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Improving the **impact of preventing violent extremism** programming

A toolkit for design, monitoring and evaluation

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This toolkit was developed by UNDP in collaboration with International Alert, an organisation working with people directly affected by conflict to build lasting peace. International Alert focuses on solving the root causes of conflict, bringing together people from across divides. In collaboration with local communities, partners, businesses and policy-makers, Alert turns its in-depth research and analysis into practical solutions that make a difference on the ground.

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Introduction

With two-thirds of all countries in the world experiencing a terrorist attack in 2016,² terrorism has become an unprecedented threat to international peace, security and development, feeding off violent conflict. As conflicts have grown in intensity and number over the past decade, terrorist attacks have also increased and spread. According to the UN Secretary-General,³ preventing conflict and sustainable development should be the primary focus to change this trend; recognising that development is the best way to tackle the poverty, inequality and lack of opportunity and public services that feed despair.

In 2016, the UN Secretary-General put forward a Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE),⁴ which laid out the global recognition and imperative to address violent extremism. Based on this, UNDP developed a global framework for PVE which highlights that prevention needs to look beyond strict security concerns to development-related causes of and solutions to violent extremism, using a human rights-based approach.

As the pace of specific PVE programming has increased – due to the urgency around preventing a rise in violence and deaths as a result of extremist behaviour, so too has the pressure to find a silver bullet of ‘what works’.

A community of practice is developing to better inform PVE programming. However, the systems and tools for understanding the suitability of PVE as an approach and the impact that PVE interventions have in different contexts have not yet been available. Programming has been criticised for not sufficiently testing assumptions with systematic scientific and empirically based research.⁵

The objective of this toolkit is to help close this gap. It is designed as a living document for UNDP practitioners and partners who are working on programmes that are either specifically focused on PVE, or have PVE-relevant elements to them. It draws on best practice for design, monitoring and evaluation in complex, conflict contexts adapting these for PVE programming. The toolkit includes modules, processes and approaches as well as an indicator bank that can be used within UNDP, with national and community-level partners and as part of a capacity-building approach around monitoring.

About the toolkit

How to use the toolkit	<p>The toolkit is divided into four sections to help you navigate to the parts that are most relevant to you:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Laying the foundations</i> explains approaches and principles that need to underpin projects related to PVE, including conflict and gender sensitivity.2. <i>Building the framework</i> offers tools for identifying factors of vulnerability and resilience to violent extremism in the project context, building theories of change, and developing indicators and monitoring.3. <i>Monitoring strategy and data collection</i> provides guidance and tools on developing a monitoring strategy and discusses and compiles different data collection methods.4. <i>Evaluation using the learning</i> provides details on evaluating PVE projects. <p>Each section houses modules that contain guidance and tools to aid with the design, monitoring and evaluation of PVE projects. Some of these tools can be used independently, others work best when they are used together. At the beginning of each tool, there is information on the tool's purpose, how and when to use the tool, and which other tools it can be used in conjunction with.</p> <p>The toolkit is intended to be dipped in and out of, rather than used chronologically, depending on where you are in the project cycle and what your needs are.</p>
When to use the toolkit	<p>The toolkit is designed for use in-house and with partners and beneficiaries at any stage before or during your programming.</p>
What the toolkit does not do	<p>This is not a guide to general monitoring and evaluation. The toolkit is intended to complement and be used in conjunction with UNDP's existing tools and resources, such as the M&E handbook and ToC guidance, which provide more detail on general M&E tools and good practice. As such, the toolkit is not a compendium of all possible M&E tools that could be applied to PVE, but rather it highlights specific issues, methods and tools that can be the most relevant and most useful to UNDP staff and partners.</p>

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