame might be subject to review and revision by UNDP in discussion with the consultant in the event of unexpected changes to the context/ working environment in Sudan during the consultancy period, given the operating context of COVID-19, etc

Profile:

- Master's Degree in a relevant discipline

- More than 5 years of relevant international development experience in designing/implementing PVE projects in conflict /post conflict countries.
- 15 - 20 years of relevant experience
- More than 5 years of international experience in the field)
- Experience in reviewing projects/programmes of UN agencies (preferably UNDP).
- Regional expertise in either Africa or Arab countries will be an advantage
- Strong analytical and research skills with experience with participatory approaches
- Facilitation skills and ability to manage diversity of views in different cultural contexts.
- Demonstrated capacity for strategic thinking, communication skills and ability to produce a high quality report in a short period.
- Fluent in English language.
- Must be available on the anticipated start date.

Outputs/Deliverables:

The evaluation consultant will produce the following outputs, at minimum:

- Inception Report: at the end of the first week of the assignment, the evaluation consultant will submit an Inception Report, which should include detailed evaluation methodology, and evaluation matrix explaining the methods for assessing each evaluation criteria and the associated evaluation questions including proposed sources of data. The inception report should also include the proposed evaluation work-plan detailing schedule of tasks, activities and deliverables, with clear responsibilities in coordination with the CSO supporting in data collection.
- **Evaluation brief**: The consultant will be asked to present his/ her preliminary findings, for UNDP staff and major stakeholders, for discussion and validation
- **Draft evaluations report**: *The consultant will provide draft report, covering the issues outlined in the terms of reference including evaluation findings and conclusions, lessons, and recommendations, for review by the programme unit and the key stakeholders.*
- **Final evaluation report**⁹: The final report incorporates the inputs resulting from the review of the draft report as relevant.

Timeframe for the evaluation process

The estimated time for conducting this evaluation is 25 working days, starting from the date of commencement mentioned in the contract that will be signed by the consultant, as per the below tentative timetable.

Day 1-2: Initial desk review (Home based)

Day 3-5: National consultant meeting and initial consultations

Day 6 : Submission of the Inception Report

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- Refer to ⁹ UNDP Evaluation Report Template.

- Day 7-10: Interviews, consultations, and meeting (Khartoum)
- Day 11- 18: Field visits for selected states covering institutions and beneficiary communities
- Day 19-21: Follow-up meetings, analysis of the information collected and preparation of a draft report
- Day 22: Presentation of draft conclusions and recommendations to stakeholders
- Day 23-25: Incorporate/ respond to UNDP/ stakeholders comments on the draft report (if deemed appropriate) and submission of final report. Prepare a PowerPoint presentation of the report, including contents, design and lay-out and conduct presentation/debriefing to UNDP and relevant partners

7. Implementation Arrangements:

The Programme Manager will oversee all stages of the evaluation conduct to ensure that the process is being conducted as per the agreed plan and guidelines. The PM will coordinate with UNDP Country office team and UNDP senior management on the evaluation process. The PAVE programme staff will provide administrative and logistical support and will facilitate coordination and liaison with key stakeholders in Khartoum and the field.

Additionally, UNDP will constitute evaluation “Reference Group” comprised of key stakeholders and UNDP relevant staff. The Reference Group will guide the evaluation process and will provide methodological and substantive inputs into the evaluation process as well as peer review of the evaluation deliverables. The evaluation is based on the DAC quality standards for development evaluation and will use the following DAC criteria: relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, connectedness, sustainability, and impact.

8. Evaluation Ethics:

This Evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation (UNEG 2008) to ensure the credibility and integrity of the evaluation process and products. The consultants must use measures to ensure compliance with the evaluator code of conduct including measures to safeguard the rights, safety and confidentiality of the individual and communities interviewed, particularly permissions needed to interview or gather information about children and young people and provisions to store and maintain security of collected information and protocols to ensure anonymity and confidentiality. The consultants shall respect differences in culture, local customs, religious beliefs and practices, while applying evaluation methods and tools.

9. Duty Station

The duty station will be Khartoum with visits to the project sites if the situation allows, however we are flexible in case the situation does not allow the consultant to travel due to COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the government and the consultant can operate remotely.

10. Scope of Price Proposal and Schedule of Payment

The consultancy fee will be determined on a lump sum basis. The lump sum amount must be all-inclusive, and the contract price must be fixed regardless of changes in the cost components. Payment will be made twice, after submission of inception report and after submission of Final Report with confirmation letter from PAVE programme stating satisfaction with work carried by the Consultant.

Deliverables	Deliverable Timeline	Deliverable Due Date	Payment Milestones (%)
<u>Milestone 1</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting briefing with UNDP • Desk review, Evaluation design, methodology and updated workplan including the list of stakeholders to be interviewed. • Submission of the Inception report 	6 working days	9May 2021	40%
<u>Milestone 2</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with UNDP PVE Programme partners, key stakeholder groups and programme beneficiaries. • Site visits to the selected States and collect qualitative and quantitative information • Submission of draft evaluation report • Briefing and validation session with the UNDP PAVE team 	14 working days	27 May 2021	30%
<u>Milestone 3</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations provided by the UNDP PAVE team are embedded. • Submission of the final evaluation report 	5 working days	03 June 2021	30%

11. Criteria for Selection of the Best Offer

The offers received from the candidates will be evaluated using combined scoring method. The combined scoring method assesses the offers with technical merits of the proposals – where the qualifications and methodology will be weighted a

maximum of 70%, and later combined with the price offer which will be weighted a max of 30%.

12. Award of the Contract/Award Criteria

The contract will be awarded to the candidate (bidder) whose proposal obtains the highest cumulative marks (points) when the marks obtained in technical and price proposals are aggregated together.

13. Reference Materials

Documentation to be reviewed/ referred to includes but is not necessarily limited to the following:

- United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Sudan (Current edition).
- UNDP Country Programme Document and UNDP Country Programme Action Plan (Current edition).
- The PAVE Project Document, project AWP and quarterly and annual reports of the project.
- Community perception survey reports
- Any other documents and materials related to PAVE (from the government, donors, etc.).
- [UNDP Evaluation Report Template.](#)
- UNDP Evaluation Policy (2011)
- Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation (UNEG 2008).
- UN Evaluation Norms.
- UNDP Handbook on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluating for Results.

14. Approval

This TOR is approved by:

Name and Designation: Tomokazu Serizawa, PAVE Programme Manager, a.i.

Signature:

Date: 26 April 2021

TOR Annexes:

1. Intervention results framework and theory of change (PAVE approved/signed Prodoc).
2. Please list the project' partners, stakeholders and donors' names.
3. Documents to be reviewed and consulted.
4. Evaluation matrix template.
5. Outline of the evaluation report format required for the evaluation report (example: content and length, etc).
6. UNDP evaluation guidelines and the evaluation guidelines during COVID-19.
7. Code of conduct forms.
8. Please use the evaluation quality [checklists](#) attached to ensure good evaluation product/s.

Key Informant Interview	
<p>Aimed to assess the following outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Output 1 Support to Development of PVE National Strategies and Capacity Development of government/civil society partners; • Output 2 Research Continuation, Policy and Program Development; • Output 3 Preventing (re-)occurrence - disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration; • Output 4 Strategic Communications, Advocacy & Counter-narrations; • Output 5 Effective implementation support ensured to deliver project results/outputs. 	
United Nations Development Programme	
Effectiveness	
1.	What activities has the organization initiated towards the development of the above outputs?
2.	What activities are currently in the pipelines towards realization of the above outputs?
3.	Which organizations will you be engaging with towards realizing the above outputs and what is the current status of your engagement?
4.	Has the joint coordination meeting between UNDP and the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT) taken place? And if so, what were the outcomes of the meeting?
5.	Would you like to make any additions regarding the realization of the above outputs?
Efficiency	
1.	Have the funds and human resources been efficiently used to achieve the relevant outputs?
2.	Are there any capacity, funding or institutional gaps inhibiting full realization of the above outputs?
3.	Has achieving the above outputs been in any way obstructed/slowed down by insecurity, COVID-19, political instability or any other unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of your offices?

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Have risks associated with the program at the national and local level been anticipated and addressed? 5. Are the managements structures set up for PAVE project adequate to deliver activities in a timely and efficient manner? (steering committees, UNDP country office and field offices) 6. What M&E procedures were applied by UNDP to ensure greater accountability? Have these mechanisms produced appropriate results?
Connectedness
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To what extent has the PAVE project been coordinated with other interventions? 2. Do you believe that the political landscape now offers renewed opportunities for coordination with government institutions and organizations engaging in the areas of violent extremism? 3. What process does UNDP undertake to ensure that the project built/matches the individual and local capacities/ needs? How have these approaches been implemented in this project and at what intervals?
Sustainability
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What exit strategies have been defined and implemented and what steps have been taken to ensure that the results of community stabilization and women empowerment continue following the end of the project? 2. How many communities has this project supported?

Key Informant Interview (KII)
United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT)
Effectiveness
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the international consultant expected to support the development of the PAVE project been recruited? If no, what is the current status of the process? 2. What coordination modalities exist between UNOCT and UNDP regarding the development of a PVE national strategy? 3. What has been the nature of the added value brought in by UNOCT to the project?
Efficiency
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What M&E procedures were applied by your offices to ensure accountability relative to the implementation of PAVE project

Key Informant Interview (KII)
Aimed to assess the following outputs:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Output 1 Support to Development of PVE National Strategies and Capacity Development of government/civil society partners; • Output 2 Research Continuation, Policy and Program Development; • Output 3 Preventing (re-)occurrence - disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration; • Output 4 Strategic Communications, Advocacy & Counter-narrations; • Output 5 Effective implementation support ensured to deliver project results/outputs.
Implementing partners, government institutions
Relevance
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have the core dynamics of VE within the community you're engaged in changed since the inception of the project? 2. To what extent have the interventions contributed to community stabilization, peaceful co-existence, social cohesion and local economic development? Provide examples of each.
Effectiveness
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Were there any factors which impeded or supported implementation of the project? 2. Have you been provided with any capacity building support in light of the project? If yes, what contributions have they made to your ability to implement the project and your overall ability to engage with relevant stakeholders on issues of VE? 3. What contribution have been made by your organization towards advancing the objectives of the program?
Efficiency
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What M&E procedures were applied by your offices to ensure accountability relative to the implementation of the PAVE project?
Connectedness
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you describe to what extent there is synergy between the PAVE project programs and the initiatives your organization is currently engaged in?
Sustainability

1. What steps or strategies are you taking to ensure that the outcomes of the project continue following the end of the project?
2. Has UNDP provided your offices with any support in developing such strategies?
3. What does your organization view as its institutional advantage in light of the objectives of the PAVE project? Describe how these strengths have been leveraged in the implementation of the project.

Key Informant Interview (KII)

Assessment of Impact for

Output 4: Strategic Communications, Advocacy & Counter-narrations

1. Can you describe how the movie IMAN portrayed the following subjects:
 - a. Pre- radicalization
 - b. Identification with the cause
 - c. Indoctrination
 - d. Action
2. How did the movie IMAN shape your views about violent extremism? What were your views about violent extremism before watching the movie and what did you learn from the movie?
3. Did you speak to any of your friends, family or community at large about the movie? If yes, what messages did you convey to them?
 - a. Did they accept the messages you were trying to convey or did you face backlash from them, and if you did, how did you overcome it?
4. Did you experience any real-life situations which led you to apply lessons from the movie IMAN? If so, please describe such situations?
5. Do you believe that there were any messages/ ideas portrayed in the movie which you cannot apply to your everyday life?
6. In your view, what were the strengths and weaknesses of using a movie to discuss a sensitive topic such as violent extremism?

Focus Group Discussion

Assessment of Impact for

Output 3: Preventing (re-)occurrence - disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration

1. Please describe what the term violent extremism means to you? (What is it, who is it conducted by, when does one engage in it, how does one engage in it, where does one go to engage in it)
2. Please describe how engaging in the program (vocational training, livelihood support, community security and policing and small business support) changed your perspective about VE?
3. What do you view as the positive and negative elements of the program?
4. Please describe how the program you engaged in has changed your day to day interactions with friends, family and the community at large? how have you applied the knowledge gained in the trainings, initiatives and knowledge development?
5. Do you believe that the benefits you accrued from the program have extended to your friends, family and community members? If yes, describe how.
6. Which areas of engagement, if any, do you think were lacking in the program you were engaged in?
7. In the program you were engaged in, do you believe that there was an over emphasis on any particular component?
8. What recommendations do you have for the programs moving forward? Which components should they focus on and which should they remove?
9. Did you use any of the knowledge you gained to further develop/ improve your role in society?

Research Consent Form (FGD)

For participants of the final evaluation of the Partnering Against Violent Extremism (PAVE) project

What is the research about?

This study, which primarily focuses on Khartoum (Mayo and Haj Yousif communities), Kassala, White Nile state Gedaref and Gazeira states aims to help the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) implement the Partnering Against Violent Extremism (PAVE) project by gaining insights into the design and implementation of PAVE as well as identify the programme's shortcomings and recommend timely corrective measures.

PAVE is a UNDP project which aims to reduce the number of people engaging in violent extremism and help rehabilitate and reintegrate effectively people returning from violent extremism.

Why is your contribution important?

In order for UNDP to know if their work is making a difference in the lives of the target groups of the project, we need to know more from you and others like you, to be able to better understand where the organization needs to focus its efforts and what, if any, corrective measures it needs to take.

In light of this, we are speaking to the various stakeholders, including implementing partners, national civil society organizations, international organizations and government institutions to better understand the dynamics of the project and their experiences. As such, your unique experiences and perspectives will form part of this process.

Process overview:

You will be expected to take part in an FGD relative to your participation in one of the PAVE project activities (vocational training, livelihood support, community security and policing and small business support)

The FGD is expected to last for 1 hour, should you wish to take a break at any point during the process, do not hesitate to let us know and we will be sure to accommodate your request.

Data handling, anonymity and confidentiality:

This FGD will be recorded using voice recorders, all recording will then be collectively stored in an encrypted device. The session is being recorded and your particular responses, along with those of the other participants, will only be viewed later by the data analyst, lead researcher and project managers strictly for the purposes of coding, transcribing and analyzing the responses we receive. At no point during this FGD process will you be asked to disclose any information which could compromise your anonymity and confidentiality and we assure you that no information which may identify you will be made public.

Voluntariness:

Your participation in this research FGD is voluntary. This means that you can refuse to take part and stop the taking part at any point without penalty or repercussion. If there are any specific questions that you are unable or unwilling to answer for whatever reason, you may skip them. If there is any activity which you are uncomfortable in taking part in, you may skip it. **You should not feel pressured or coerced into taking part or into answering any specific questions.**

Opportunity for Questions:

Do you have any questions relating to the (1) research, (2) your participation, or (3) your consent?

Principle Investigator & UNDP Contact Details:

Please take down these contact details in case you have any questions or want to report any issues you have had as part of your participation in the research.

No.	Name	Title	Contact number
1.	Khalid	UNDP	Khalid.eltahir@undp.org
1.	Eiman Khair	Lead Consultant	+249918884064
2.	Ahmed Khair	Consultant	+249118888899

Do you suffer from any medical condition/ allergies that we should be aware of?

.....
.....

What medication must be administered if the above-mentioned medical condition/ allergy occurs?

.....
.....

Emergency contact number:

.....
.....

Consent:

Based on the information provided, I consent to participate voluntarily in this research, on the assurance that my confidentiality and anonymity will be ensured throughout the process;

Signature of participant:

Date:

Research Consent Form (KII)

For participants of the evaluation of the Partnering Against Violent Extremism (PAVE) project

What is the research about?

This study, which primarily focuses on Khartoum (Mayo and Haj Yousif communities), Kassala, White Nile state Gedaref and Gazeira states aims to help the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) implement the Partnering Against Violent Extremism (PAVE) project by gaining insights into the design and implementation of PAVE as well as identify the programme's shortcomings and recommend timely corrective measures.

PAVE is a UNDP project which aims to reduce the number of people engaging in violent extremism and help rehabilitate and reintegrate effectively people returning from violent extremism.

Why is your contribution important and process overview?

UNDP has engaged with a wide array of stakeholders to fully realize the objectives of PAVE project. Amongst these stakeholders are implementing partners, government institutions, civil society organizations, individuals, international organizations, community members and beneficiary institutions. Seeing that you represent one of the above stakeholders, we are speaking to you to discuss issues pertinent to the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, connectedness, sustainability and impact of the project.

This interview is expected to last for 30-45 minutes, should you wish to take a break at any point during the process, do not hesitate to let us know and we will be sure to accommodate your request.

Data handling, anonymity and confidentiality:

This interview will be recorded using voice recorders, all recording will then be collectively stored in an encrypted device. The session is being recorded and your particular responses, along with the other participants, will only be viewed later by the data analyst, lead researcher and project managers strictly for the purposes of coding, transcribing and analyzing the responses we receive from you.

Should you wish to remain anonymous, please tick the box below:

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In case you wish to remain anonymous you will not be asked to disclose any information which could compromise your anonymity and confidentiality and we assure you that no information which may identify you will be made public.

Voluntariness:

Your participation in this research interview is voluntary. This means that you can refuse to take part and stop the taking part at any point without penalty or repercussion. If there are any specific questions that you are unable or unwilling to answer for whatever reason, you may skip them. If there is any

activity which you are uncomfortable in taking part in, you may skip it. **You should not feel pressured or coerced into taking part or into answering any specific questions.**

Opportunity for Questions:

Do you have any questions relating to the (1) research, (2) your participation, or (3) your consent?

Principle Investigator & UNDP Contact Details:

Please take down these contact details in case you have any questions or want to report any issues you have had as part of your participation in the research.

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1.	Khalid	UNDP	Khalid.eltahir@undp.org
1.	Eiman Khair	Lead Consultant	+249918884064
2.	Ahmed Khair	Consultant	+249118888899

Consent:

Based on the information provided, I consent to participate voluntarily in this research, subject to my decision above, on the assurance that my confidentiality and anonymity will be ensured throughout the process;

Signature of participant:

Date:

Research Consent Form (Parents/ Guardians/ Caregivers)

For participants of the evaluation of the Partnering Against Violent Extremism (PAVE) project

Name of Parent/Guardian/ Caregiver (only first name):

Circle the type of participation your child will take part in:

- Focus Group Discussion (FGD)
- Key Informant Interview (KII)

Does your child suffer from any medical condition/ allergies that we should be aware of?

.....
.....

What medication must be administered if the above-mentioned medical condition/ allergy occurs?

.....
.....

Emergency contact number: (If different from above)

.....
.....

What is the research about?

This study, which primarily focuses on Khartoum (Mayo and Haj Yousif communities), Kassala, White Nile state Gedaref and Gazeira states aims to help the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) implement the Partnering Against Violent Extremism (PAVE) project by gaining insights into the design and implementation of PAVE as well as identify the programme's shortcomings and recommend timely corrective measures.

PAVE is a UNDP project which aims to reduce the number of people engaging in violent extremism and help rehabilitate and reintegrate effectively people returning from violent extremism.

Why is their contribution important?

In order for UNDP to know if their work is making a difference in the lives of the target groups of the project, we need to know more from your child and others like your child, to be able to better understand where the organization needs to focus its efforts and what, if any, corrective measures it needs to take.

In light of this, we are speaking to all the various stakeholders, including implementing partners, national civil society organizations, individuals, international organizations and government institutions to better understand the dynamics of the project and their experiences. As such, your child's unique experiences and perspectives will form part of this process.

Process overview:

Your child may take part in either a KII or a focus group discussion, the process overview for each is as follows:

KII:

UNDP has engaged with a wide array of stakeholders to fully realize the objectives of PAVE project. Amongst these stakeholders are implementing partners, government institutions, civil society organizations, individuals, international organizations, community members and beneficiary institutions. Seeing that your child represents one of the above stakeholders, we are speaking to them to discuss issues pertinent to the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, connectedness, sustainability and impact of the project.

The interview is expected to last for 30-45 minutes, should your child wish to take a break at any point during the process, we will be sure to accommodate their request.

Focus Group Discussion:

Your child will be expected to take part in an FGD relative to their participation in one of the PAVE project activities (vocational training, livelihood support, community security and policing and small business support)

The FGD is expected to last for 1 hour, should your child wish to take a break at any point during the process, we will be sure to accommodate such a request.

Data handling, anonymity and confidentiality:

The FGD and KII will be recorded using voice recorders, all recording will then be collectively stored in an encrypted device. Their particular responses, along with those of other participants, will only be viewed later by the data analyst, lead researcher and project managers only for the purposes of coding, transcribing and analyzing the responses we receive. At no point during the FGD or KII process will your child be asked to disclose any information which could compromise their anonymity and confidentiality and we assure you that no information which may identify him/her will be made public.

Voluntariness:

Your child's participation in this research, and your consent for their participation, is voluntary. This means that, during the participation, your child can refuse to take part and stop the taking part at any point without penalty or repercussion. If there are any specific questions that they are unable or unwilling to answer for whatever reason, they may skip them. **You should not feel pressured or coerced into giving consent, and your child should not feel pressured or coerced into taking part or into answering any specific questions.**

Opportunity for Questions:

Do you have any questions relating to the (1) research, (2) your child's participation, or (3) your consent?

Principle Investigator & UNDP Contact Details:

Please take down these contact details in case you have any questions or want to report any issues you have had as part of your participation in the research.

No.	Name	Title	Contact number
1.	Khalid	UNDP	Khalid.eltahir@undp.org
1.	Eiman Khair	Lead Consultant	+249918884064
2.	Ahmed Khair	Consultant	+249118888899

Consent:

Based on the information provided, I consent to my son/daughter participating in the research study on the basis that their confidentiality and anonymity will be guaranteed. I confirm to the best of my knowledge that my son/daughter does not suffer from any medical condition or allergy other than those listed above.

Signature of parent/guardian/ caregiver:

Date:

Hazard / threat (something that can cause harm)	What might be harmed	Assessing the risks		Risk mitigation - existing control measures	Additional actions required to mitigate/reduce risk
		Likelihood (high, medium, low)	Severity (high, medium, low)		
Exposure to covid-19 during data collection and sessions by the enumerators, participants or FGD facilitators.	Participants, Enumerators and facilitators	Medium	High	- Ensure all enumerators, facilitators and participants follow COVID-19 protection protocols (wearing masks, using sanitizers, and keeping social distancing).	-Sessions will be conducted in line with social distancing between participants and enumerators.
Participants disabilities feeling separated or left out during sessions which might lead to anxiety.	Participants	Medium	High	-Ensure that sessions and activities are accessible to all. -Training of data collection teams on how to collectively handle sessions and give opportunities to each participant. -In circumstances where assistance is needed, the caretaker or the guardian will be present in order to	-Daily debriefing sessions with facilitators in order to take corrective measures. -Provide modes of transport suitable for persons with disabilities to take participants to and from the session's venue. -Make sure the venues and spaces

				make any participatory session safe and comfortable for the participants.	are accessible to all.
Risk that participants might feel anxious and uncomfortable by the questions being asked.	Participants	Medium	High	-The facilitator will assure the participant that he/she is in a safe and private place, and that he/she is there to support him/her if he/she requires it.	-Daily debriefing sessions with facilitators in order to take corrective measures.
Road accidents/incidents for participants when moving from session venues.	Participants	low	High	-In as much so as possible, conduct data collection in close proximity to local communities of participants so they do not have to commute. -In the event that participants will commute to a venue where the activity will be conducted, a representative from the data collection team and the guardian of the participant will	

				<p>keep track of the moving vehicle.</p> <p>-Ensure that participation will be during hours of limited road congestion.</p>	
<p>Risk that one of the enumerators or facilitators emotionally, physically, or sexually abuses one of the participants.</p>	Participants	Low	High	<p>- All recruited enumerators and facilitators will be persons with previous experience engaging with vulnerable groups.</p> <p>-During the sessions, 2 or more facilitators will be present to oversee the data collection. This ensures that there is increased oversight.</p>	
<p>Participants disclosing information about a subject which leads to mockery from other participants.</p>	Participants	Low	High	<p>- The FGD facilitators will explain to participants that the session is a safe space and a zone of mutual support.</p>	<p>-Daily debriefing sessions with facilitators in order to take corrective measures.</p>

Risk that participants feel unable to communicate adequately in Arabic which might leave them unable to freely express their thoughts and feelings.	Participants	Medium	Medium	-Translators can be recruited during the data collection process.	
Fear and uncertainty in giving information.	Participants	Medium	High	-Ensure that participants and their guardians understand the objectives of the assessment and that their identities are confidential.	-Daily debriefing sessions with facilitators in order to take corrective measures.
Female participants might feel unsafe or uncomfortable disclosing information to male enumerators	Participants	Medium	High	- If need be, female facilitators will cover the female FGD sessions.	-Daily debriefing sessions with facilitators in order to take corrective measures.

Annex. 7 Risk Mitigation Checklist

Questions to Ask		Yes	No	If no, details on the action required
The Activity Plan	Has the plan for the sessions been adhered to?			
Gaining Relevant Permissions	Has informed consent for each participant been gained?			
	Have guardians been informed about the purpose and plan for the activity?			
Preparing the Team	Has each team member been given an adequate and equal amount of training?			
	Is the session being held in line with gender guidelines?			
	Have all staff involved in the activity been briefed on:			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key organisational policies including Code of Conduct. - The objectives and methodology of the activity? - The techniques and tools that will be used? - The schedule as well as the communication, security and emergency procedures? 			
Covid- 19 Preventive Protocol Measures	Have all staff been informed of the COVID-19 mitigation measures?			
	Are all the survey facilitators wearing masks?			
	Are the sessions being conducted with social distancing measures?			

	are all participants and staff following COVID-19 mitigation measures during FGD sessions?			
Location and Timing of Activities	Have locations for all activity sessions been identified and secured?			
	Is the data collection venue well-tempered?			
	Have the specific needs of participants with disabilities been considered?			
	Does the session conflict with other existing demands and responsibilities of participants?			