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Embassy of the United States of America
Amman, Jordan

U.S. EMBASSY AMMAN: DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY ON COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Introduction:

As noted in the May 2016 State/USAID Joint Strategy on CVE, the U.S. National Security Strategy (2015) calls for a sustainable approach to combat the persistent threat of terrorism. The Both unilateral measures and collective action with responsible partners are needed to disrupt threats against the U.S. and our allies. At the same time, effectively addressing these threats requires simultaneous and complementary efforts to counter and prevent the spread of violent extremism. This includes efforts to address the specific societal dynamics and drivers of radicalization to violence and counter the ideology, messaging, and recruitment methods that extremist groups and propagandists employ to attract new recruits and foment violence. It also requires proactive efforts to prevent support for violent extremism in areas where the threat is more nascent.

Before engaging outside the Embassy, the Mission must ensure internal coordination and deconfliction. Building on the efforts of the interagency CVE Working Group, whole-of-mission approaches must be emphasized and collectively agreed upon. Embassy Amman diplomatic engagement strategy focuses on two avenues: bilateral engagement and coordination, and multilateral/NGO coordination.

I. **Bilateral Engagement and Coordination**

- Engage with the Government of Jordan (GOJ), at all appropriate levels, to expand political will, acceptance of partnerships, and local expertise to better understand the drivers of violent extremism and mobilize effective interventions in Jordan.
- Encourage and assist the GOJ to adopt more effective policies and approaches to prevent and counter the spread of violent extremism, including changing unhelpful practices where necessary. Through enhanced diplomatic engagement and targeted technical support — using research to shape these efforts where possible, Embassy Amman will assist the GOJ to develop strategies, policies, and programs to reduce the appeal and spread of violent extremism. Key ministries include Awqaf, Interior, and others.
- Working with and through the GOJ's designated CVE Coordinator, now located in the Ministry of Culture, to assist the GOJ to develop national plans of action to address local drivers of violent extremism, involving a wide range of government and non-governmental actors.

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- As the GOJ increases its understanding and commitment to CVE, leverage existing diplomatic efforts on security, human rights, gender, education, and development to reduce potential drivers of violent extremism.
- Work across GOJ line ministries to employ foreign assistance tools to reduce specific political, social and economic factors that contribute to violent extremism in identifiable areas or particularly at-risk populations.
- Working through the Ministry of Interior and other associated security organizations, strengthen the capabilities of government and non-governmental actors in rehabilitation and reintegration of radicalized individuals, rather than relying simply on incarceration.
- Encourage and reinforce the GOJ's political will in regards to CVE efforts. Continue to help develop and cultivate cooperation and information sharing between key ministries working in the same CVE spaces. Continue to emphasize the importance of GOJ inclusion of and outreach to NGO's and local communities in creating CVE initiatives and interventions.

II. Multilateral / NGO Coordination

- Continue with the CVE "donor coordination" efforts that have been ongoing with the UK Embassy, UN Mission to Jordan, UNDP, UNESCO, and other international actors working in the CVE space in Jordan. Share, when appropriate, research results, best practices, and programming ideas to ensure we avoid overlap and redundancy.
- Work with multilateral organizations with existing NGO contacts to assist the GOJ in developing effective programming. Encourage partner countries to continue pressing their influence and institutions in Jordan to help advance CVE efforts.
- Collaborate with multilaterals and NGOs to identify, empower and amplify locally credible voices that can change perceptions among key demographics. Coordinate with multilaterals and NGOs to continue encouraging the GOJ to allow space for NGOs and grassroots efforts.
- Use people-to-people programs such as IVLP and other public diplomacy exchanges to expand engagement with sub-national authorities, especially cities, nongovernment organizations, faith leaders, the private sector, and civil society to promote CVE initiatives. While recognizing the relative weakness of municipal and other sub-national organizations in Jordan, focus on building capacity of women, youth, religious, and other community leaders to advance CVE efforts.

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Clearances: (*CVE Working Group members)

- Chief of Mission
- *Deputy Chief of Mission
- *RSO
- *POL
- *ECON
- *PAS
- *DATT / MAP
- *USAID

References/Guidance:

Department of State & USAID Joint Strategy on Countering Violent Extremism
<https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/257913.pdf>

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