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AF/SA Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Program

The U.S. government's Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) programming targets hotspots of recruitment and radicalization, and at-risk communities. Programs aim to disrupt the cycle of marginalization and address community grievances in ways that will build resilience among at-risk communities and individuals to counter the recruitment pitches and ideological influence of violent extremists.

The ultimate success of CVE programming in Africa is directly linked to broader U.S. efforts to increase opportunity for non-violent political and civic participation by marginalized communities; improve dialogue and partnerships between responsible government authorities, including the security sector, and these communities; strengthen the rule of law; advance human rights; foster good governance; strengthen democratic institutions; and promote inclusive economic growth to help eradicate extreme poverty and create economic opportunity.

AF's CVE programming, funded by Economic Support Funds (ESF), is focused on preventing terrorist recruitment and reducing sympathy and support for violent extremism by: (1) offering positive alternatives to communities at risk of recruitment, radicalization, and mobilization to violence; (2) countering violent extremist narratives and messaging; and (3) increasing partner nation and civil society political will and capacity to implement CVE programs and strategies.

The Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership (TSCTP) and the Partnership for East Africa Counterterrorism (PREACT) are the two primary multi-year whole of government vehicles to support AF's CVE activities in West Africa/Sahel and East Africa, and to coordinate broader CT assistance within the interagency. In addition to serving as coordination mechanisms, TSCTP and PREACT receive annual limited resources for programming in the criminal justice and military sector, and in CVE.

East Africa CVE Programming:

The October 2015 Deputies-approved "U.S. Strategy for Countering Terrorism & Violent Extremism in East Africa" directs PREACT to manage and coordinate the U.S. government interagency community's implementation of the Strategy. This instrument will be especially critical for managing and coordinating State's Counterterrorism Partnership Fund (CTPF).

*Annual AF Bureau CVE Program (PREACT/ESF)*SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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Examples of noteworthy AF CVE Programs:

- In Somalia, PRACT promotes stabilization and access to justice by working with the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs' Traditional Dispute Resolution Unit to train traditional community leaders to reform and revive the Somali customary law, and improve its alignment with Constitutional norms and international human rights law.
- In Somalia, PRACT supports the community-based process of rehabilitation and reintegration of disengaged low-risk Al-Shabaab combatants in Somalia.
- In Somalia PRACT is establishing a nongovernmental CVE counter-messaging center in Mogadishu for credible civil society groups and religious leaders.
- In Uganda, PRACT set up a vocational training center — “Uganda Muslim American Skill Friendship Training Centre”—which offers employable skills to male and female youth of different religious denominations, and who may be susceptible to recruitment and radicalization.
- In Kenya, PRACT is implementing a project focused on improving trust between at-risk communities and police in four coastal counties, and integrating social media platforms to strengthen community policing, and introduce low-risk means of reporting crimes, including violent extremist recruitment efforts, in order to foster trust and support community-policing efforts.

West Africa/Sahel CVE Programming:

The CVE component of security assistance falls under goal six of the TSCTP Strategy, which focuses on “reducing sympathy and support for violent extremism.” The *U.S. Strategy for Countering Boko Haram* also captures the need for a robust regional CVE approach under Objective 4, which aims to: “enhance state and local efforts to engage with civilians affected by Boko Haram, counter violent extremism, and address underlying causes of insecurity.”

*Annual AF ESF/TSCTP:**FY11-FY14: \$3-5M**Fy15: \$7M*

Examples of noteworthy AF CVE Programs:

- Provide positive civic engagement, economic, skills building, leadership and social-inclusion opportunities to at-risk communities, especially youth in northern Nigeria and northern Cameroon;

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- Strengthen critical thinking skills and nonviolent attitudes among youth through educational initiatives and curriculum reform, including in Quranic schools in Chad;
- Arewa24 is a multi-media platform, centered around a 24/7 Hausa language satellite television channel in northern Nigeria, which creates, produces, and distributes a variety of culturally-relevant general entertainment programming to the more than 100 million Hausa speakers in Nigeria and around the world, specifically targeting youth and mothers of young children. The programming draws more than 13 million viewers daily and more than 18 million viewers weekly in the six northern Nigerian focus states (Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara). There is evidence it has also enjoyed considerable international audiences across Saudi Arabia, Libya, Sudan, and Niger.

Monitoring and Evaluation: In 2015, AF/SA partnered with the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO) to improve the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) standards of CVE programs funded by PREACT and TSCTP ESF. The goal of the partnership is to improve the Department's knowledge about the effectiveness of CVE programming models, and to inform strategic funding decisions to implement programs that are most impactful.

AF/SA and CSO developed the first CVE monitoring framework deployed across all countries with CVE programs funded by PREACT and TSCTP ESF; and trained embassy staff and implementers in data collection and analysis under this M&E framework. As a result, FY14 CVE programming will for the first time yield reporting based on common indicators, allowing us to aggregate data and analyze program effectiveness across PREACT and TSCTP regions. This process will also yield a common data collection and survey methodology, allowing embassies and implementers to benefit from exchange of ideas and regionally-relevant M&E good practices.

State Department CVE

The Department did not receive a **Counterterrorism Partnership Fund (CTPF)** appropriation in FY 2015, but \$50 million in existing foreign assistance resources was identified to pilot a CTPF process. CTPF pilot concepts proposed spending \$15.5 million during the calendar year to bolster ongoing efforts to counter the threat posed by Boko Haram and associated violent extremism in the Lake Chad Basin region of Africa. An additional \$19 million was identified for programming in East Africa, mostly for CVE efforts. Program managers in Washington are still in the early stages of project design for these funds. CT also received **\$175 million**

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in new CTPF resources in FY16 for the globe, a portion of which we expect will be programmed in Africa for both civilian security and CVE programs.

With the annual availability of TSCTP and PRACT CVE resources and the surge of CTPF resources, Washington and posts will need to work closely together to ensure that posts can effectively develop program concepts, implement projects as needed, and do the necessary work on financial reporting and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). AF, CT, and CSO are exploring a number of options, including a CSO proposal for a forward-deployed Regional Support Team (RST), to assist with knowledge development, proposal drafting, and program implementation.

The Secretary has directed CT Bureau to serve as the Department's lead for CVE assistance and engagement. This will entail a change to the name of the bureau and a significant increase in staff for CVE - which will be rolled out in February 2016. The Bureau is leading efforts to develop a new joint strategy that will guide State and USAID's CVE efforts.

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