

Key Recommendation and Management Response – PVE Project

Name of the Evaluation: Final Evaluation of Preventing Violent Extremism through Promoting Tolerance and Respect for Diversity in Maldives and Sri Lanka

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Evaluation recommendation 1. UNDP should continue to identify alternative entry points and approaches to address both root causes and enablers of extremism and radicalisation including to look into using its experience, expertise and convening authorities to support social cohesion as fully as possible, articulated to the neutral and legitimizing framework of SDG attainment¹. Maintaining the health of public discourse requires not just renewed emphasis on the promotion and dissemination of liberal values, but also an ongoing commitment to challenge and defeat the message and mechanics of extremist proselytising. UNDP Sri Lanka may wish to consider how best to mobilise civil society, particularly internet-savvy youth, to deliver PVE results online and at scale.

Management response: Given the current political and economic climate in Sri Lanka, there is no immediate follow-up plans to the PVE project. However, the project has documented the lessons learned and will incorporate in future programming around building social cohesion in Sri Lanka.

Key action(s)	Completion date	Responsible unit(s)	Tracking*	
			Comments	Status (initiated, completed or no due date)
The country office has received the recommendations and lessons learned from the initiative. BRH has	March 2022	BRH		completed

4 ¹ Specifically SDG 16, Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

worked closely with the country office management team to solidify the learnings for their consideration of potential programming.				
<p>Evaluation recommendation 2. UNDP Maldives Office should continue the good work done under the current PCVE project, with outputs that seek to build the evidence-base for the national effort and support the Government in taking forward “<i>whole of Government</i>” and ‘<i>whole of society</i>’ approaches. . Ideally, a new project would include activities to broaden the current range of civil society stakeholders and make targeted interventions to build capacities of both Government counterparts and civil society for NAP implementation. Specific support could be provided to increase levels of transparency and accountability in the process, including support to the NAP M&E regime and budgeting process with the Ministry of Finance, as well as to Parliamentary committees and other oversight bodies.</p>				
<p>Management response: BRH has supported the Maldives Country office through the hiring of a PVE expert to draft the next Phase of the PVE initiative in Maldives.</p>				
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<p>Learnings and recommendations from this Final Evaluation has been shared with the expert consultant who has incorporated it in the next phase of the programming. As a result the UNDP prodoc drafted for the second Phase of the PVE initiative in Maldives includes an Output on “Creating an enabling environment for civic engagement, where civil society organizations are empowered to engage with the government stakeholders on both policy issues related to PVE and take action to promote social cohesion and tolerance in society” Religious leaders, women, and youth are empowered to be become active participants in a range of supported activities where they engage across communities and build</p>	April 14 2022	BRH		Completed

better relationships with different groups in their communities that decrease “othering” and go against the messaging of radicals and extremists.				
<p>Evaluation recommendation 3. Bangkok Regional Hub should strengthen the role and responsibility of Country Offices in the drafting regional PCVE programmes/projects. Consultants or staff assigned by BRH to the process should report to, and in the first instance draft on behalf of, UNDP Senior Management in the countries concerned. Projects should be reviewed and approved by Local Project Appraisal Committees (LPACs) prior to any LPAC required at regional level.</p>				
<p>Management response: BRH has taken onboard this recommendation for the formation of the Regional PVE initiatives that followed the one under review, namely the Phase II for the PVE initiative in Southeast Asia. The project was developed in close consultation and coordination with national stakeholders with the guidance and leadership of UNDP country offices.</p>				
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<p>For PVE Phase II in Southeast Asia, Bangkok Regional Hub hired a expert consultant who travelled to the four implementing country offices to consult with UNDP Country Offices and their respective national partners on the programme design and activities. Results of which was presented during a LPAC committee that included representation from all implementing country offices. The project was endorsed by the country offices and the UNDP project document was finalized based on comments and suggestions from the committee meeting. This approach has now been mainstreamed and part of the “SOP” for the BRH in the development of future programming.</p>	<p>June 2022</p>	<p>Programme Management Unit, BRH Governance and Peacebuilding teams</p>		<p>Completed</p>
<p>Evaluation recommendation 4. Country Offices are best placed to develop Results Frameworks for projects given the level of detail and disaggregation required in respect of baselines, inputs, beneficiary groups, indicators and result targets, and the need for accountability in regard to project delivery and impact. While</p>				

PCVE work has always suffered from the obvious difficulties of isolating and measuring its own success in terms of disrupting radicalisation processes and reducing violent extremism, significant steps forward have been taken in thinking through proxy indicators and data sources by both UNDP and the EU. This includes UNDP work with International Alert in the Arab States², with more general applicability, as well as EU guidelines for the sector and for IcSP-funded projects specifically.

Management response:

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3.1 For PVE Phase II as well as new PVE programme in Maldives, BRH hired expert consultant to consult with each implementing country offices to develop a robust M&E framework, with baselines and indicators relating to the programme context.	June 2020 (Regional PVE Programme Phase II) and April 2022 (New PVE programme in Maldives)	BRH Governance and Peacebuilding Team		Completed
3.2 Bangkok regional Hub has been closely engaged with International Alert on their expertise for the development of the results framework and support to national governments on M&E for PVE.	February 2020 (Regional PVE Programme Phase II)	BRH Governance and Peacebuilding Team		Completed

Evaluation recommendation 5. Project formulation should be accompanied by specific identification and analysis of target groups to be addressed by the project, which builds from existing UN(DP) LNOB analysis undertaken for UNSDCF or CCA processes, but which recognises specific vulnerability in regard to VE and potential radicalisation. All Results Frameworks should meet minimum mandatory requirements in regard to gender equality and women’s empowerment (GEWE)³ as well as monitoring in regard to participation of, and impact on, specific vulnerable groups

Management response:

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² https://www.arabstates.undp.org/content/rbas/en/home/library/Dem_Gov/improving-the-impact-of-preventing-violent-extremism-programming.html

³ Gender markers, introduced in 2009, rate projects on **gender** goals and results with GEN 0 meaning no results, GEN 1- one **gender** activity/result, GEN 2 – **gender** is mainstreamed in all project activities, GEN 3 – **gender** equality is the main project goal. The corporate goal is to increase GEN 1, 2 and 3 ratings and to decrease the number of projects rated GEN 0.

			Comments	Status (initiated, completed or no due date)
3.1 The project under review had gone through LPAC review and was qualified as GEN 2	November 2019	UNDP/BRH PVE team		Completed
3.2 The PVE regional project Southeast Asia was completed to meet Gender marker 2/	June 2020	UNDP BRH PVE team		Completed
<p>Evaluation recommendation 6. the role of BRH as a hub to support PCVE programming in the region should be further refined and strengthened. The project should support networking and development of a PVE community of practice in the Asia-Pacific region, to further nurture south-south cooperation and knowledge exchange. While substantive management expertise is now in place, BRH should consider developing a roster of international experts and PVE practitioners in the region to promote specific aspects or interventions of the development approach.</p>				
Management response:				
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6.1 PVE project organizes Quarterly knowledge exchange between UNDP offices with PVE programmes to introduce new concepts, ideas, share lessons learned and identify synergies	On going	UNDP BRH PVE team		
6.2 PVE project utilizes the UNDP GPN Roster for the hiring of expert rosters to assist in PVE programming	On going	UNDP BRH PVE team		
6.3 Due to COVID-19 South-South exchanges was moved to online exchanges, which was received with less enthusiasm from national partners. With the slow removal of travel restrictions, UNDP is planning a regional exchange for national partners on annual basis	Q4 2022- Q1 2023	UNDP BRH PVE team		

Evaluation recommendation 7. The new *Extreme Lives* documentaries filmed by the project should be separately evaluated against their updated purpose to capture personal experiences in local languages for use as an awareness-raising tool to support PVE work in each country. Subject to findings, *Extreme Lives* could either be a) integrated into national work streams on a more decentralised basis, project by project; b) continue as a high-quality visibility produce to showcase the EU-UNDP regional partnership on PVE, and potentially be spun-off as a separate project for funding out of separate communications budgets.

Management response:

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7.1 The PVE team is in consultation with UNESCO to integrate the video series into their PVE Educational curriculum.	Q4 2022	UNDP BRH PVE team		On going
7.2 The PVE team is in consultation with Google to form new partnership for the next season of Extremelives in Southeast Asia where the videos are launch during in person event with participation from youth influencers/CSO/National and private sectors.	Q2 2023	UNDP BRH PVE Team		
7.3 The PVE team is in consultation with the EU to expand Extremelives through the project's development into an educational product, using video that targets young people vulnerable to violent extremism to spark constructive conversations and promote positive behaviours to encourage and contribute to youth resilience to violent extremism.	2023	UNDP PVE Team	Consultation with donors on the new approach to Extremelives is ongoing. It is expected that nothing will materialize until the end of the regional programme in May 2023.	

Evaluation recommendation 8. The EU should continue the conversation with UNDP in regard to supporting NAP implementation in the Maldives, and more generally in regard to developmental approaches to PCVE, an important counterpoint to more security-oriented counter-terrorism assistance. Resident in each country, with experience and track record in building Government commitment and capacities, and able to use its convening authority to nurture the “*whole of society*” approach, UNDP remains a compelling choice of implementing partner. PVE should be understood as a natural partnership between the UNDP and the European Union, which models the values and soft power of both institutions to mutual benefit, while addressing a clear set of needs in the region and globally, to challenge a rising tide of intolerance and maintain the long-term health of public discourse

Management response: UNDP BRH has been closely liaising with the Regional and country level EU Delegation on the co-creation of programming around PVE

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BRH participated in EU-UNDP dialogue on EU-UN Annual Dialogue on Prevention, Stabilisation, and Peacebuilding and was a panelist during the Asia Pacific regional session to discuss the trends and learnings from the implementation of regional PVE initiatives in Asia and the Pacific. During the course of the event, UNDP highlighted the importance of work at the community/national level and close engagement with EU Delegations at respective countries with UNDP country offices to reach deep into communities impacted by violent extremism and to scale up existing prevention efforts from the ground.	June 8, 2022	BRH		Completed

* Status of implementation is tracked electronically in the ERC database.