

1. BACKGROUND ON THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT (NA)

The Country Support Mechanism (CSM) is responsible for providing an analysis of levels of community engagement in identified communities at risk, community-identified gaps in addressing such drivers, and the structures and capacities of community-level stakeholders servicing and representing these communities. This Needs Assessment (NA) will build on national strategies to counter violent extremism; country and local expertise; and the body of relevant analysis by academic, governmental, multilateral, and non-governmental entities. The CSM is responsible for providing its NA to the IRP via the Secretariat in order to inform the IRP's fund allocation recommendation. The CSM's NA will be shared with the IRP, facilitated by the Secretariat. The IRP will use the NAs, as well as information from the Secretariat on available funding, to provide a recommendation to the Board regarding the maximum potential funding that may be granted to each intended beneficiary country for a three-year period.

2. HOW GCERF SUPPORTS THE PREPARATION OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The GCERF Secretariat and Independent Review Panel (IRP) facilitate and support CSMs in the preparation of their country's Needs Assessment (NA) in the following ways, including through proposed visits:

- In consultation with the GCERF Secretariat, the IRP offers the guidance contained in this document to CSMs on the preparation and content of the NA.
- Throughout the NA process, the GCERF Secretariat is available to offer practical guidance and support to the CSM – including in-country assistance at the start of the NA process.

3. CONTENTS OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The NA is an analysis of existing levels of community resilience against violent extremist agendas and the drivers of radicalisation to violence, including the identification of the demography and geography of communities at risk. The NA includes an analysis of:

- levels of community engagement in identified communities at risk;
- community-identified gaps in addressing such drivers; and
- the structures and capacities of community-level stakeholders servicing and representing these communities.

GCERF's mandate is to support local, community-level initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience against violent extremist agendas. Its mission focuses on: identifying the local drivers of violent extremism that put people most at risk of recruitment and radicalisation to violence; and building local resilience, in order to prevent violent extremism.

The following informal definitions provide a basic guide for the purposes of the needs assessment:

- **Drivers** refer to specific factors, ideas, institutions, issues, trends, or values that directly influence people to radicalise toward the use of violence. A driver of violence is not necessarily a “root cause.” Drivers have an immediate impact, while root causes contribute to drivers but may not be resolvable. For example, economic inequality is a root cause; a drought affecting farmers is a driver.
- **Radicalisation to violence** refers to a decision to forgo political processes or nonviolent methods of fostering change in favour of adopting violent methods to bring about change.
- **Violent extremism** refers to the use of violence as a method to pursue political goals.
- **Resilience** refers to the factors, ideas, institutions, issues, trends, or values that enable individuals and communities to resist or prevent violence.

4. CONDUCTING A NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The NA will build on country and local expertise and the body of relevant analysis by academic, governmental, multilateral, and non-governmental entities. In this regard, the NA should commence with an inventory of relevant information/resources already available; see page 3 below for some examples. We request that you include citations on the sources referred to in your NA (e.g. focus groups, interviews, surveys, official government data, and third party research,). We suggest that the NA be no more than 20 pages in length, excluding annexes.

5. NEEDS ASSESSMENT CRITERIA (WORKING TEXT)

In consultation with the GCERF Secretariat, the GCERF IRP offers the following guidance to beneficiary country authorities on assessment criteria.

Please note that your country’s NA does not need to address all of the points below.

The IRP may request clarifications or verifications after submission of the NA.

Understanding the Impact of Violent Extremism

- What impact does violent extremism currently have on affected communities?
- Does your country have a public debate or discourse around violent extremism and its impact? Are all stakeholders in agreement on the severity of the risk of violent extremism?
- In the future, what is the potential impact of violent extremism on the country?

Who, where, what, and how?

- Who is most at risk of radicalisation to violent extremism?
- Where are the at-risk people located?
- What do affected communities say are the main factors that contribute to radicalisation to violence (for example, ideas, institutions, issues, trends)?
- Where and how do violent extremist groups recruit new members?
- What do affected communities say would be the most effective ways to prevent radicalisation to violent extremism?

Research and Strategies to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism

- Does your country have a national strategy/policy/working group to prevent radicalisation to violent extremism? If so, please describe. Who is responsible for implementing the policy?
- Who are the main actors actively working to prevent radicalisation to violent extremism?
- Are national and local governmental authorities in dialogue with civil society on the subject of preventing radicalisation to violent extremism?
- Is radicalisation to violent extremism the subject of study or research in your country? If so, please identify by whom.
- Is research regularly undertaken to measure community attitudes toward and relationships with local and national authorities?

Support for Community Engagement and Resilience

- In affected communities, who has credibility and legitimacy to speak out against violent extremism? Who is already speaking out against violent extremism?
- How might additional support be provided to locally credible voices without undermining their legitimacy?
- Who provides services to build local resilience to violent extremist agendas? What programs and structures are supporting these service providers?
- Are there effective rehabilitation and reintegration programs for former violent extremists/returning foreign fighters/incarcerated violent extremists? Is there support for their families and dependents?
- In affected communities, what role, if any, do private sector businesses/companies currently play in building resilience against violent extremist agendas? What more is needed?
- Which international, multilateral, and/or regional donors or civil society initiatives are currently working to prevent radicalisation to violent extremism?

FURTHER READING (IMMEDIATELY RELEVANT TO NA)

- [“Development Assistance and Counter-Extremism: A Programming Guide”](#)
- [Global Peace Index 2014](#)
- [“Guide to Conducting a Needs Assessment”](#)
- [“Guide to the Drivers of Violent Extremism”](#)

ADDITIONAL FURTHER READING

Articles and Guides:

- [“A Case Study of Counter Violent Extremism \(CVE\) Programming: Lessons from OTI’s Kenya Transition Initiative”](#)
- [“Addressing Violent Extremism: Creating Spaces for Civil Society Engagement”](#)
- [“Creating Spaces for Effective CVE Approaches”](#)
- [CVE Research Briefs](#) (from *Hedayah, the International Center of Excellence for CVE*)
- [“Development Assistance and Counter-Extremism: A Programming Guide”](#)
- [“Expert Meeting on CVE, Security and Development”](#)
- [“Guide to the Drivers of Violent Extremism”](#)
- [“A Practical Guide to Community Integrity Building”](#)
- [“The Role of Education in Countering Violent Extremism”](#)
- [TerRa Toolkit: Community approach to Radicalisation](#)
- [The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy](#) (Pillar I: “Measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism”)

Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF):

- [Countering Violence Extremism Working Group](#)
- [Ankara Memorandum on Good Practices for a Multi-Sectoral Approach to CVE](#)
- [Good Practices for Community Engagement and Community-Oriented Policing as Tools to Counter Violent Extremism](#)
- [Rome Memorandum on Good Practices for Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Violent Extremist Offenders](#)

Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E):

- [“Comparative Evaluation Framework for Counter Radicalisation”](#)
- [“Evaluating Countering Violent Extremism Programming: Practice and Progress”](#)
- [“Learning and Adapting: The Use of Monitoring and Evaluation in Countering Violent Extremism – A Handbook for Practitioners”](#)
- [National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism \(START\)](#)
- [“Outcome Mapping: Building Learning and Reflection into Development Programs”](#)

Women, Peace, and Security:

- [Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe \(OSCE\): Women, terrorism and counter-terrorism](#)
- [“The Roles of Women in Terrorism, Conflict, and Violent Extremism: Lessons for the United Nations and International Actors”](#)