

CVE Summit – Panel Suggestions**RELEASE IN PART
B6****Panel Session 1****1. Women: Building Resilient Communities (GWI/AID)**

Description: A growing body of evidence shows that women offer unique skills and contributions to maintain stability and security in communities in countries around the world – and those contributions lead to better outcomes not just for women, but for entire societies. This panel would address various participatory roles women play – such as in the security sector and public life – in promoting resilience and preventing violence. When given the opportunity to serve as mediators, women can often build coalitions across ethnic and sectarian lines and gain the trust and confidence of the community.

Justification: As mothers, wives, and caregivers, women's visibility into community life often enables them to engage in family and community-level efforts to address at-risk populations, including youth. Yet, women often are not empowered to nor have the confidence or skills to engage publicly on issues affecting their families and communities. Moreover, women's role in the security sector broadens its ability to engage with the full population and reinforces the confidence in rule of law and accountability that contributes to resilience.

This panel would present several examples of women's active participation in efforts to stem vulnerabilities to violent extremism and bolster inclusive perceptions of community service, including: women in political decision making roles, women taking on important grassroots roles in community service, women as members of the security sector, and women involved in reconciliation and mediation efforts within the community.

Participants:

- GCERF
- Sister's Against Violent Extremism
- Jordan Loan Guarantee female alumni
- Representative from UAE government --specifically relative to their recent compacts on social media
- Institute for Inclusive Security (can speak to the role of women and security services)
- UN Women

2. Responsive Governance to Vulnerable Communities

Justification: Open Government for Safer Communities and Access to Justice promotes resilient communities by increasing the transparency and accountability of security and justice authorities, enabling greater citizen participation as key stakeholders and contributors to community safety, and building trust between citizens and authorities.

Description: The panel will discuss how more transparent, accountable and citizen engaged government can enhance community security, build trust in government, and help address the root causes of instability and violent extremism. The panel will highlight positive examples and opportunities for building public trust and engagement in community safety, and explore how initiatives like the Open Government Partnership can promote innovative approaches to enhancing community safety and citizen access to justice.

Participants: Khaled Sellami; Director General , e-government unit, Presidency of Tunisia; [REDACTED]

Amira Yahyaoui at Al Bawsala in Tunisia [REDACTED]

Hilda Ajeilat, Transparency International Jordan; [REDACTED]

Transparency International's MENA Director (Palestinian).*

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3. The Role of Religious Groups in Community Well- Being

Justification: Religious communities can play critical roles in providing a wide range of services to vulnerable populations, ranging from psychosocial support to those in need of counseling to skills training to prepare people for the job market. Such services can supplement or fill gaps in the provision of government services, reinforce community-based support networks, and ultimately help build more resilient communities.

Panel Session 2

1. Building Resilient Communities through Trade

Justification: "*Building Resilient Communities through Trade*" links public and private sector partners with international organizations and international financial institutions to discuss breaking down regional barriers and connecting business communities through trade which can increase economic growth and employment across the region.

Description: According to the World Bank, the Middle East is among the least economically integrated regions in the world. Though parties to the Pan Arab Free Trade Agreement (PAFTA), the flow of trade is impeded by unclear and unevenly enforced non-tariff measures (NTM) that discourage the development or expansion of small and medium enterprises, drivers of economic growth and employment. This panel will convene public and private sector experts and international financial institutions and banks to discuss how to harmonize regional customs, remove NTMs, and apply universal standards to incentivize trade.

Participants:

Assistant Secretary General of the Arab League for Economic Affairs Dr. Mohammed bin Ibrahim Al-Tuwaijri
 Dr. Waleed Al-Wohaib, CEO of the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)
 Lilia Nass, International Trade Corporation (ITC) Arab Region Chief
 (USAID REGIONAL POC—See Tyler Holt)
 American Chamber of Commerce Chairman (and Agribusinessman) Mohammed Bataineh
 WTO POC TBD
 SEZ POC TBD

2. Jobs, youth, education: links between education and employment (S/SP, PD, AID)

Justification: Educated but unemployed youth experience hopelessness and despair and often feel disconnected from their communities. Experts cite soaring youth employment levels in the MENA region as one factor contributing to extremist recruitment. Tying education more directly to employment promotes resilient communities by providing youth with a meaningful future and sense of self-worth.

Description: This panel will discuss ways to improve vocational education to provide direct links between education and employment, as well as improve soft skills training. It will discuss how to incorporate vocational training into secondary school system to catch youth before they hit the university system and provide feedback from the private sector on employability of MENA graduates.

Participants: Private sector representative to discuss employability problems in the region; Vocational training expert from the US or Europe; Head of EFE or other NGO working on education for employment; MEPI Alumni from education for employment program; Minister of Education from a MENA country

3. Harnessing Resources to Achieve results and prioritizing impact (RMA)

Justification: This panel will promote resilient communities by providing policymakers and stakeholders prioritized, practical solutions for CVE, with the goal of achieving the most “good” given our limited resources. While there are many factors that may contribute to individual radicalization and adoption of extremist causes, to attempt to tackle them all risks spreading resources too thin and achieving little. Spending resources on the wrong message for a disenfranchised community can fall flat. If we are serious about tackling the problem, policymakers must prioritize goals.

Description: The panel will provide recommendations for policymakers and programmers on which specific areas we should expend resources in order to achieve the greatest impact in developing resilient communities with the greatest cost-benefit ratio. Properly conducting CVE today requires a simple, narrowly focused strategy. The concept is modeled off of the Copenhagen Consensus Center, which has analyzed the best return on investment for each dollar

spent on development aid in order to recommend specific goals for the post-2015 UN Millennium Development Goals.

Participants: Panel of objective, non-governmental, data-driven experts drawn from Foreign Policy organizations or academia.

Panel Session 3

1. Youths Speak Out/Youth Leaders (GWI, PD)

Description: Building on youth-oriented events by USAID, an additional (or supplementary) panel can identify opportunities for regional youth to express themselves, engage in community service, and promote confidence, as an important tactic in promoting resilient communities.

Justification: By exploring different models, programs, and approaches (e.g. curricula from ECA's varied sports exchanges, national service programs, scouting, etc), the panel could affirm how sport, art, and community service can be platforms for youth expression and empowerment while also reinforcing confidence in existing social or community institutions. Inclusive models serving boys and girls reinforce such outcomes across the community.

Panelists might address the following issues:

- What kind of future do young men and women see for themselves in a changing Middle East?
- What do they view as the best outlets for youth expression?
- How can sports, the arts, and community service platforms engage regional youth positively to express their hopes, needs, and views?
- What programs and tools serve as models for promoting community service and active participation

Participants: Youth from the region discuss challenges for their countries in a moderated discussion led by Maha Awad. Representatives from organizations running youth programs address sports and the arts and community service offer models, perspectives, and successes for programs addressing boys and girls. <http://www.mahaawad.com/> and with other media representatives.

2. The Amman Message: 10 years on (RMA)

Justification: This panel promotes resilient communities by convening regional government and community religious and private sector leaders to explore Amman Message commitments, namely the messaging of *Ummah* (Arabic for supranational community) in school curricula and university courses worldwide and in training *Imams*.

Description: The Amman Message started as a simple but detailed statement issued in November 2004 in Amman, Jordan by King Abdullah II of Jordan and 200 of the world's leading

Islamic scholars from 50 countries. Its goal was to clarify to the modern world “the true nature of Islam and the nature of true Islam”. Participants committed to develop inter-Islamic treaties, update school curricula and university courses, and instill more effective training for Imams – core to community life in Middle Eastern and Islamic communities. The panel would:

- Revisit the Amman Message and discuss its commitments and how to restore communities in the aftermath of the collapses of Libya, Yemen, Syria, and Iraq.
- Discuss the role of faith and *imams* in building resilient communities in post-Arab spring transition countries.
- Promote vocational training and private sector employment as complementary to the Amman Message’s goals of building the concept of community.

Participants: King Abdullah II (or his designee)

DOS Special Representative to Muslim Communities Shaarik Zafar

International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation Chairman Dr. Waleed Al-Wohaib (to discuss regional unemployment and the need for effective education and training the building communities)

Regional *Awqaf* (religious affairs) officials

Regional faith-based community organizers (Christian and Muslim)

Others (TBD)

3. Social Media: Changing the Narrative