**PROGRAMME ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

**Period: January-December 2020**

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| **Project Name** | Operationalizing Somali National Strategy and Action Plan on Preventing and Countering of Violent Extremism  |
| Gateway ID | 00112758  |
| Start date | 01 September 2018  |
| Planned end date (as per last approval) | 30 June 2021 |
| Focal Person | (Name): Doel Mukerjee |
| (Email): doel.mukerjee@undp.org |
| (Tel): 0619883848 |
| Participating UN entities | UNDP, UNSOM  |
| NDP Pillar | To achieve a stable and peaceful Federal Somalia through inclusive political processes, establishing unified, capable and accountable security institutions and establishing independent, accountable and efficient justice institution.  |
| UNSF Strategic Priority | Priority 3: All Somalis benefit from Peace, Security and the Rule of Law including Justice; Priority 4: Effective and accountable institutions that respond to needs and rights of all Somalis.  |
| Location(s) | Benadir, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, Puntland, South-West  |
| Gender Marker | 2 |

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| **Total Budget as per ProDoc**  | USD 4,306,229.69  |
| MPTF:  | USD 2,046,132  |
|  Non-MPTF sources:  | PBF:  |
| UNDP TRAC: USD 387,069.27  |
| Netherlands: USD 1,115,414 FCO-UK: USD 462,546  |

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|  | **PUNO** | **Report approved by:** | **Position/Title** | **Signature** |
| **1.** | **UNDP** | Jocelyn Mason | Resident Representative |  |

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| **Total MPTF Funds Received** | **Total non-MPTF Funds Received** |
| **PUNO** | **Semi Annual 2020 (2)** | **Cumulative** | **Annual 2020** | **Semi Annual 2020 (2)** | **Cumulative** | **Annual 2020** |
| **UNDP** | 1 July - 31 Dec 2020 | From prog. start date | 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2020 | 1 July - 31 Dec 2020 | From prog. start date | 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2020 |
| **MPTF**  | 230,260.33 | 1,679,707.16 | 230,260.33 |  |  |  |
| **Dutch**  |  |  |  |  | 811,005.11 | 440,426.11 |
| **FCO** |  |  |  |  | 443,946.91 | 443,946.91 |
| **Swedish** |  |  |  |  | 300,000.00 | 300,000.00 |
| **UNDP TRAC** |  |  |  | 113,532.94 | 350,826.41 | 263,757.14 |
| **Total**  | **230,260.33** | **1,679,707.16** | **230,260,33** | **113,532.94** | **1,905,778.43** | **1,448,130.16** |
| **JP Expenditure of MPTF Funds[[1]](#footnote-1)** | **JP Expenditure of non-MPTF Funds**  |
| **PUNO** | **Semi Annual 2020 (2)** | **Cumulative** | **Annual 2020** | **Semi Annual 2020 (2)** | **Cumulative** | **Annual 2020** |
| **UNDP** | 1 July - 31 Dec 2020 | From prog. start date | 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2020 | 1 July - 31 Dec 2020 | From prog. start date | 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2020 |
| **MPTF** | 242,307.89 | 1,679,707.16 | 419,578.15 |  |  |  |
| **Dutch** |  |  |  | 177,089.91 | 722,993.13 | 458,198.34 |
| **FCO**  |  |  |  | 72,447.86 | 125,698.18 | 125,698.18 |
| **UNDP TRAC** |  |  |  | 113,532.94 | 350,826.41 | 263,757.14 |
| **Total** | **242,307.89** | **1,679,707.16** | **419,578.15** | **363,070.71** | **1,199,517.72** | **847,653.66** |

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| **ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS**1. A country-wide network of 240 like-minded religious leaders was established, working closely with the government in promoting tolerance and peace, countering al-Shabaab propaganda, hate speech, and incitement to violence. This network has proven reliable and flexible in implementing a robust awareness campaign on debunking rumors, countering discrimination, and discrediting al-Shabaab propaganda on COVID-19.
2. The project has shown promising results in bringing religious leaders together in Dialogue and Mediation Committees to engage religious actors into conversations on countering hate speech and violent extremism.
3. Provided ongoing capacity building support, technical assistance and continuous staffing to government structures enabling increased PCVE coordination and implementation, which also allowed for a quick and effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Steps towards a community-based approach to dialogue for peacebuilding have taken place with public discussion in political spaces and within communities.
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| **HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**An awareness-raising campaign on COVID-19 successfully responded to harmful misinformation and worked closely with religious leaders to support COVID-19 response efforts. Religious leaders responded to misinformation surrounding the virus and through this work have developed a network of trusted leaders promoting tolerance and peace. The project’s awareness-raising campaign ‘Clerics vs COVID’, contributed to debunking harmful misinformation and sharing lifesaving health information. It also triggered a social debate about the need to limit gatherings for congregational prayers, and the application of social distancing measures at other places of worship. The campaign’s success at countering the COVID-19 misinformation was a possible trigger for al-Shabaab to eventually acknowledge the dangers of the pandemic and mirror the government’s efforts of establishing a committee of doctors and religious leaders in response to the disease. Dialogue and Mediation Committees have been established in Jowhar, Warsheikh, Balcad, Dhusamareb and Kismayo and have been successful in working together to engage religious actors into conversations on countering hate speech and violent extremism.These increased coordination structures ensured that implementation of the PCVE priority action points could commence and continue during the pandemic. Progress was also made encouraging inter-ministerial collaboration towards managing religious institutions across Somalia, for example through assistance and capacity building to the Federal Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs (MoERA).Steps continue to be taken to facilitate and promote public discussions on peacebuilding. Public events, such as the 14 October commemoration, as well as the PCVE Platforms, have facilitated dialogue around conflict transformation and peace building.  |
| **SITUATION UPDATE**The COVID-19 pandemic was a defining challenge for the programme in 2020, with social distancing restrictions limiting the local consultations and activities that could be conducted. In addition, dangerous misinformation and propaganda on COVID-19 spread in Somalia, spurred by the violent extremist group al-Shabaab, resulting in COVID-19 messaging from government and particularly the international community being met with suspicion from some Somali communities. This increased the likelihood of negative health outcomes, increased discrimination against certain groups and exacerbated existing conflict fault lines. It was therefore crucial to work with the ulema to further the efforts of Somalia's prevention and response efforts to the pandemic.  Community-based activities were able to resume in August 2020, which has allowed the programme to continue work on the PCVE Platforms and dialogue and mediation committees. This has also allowed for the programme to return to the outputs and activities outlined in the 2020 Annual Work Plan, instead of the revised adjustments agreed by the Project Steering Committee in response to COVID-19. However, programme activities have also monitored changes to Ministerial counterparts, as a result of the political upheaval and change of Prime Minister in September 2020. As a result, the programme team has engaged and developed strong working relationships with the new Ministerial counterparts, including at the Federal Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs. |
| **SEMI-ANNUAL & ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT RESULTS MATRIX**

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| **OUTCOME STATEMENT**CVE coordination by national authorities is functional at Federal and Federal Member State levels, and consultation mechanisms established.  |
| **SUB-OUTCOME 1 STATEMENT**OPM Coordination Office & PCVE focal points are staffed and capacitated to coordinate on PCVE, and commence implementation of priority issues from their respective PCVE action points. |
| **Output 1.1**: PCVE coordination and collaboration: PCVE coordination between PGS and FMS; mainstreaming PCVE into work of federal and FMS line ministries.  |
| **INDICATOR** | **TARGET** | **PROGRESS ON OUTPUT INDICATOR[[2]](#footnote-2)** |
| **REPORING PERIOD (2020)** | **CUMULATIVE** |
| Capacity of qualified and experienced government experts for PCVE work in Somalia developed  | Build capacity by ensuring salaries of OPM and FMS FPs  | Supported 12 qualified (F:2, M: 10) and experienced government experts, who have continued to work on PCVE. Six at the FGS level and an additional six in the FMS level. The project ensured that the OPM PCVE Coordination Unit and the PCVE focal points in the FMS were staffed and capacitated to coordinate on PCVE, and able to commence implementation of priority issues from their respective PCVE Action Plans. OPM PCVE Coordination Unit and PCVE focal points at FMS were staffed, capacitated both institutionally and individually, and able to lead on coordination. | Qualified and experienced persons for PCVE in Somalia identified and their capacity further developed. The positions of six OPM and six FMS focal points were sustained to ensure PCVE expertise being applied and mainstreamed throughout the work of federal and state governments, enabling continued implementation of PCVE specific programming interventions.  |
| PCVE collaboration between FSG and FMS strengthened   | Bi-monthly FGS Inter-Ministerial Task Force Meetings   | The project continued to facilitate collaboration between the FSG and the FMS. The PCVE FMS Focal Points regularly met with FSG PCVE officers during 2020 to discuss implementation of the PCVE Platforms. Mentoring and technical assistance for PCVE coordinators and focal points at the OPM and FMS levels continued, ensuring that implementation of the PCVE priority action points could commence and continue during the pandemic. | Inter-Ministerial exchange has been held at the FGS. Specific inter-ministerial thematic meetings, physically and then virtually, took place facilitated by the OPM-PCVE-CU. Increasing thematic inter-ministerial meetings, physically and virtually have taken on for example Amnesty or teaching Islam in state institutions. The OPM and MoERA held consultations, with delegations from 5 FMS, on the religious counternarratives manual which led to an agreement on collaboration. Increased collaboration between the FSG and FMS PCVE officers also allowed for the project to quickly adjust activities due to COVID.   |
| PCVE mainstreamed into the work of federal and FMS line ministries- reflected in joint activities, ministerial work plans, policy documents | Bi-monthly FMS P/CVE Committee Meetings in FMS  | Inter-Ministerial exchange continued at FSM level during reporting period. 2 CAS Strand 4 Meetings were held in April and October and included members of FMS and FGS. 2 Project Steering Committee meetings and 2 technical level discussions with partners were also held where work plans clarified PCVE work into the mainstream programmatic work of the FGS and FMS ministries and presidencies | CAS Strand 4 evolved from a coordination platform to a forum of content-based exchange. The meeting regularly engaged PCVE actors from Federal Government line ministries, Federal Member states focal points, and civil society representatives. It shifted from actors sharing updates towards thematic areas and joint reporting by various stakeholders on collaborative efforts to mainstream PCVE into their respective work.   |
| UNDP ONLY: sources of evidence (as per current QPR) |
| **Output 1.2**: Mentoring and technical assistance: Institutional and individual capacity building for PCVE coordinators and focal points at OPM and FMS levels   |
| Needs-based monthly workshops for OPM, FMS Focal Points, and P/CVE Line ministry counterparts on thematic areas   | At least 8 technical capacity building workshops held on PCVE-relevant topics, based on detailed needs assessments and linked to ongoing/planned PCVE activities of the government   | Continued regular technical mentoring and twice a week calls with government counterparts to enable them to move forward on implementation.  Delivered capacity building training on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism to 54 civil servants (F:3, M: 51)/all-female civil servants currently employed at Ministry attended) in the MoERA.    | Regular needs assessments conducted by PCVE Technical Specialist. Based on these findings, 20 capacity building trainings provided to FMS (F:1, M: 5) and OPM PCVE staff (F:1, M:4).   |
| UNDP ONLY: sources of evidence (as per current QPR) |
| **Output 1.3**: CAS Strand 4 Meetings: Support provided for the Comprehensive Approach to Security (CAS) Strand 4   |
| Regular CAS Strand 4 meetings held, with representation of FMS and key line ministries   | Bi-monthly Technical Preparatory Meetings before Strand 4   | 2 CAS Strand 4 meetings continued virtually with representation by OPM (April and October) and the FMS PCVE focal points. To prepare for the CAS Strand 4 meetings, technical meetings were held to develop agreed agenda and key project updates.   | Regular CAS Strand 4 meetings held. Support was provided to five Strand 4 meetings and five technical preparatory meetings among which one was held virtually.  |
| UNDP ONLY: sources of evidence (as per current QPR) |
| **SUB-OUTCOME 2 STATEMENT** Stakeholder consultations and research undertaken to inform development of phase 2 PCVE support   |
| **Output 2.1**: Stakeholder consultations: Consultations on PCVE with strategic groups   |
| P/CVE Platform meetings with wider civil society and community representatives in hot spot areas in 5 FMS   | PCVE grievances identified and addressed through at least 10 PCVE Platforms and inter-ministerial / FMS-FGS coordination structures  | 9 PCVE platform meetings held in Jubaland, Dhusamareb, Wadajir District, Dhakenley District BRA, Kahda District, Gakkayo, Heliwa district, Kaaran, Deynile district. 35 PCVE grievances identified with follow up sessions on agreed solutions to respond.  | PCVE Committee & Platform ToRs developed and adopted; community engagement guidelines developed; In 2019, 13 PCVE Platform meetings were held in 11 hot spot locations: Jowhar, Balc'ad, Baidoa, Hudur, Dhusamareb, Cadaado, Guriel, Ceel Daahir, Tasjiic, Mogadisu, Daynile District. Identified community grievances as root causes for violent extremism and took steps to address them. In light of the pandemic and travel restrictions, steps were taken by the research teams to develop a virtual version of the questionnaire and explore options of conducting interviews and consultative meetings virtually / by phone. After restrictions were lifted in 2020, PCVE platform meetings held in Jubaland, Dhusamareb, Wadajir District, Dhakenley District BRA, Kahda District, Gakkayo, Heliwa district, Kaaran as well as a follow up platform meeting in Deynile district. |
| P/CVE Platforms extended to newly recovered areas  | PCVE Platforms successfully extended to 2 locations in newly recovered areas (NRA)   | When the COVID-19 pandemic reached Somalia in early 2020, the OPM together with the UNSOM/UNDP PCVE team decided that it was not safe to convene PCVE platform. Instead, the OPM PCVE unit in coordination with the PCVE focal points at the FMS presidencies started in-depth conversations with the FMS authorities to understand more about the needs of the communities in the potential project locations. New areas for potential activities have been identified through consultations at the local level and have been integrated into the 2021 annual work plan.  | The OPM PCVE unit and the PCVE focal points in HirShabelle and South-West state have liaised with community leaders in newly recovered areas to identify community priorities and PCVE interventions. Coordination efforts between MoD, MoERA and the Somali National Army are ongoing to explore options of collaboration.   |
| FMS community consultations on Amnesty Policy, incl. transitional justice mechanisms, forgiveness community-based reintegration  | Community feedback received on forgiveness, transitional justice and amnesty in all FMS; Amnesty policy reviewed; Regulatory Impact Analysis on the draft Amnesty Policy prepared.  | To mark the third anniversary of the 14 October attack in Mogadishu, community discussions were held with victims, their families, religious leaders and other members of the community. The day’s activities also began the process towards social healing and dialogue, which are necessary for  societal forgiveness and reconciliation.   | Draft Road Map has been developed by OPM for further consultations, and meetings have been held between OPM and MoIS to decide on next steps and areas of potential collaboration.  |
| Consultations with traditional elders   | At least 400 Traditional Elders consulted on their role in reconciling with al-Shabaab; community feedback on public demand for peace talks; insight into local peace arrangements; government policy document drafted to reflect findings and complement National Reconciliation Framework  | Work during this period focused on consolidating the results and findings of the 2019 consultations in the FMS, combined with the phone interview outcomes. Preparations for a report were undertaken by the OPM PCVE unit including recommendations on the way forward to inform the overall ongoing revision of the National PCVE Strategy.   | Conducted four phone conversations with traditional elders in two FMS.  In addition, four consultations with traditional elders in four FMS were conducted. The findings were analyzed, and the draft report is in preparation.   |
| Consultations with Religious Leaders   | Networks of Religious Leaders for PCVE established; at least 500 scholars engaged  | The project established networks of 240 like-minded religious leaders promoting Islam as a religion of tolerance and peace. An awareness-raising campaign on COVID-19 successfully engaged religious leaders to respond to harmful misinformation. Messaging and video footage including COVID 19 response and religious guidance developed and disseminated.  The project has also sought feedback and discussions with these leaders. A feedback workshop organized over five days by the OPM and MoERA, with 79 participants (F; 7, M: 72) captured feedback and lessons learnt from the sheiks and imams who participated in the Clerics vs COVID campaign. Mediation Committees have also been established in Jowhar, Warsheikh, Balcad, Dhusamareb and Kismayo. | International Religious leaders conference organized in Mogadishu with 404 participants.   150 Religious Leaders engaged in the establishment of local networks of like-minded religious actors to promote Islam as a religion of tolerance and peace in HirShabelle state.  Manual promoting Islam as a religion of tolerance and peace developed and consultations held. Clerics vs. COVID established networks of 240 like-minded religious leaders.  |
| Consultations with victims of terror attacks, linked to digital storytelling   | Consultations held with Victims of Terror Attacks; road map developed for Government-led support to victims of terror attacks; victims' voices included into PCVE communications  | To mark the third anniversary of the 14 October attack in Mogadishu, victims of attacks, as well as their family members, were brought together to listen to the needs of this group. Their involvement in the commemoration activities allowed them to express how their specific circumstances must be noted in the larger societal social healing process. In addition, a communications campaign using the hashtag #NamesNotNumbers also commenced with the objective to begin a longer digital campaign to raise awareness to the victims of violent extremism in Somalia.  | In the Benadir Regional Administration, a research pilot intervention analyzed the degree to which different counter-narratives impact public opinion and receive positive responses. The government identified different messengers and developed varying messages to prevent and counter violent extremism, including stories of defectors/survivors, and victims of terror attacks, messages of women, religious leaders and youth representatives, as well as a clip produced by a group of comedians. Many of these messages developed out of the broad consultative process with key stakeholders undertaken in the course of the project, including the women's consultations and the religious leaders’ conference. The comparative findings of the impact of using different messengers have been analyzed and a draft report is being developed with a larger discussion around social healing, forgiveness and transitional justice.   |
| Consultation with women on trauma-informed community empowerment   | Role of Women piloted in trauma-informed community empowerment in 1 location  | The project has held discussions with experts and government counterparts on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), as well as trauma and women’s role in addressing this. Through the partnership with religious leaders and PCVE Platforms, the project is having discussions with women community leaders, as well as the wider community, on trauma and conflict transformation. The project has also engaged women madrassa teachers, ensuring that they are included in dialogue and mediation committees. This has resulted in three female madrassa leaders included in discussions on the religious manual.  | Based on the recommendations from the women’s consultative process and the Women’s Peace Forum, as well as building on recent research findings regarding the role of women in and under al-Shabaab, the OPM PCVE Unit has developed an initial concept note on this activity which has been shared with the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development for feedback and collaboratively taking it forward.   |
| UNDP ONLY: sources of evidence (as per current QPR) |
| **Output 2.2**: Small Action Research: Research on PCVE in 2 districts   |
| Small Action Research on measuring PCVE programming impact completed and fed back into the PCVE-targeted work of respective government line- ministries through at least 5 Coordination meetings  | Small Action Research on measuring PCVE programming impact completed and fed back into the PCVE-targeted work of respective government line- ministries through at least 5 Coordination meetings  | Data collection has been concluded and a draft report with the first set of data has been developed. A finalized report analyzing the interventions will be submitted at the beginning of 2021.    | Data collection for research locations identification completed. The project supported the OPM PCVE Coordination Unit in collaboration with the PCVE Focal Point for the Benadir Regional Administration in developing and commencing the implementation of a set of small action research pilot interventions. The PCVE experts received guidance on how to select project locations and target groups, and how to design PCVE projects with a community-based research approach to test the effectiveness of those interventions. Six Small Scale Action Research Projects in all FMS and the Benadir Region were developed.  |
| 1 Government – Civil Society Symposium held on PCVE sensitive work of security forces  | 1 Government – Civil Society Symposium held on PCVE sensitive work of security forces  | Due to COVID-19 restrictions and political developments, symposium planning has focused on collecting data from lower levels of the security sector. Work on planning this symposium, given the security considerations around the election, continues.   | Work continued into inquiries and fact-finding missions to support the development of the concept note, as well as research efforts to identify existing training and organizational structures and processes (i.e. SNA, police).   |
| **Output 2.3:**UNDP Technical Assistance: Overall project implementation; capacity needs assessments; technical mentoring; development of cross-sectoral programme on PCVE; monitoring; reporting   |
| Overall project implementation; capacity needs assessments; technical mentoring; development of cross-sectoral program on PCVE; monitoring; reporting | UNDP Technical Assistance: - UNDP PCVE Technical Specialist: Salary; Hazard Duty Station Allowance - National Project Officer - 50% of 1 UNDP Admin Staff - 10% of UNDP P5 Portfolio Manager - Travel for Project Staff to Project Sites, and for training  UNDP Technical Assistance needs met: - UNDP PCVE Technical Specialist: Salary; Hazard Duty Station Allowance - National Project Officer - 50% of 1 UNDP Admin Staff - 10% of UNDP P5 Portfolio Manager - Travel for Project Staff to Project Sites, and for training | UNDP Technical Assistance needs met: - UNDP PCVE Technical Specialist: Salary; Hazard Duty Station Allowance - National Project Officer - 50% of 1 UNDP Admin Staff - 10% of UNDP P5 Portfolio Manager - Travel for Project Staff to Project Sites, and for training | UNDP Technical Assistance needs met: - UNDP PCVE Technical Specialist: Salary; Hazard Duty Station Allowance - National Project Officer - 50% of 1 UNDP Admin Staff - 10% of UNDP P5 Portfolio Manager - Travel for Project Staff to Project Sites, and for training |
| UNDP ONLY: sources of evidence (as per current QPR) |

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| **NARRATIVE****Output 1: PCVE coordination by national authorities is functional at Federal and Federal Member State levels, and consultation mechanisms established.** **Increased coordination & capacity, exemplified in governmental response to COVID-19** Under output 1, the project aims to staff and capacitate both the OPM, as well as the governments of the FMS through selected PCVE focal points, to coordinate on PCVE. Building on previous and continuing support to the staffing budget of PCVE at national and FMS level for the key positions identified, the capacity for qualified personnel to work on PCVE was maintained and turnover of personnel reduced. The increased capacity for qualified and experienced government experts on PCVE work in Somalia also resulted in further collaboration between FSG and FMS strengthened through regular meetings. Additional meetings of the FMS PCVE focal points have also led to PCVE mainstreaming into the work of the federal and FMS line-ministries. In addition, the project has increased the PCVE capacity of key line ministries during the reporting period. This capacity support enabled all PCVE focal points and OPM PCVE coordination officers to participate in larger coordination meetings and discussions, such as the CAS Strand 4, PCVE Committee meetings with line ministries, both at FGS and FMS level, as well as Project Steering Committee and technical level meetings with international partners.  The project team delivered a capacity building training session to the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs (MoERA) that was attended by 54 civil servants (F;3, M: 51) /all female civil servants currently employed at Ministry attended). This has allowed for PCVE to be institutionalized into the work of the Ministry as the training concluded with a strategic plan on PCVE.   The project supports the Comprehensive Approach to Security (CAS) Strand 4, which has regularly engaged PCVE actors from Federal Government line ministries, Federal Member states focal points, and civil society representatives. The CAS forum has evolved from a coordination platform to a forum of content-based exchange and collaboration between line ministries. It shifted from actors sharing updates towards thematic areas and joint reporting by various stakeholders on collaborative efforts to mainstream PCVE into their respective work. This shift towards greater coordination can be partly attributed to the increased capacity for qualified and experienced government experts, largely due to maintaining the salaries of these focal points. In addition, all key governmental PCVE stakeholders attended Programme Steering Committee meetings, enabling the agreement of COVID-19 activity-based adjustments and the 2021 Annual Work Plan.  The Office of the Prime Minister’s PCVE Coordination Unit (OPM-PCVE-CU) has been supported as the custodian of the National PCVE Strategy and Action Plan, the national knowledge hub on PCVE, and the coordination entity on PCVE amongst federal ministries as well as between FGS and FMS. As a result, the OPM-PCVE-CU took ownership of the response to COVID misinformation with the establishment of the COVID-19 Governmental Task Force, which worked to counter violent extremist propaganda and misinformation through an awareness-raising campaign on COVID-19. The campaign also facilitated collaboration between MoERA and the Somali ulema by identifying and establishing a network of moderate focal point mosques willing to collaborate with the government in leading the dissemination of information on the pandemic to the communities. Progress was made in encouraging inter-ministerial collaboration towards managing religious institutions across Somalia. Through technical assistance and capacity building, the Federal MoERA was supported to develop its vision, mission statement and mandate (including the key objectives of promoting Islam as a religion of tolerance and peace) and publish it on the ministry’s newly developed website (mera.gov.so). In addition, the programme supported the establishment of social media accounts. The Twitter account has responded to violent extremism attacks, allowing the ministry to provide accurate religious guidance and counter extremist narratives. It also has laid the foundation for future interventions as well as enabled the formation of strategic partnerships with other Federal ministries including the MoIS and MoJ. The OPM is in the process of developing similar strategic collaborations on selected thematic areas with other key line ministries.In addition, the increased capacity of qualified and experienced government experts for PCVE work in Somalia was supplemented by regular workshops. These mentoring and technical capacity building sessions have become more ad hoc meetings on almost a weekly basis responding to upcoming needs and challenges, and based on needs-based assessments to ensure a focus on priority needs areas and linked to ongoing and planned PCVE activities of the government. The sessions further resulted in an increased capacity of the PCVE-FMS-FP to coordinate PCVE, including responding to various requests from state counterparts both at FGS and FMS level to provide information and training on PCVE.  **Output 2: Stakeholder consultations and research undertaken to inform the development of phase 2 PCVE support**  **Stakeholder Consultations**  The project continues to focus on stakeholder consultations with strategic groups and conduct research into the local communities’ perceptions.   **PCVE Platforms:** While COVID-19 restrictions were in place, the project supported PCVE Focal Points in the FMS to continue their focus on direct discussions with community representatives on developing solutions to address grievances. When in-person meetings were able to resume, PCVE platform meetings were held in Jubaland, Dhusamareb, Wadajir District, Dhakenley District BRA, Kahda District, Gakkayo, Heliwa District and Deynile District. 35 PCVE grievances were identified, with agreed solutions also decided by the consultations’ participants. In addition to follow up consultations and further escalation of grievances identified to key stakeholders, this feedback is being incorporated into a road map on forgiveness, transitional justice in amnesty in all FMS.   The project has also taken situational updates and analysis into account when implementing project activities. For example, when the COVID-19 pandemic reached Somalia in early 2020, the OPM together with the UNSOM/UNDP PCVE team decided that it was not safe to convene PCVE Platform meetings in newly recovered areas in order not to fuel into narratives of al-Shabaab that government representatives are spreading a virus to infect non-believers. Instead, the OPM PCVE unit, in coordination with the PCVE focal points at the FMS presidencies, started in-depth conversations with the FMS authorities to understand more about the needs of the communities in the potential project locations. New areas for potential activities have been identified through consultations at the local level and have been integrated into the 2021 annual work plan. **Elders:** The programme has continued to engage with traditional elders. Work during this period focused on consolidating the results and findings of the 2019 consultations in the FMS, combined with the phone interview outcomes. Preparations for a report were undertaken by the OPM PCVE unit including recommendations on the way forward to inform the overall ongoing revision of the National PCVE Strategy.   **Religious Leaders:** Building on previous work strengthening and amplifying the coordination work of MoERA, the project has encouraged inter-ministerial collaboration towards managing religious institutions across Somalia.  The project established networks of like-minded religious leaders promoting Islam as a religion of tolerance and peace. An awareness-raising campaign on COVID-19 successfully engaged religious leaders to respond to harmful misinformation, sharing health-related information on prevention and response measures combined with religious guidance. The project has focused on disseminating messages promoting Islam as a religion of tolerance and peace by engaging sheiks into recording tapes and spreading the message through mosques' loudspeaker systems. They are encouraged to incorporate messages of peace, solidarity, human sympathy and support in a time of global crisis, and to specifically counter misinformation by al-Shabaab that the virus is being spread by government officials and non-believers.  The project has also sought feedback and discussions with these leaders. To build on the successful ‘Clerics vs COVID’ awareness-raising campaign and networks of likeminded religious leaders, a workshop on Promoting Islam as a Religion of Tolerance and Peace – Countering Wrongful Messages was held. The 79 participants (F; 7, M: 72 )analyzed the manual of religious counter-narratives and distilled its key messages into points that directly counter al-Shabaab’s misuse of religion. Through the consultations, the religious leaders have added two chapters to the manual and developed 10 key PCVE messages.  Dialogue and Mediation Committees have been established in Jowhar, Warsheikh, Balcad, Dhusamareb and Kismayo that engage religious actors into conversations on countering hate speech and violent extremism.**Victims and trauma-affected individuals:** As consultative meetings with victims of terror attacks were unable to take place in safe environments with trauma-trained facilitators due to COVID-19 restrictions, the focus was on developing a concept for engaging victims and linking this engagement with a larger discussion around social healing, forgiveness and transitional justice. When social distancing measures were relaxed, the project team sought to begin further dialogue with victims and trauma-affected individuals to ensure that their views are reflected in PCVE work. Victims of attacks, as well as their family members, were brought together to listen to the needs of this group. Their involvement in the commemoration activities for the 14 October 2017 attack allowed them to express how their specific circumstances must be noted in the larger societal social healing process. To recognize each victim of the 2017 attack, 734 gambar chairs were embroided with the victims’ names. These chairs, along with 734 prayer rugs, were used at a prayer meeting led by the Deputy Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs to reflect on those lost. Additional prayer meetings were also held around the city within communities to mark the victims of the attack. In addition, a communications campaign using the hashtag #NamesNotNumbers also commenced with the objective to begin a longer digital campaign to raise awareness to the victims of violent extremism in Somalia. Relatedly, the project has actively sought to include women in PCVE, particularly madrassa teachers, including as part of the awareness-raising campaign on COVID-19.  **Research on PCVE:**  Data collection for Small Action Research on measuring PCVE programming’s impact has been concluded and a draft report with the first set of data has been developed. A finalized report analyzing the interventions will be submitted at the beginning of 2021. These results have been fed back into the PCVE-targeted work of the respective government line-ministries. The initial baseline data was analyzed and interventions preparations for the interventions continued. The BRA research component and the video launch, along with impact analysis, were captured into a zero draft report, and conclusions drawn. A planned Government-Civil Society Symposium on PCVE sensitive work of the security forces has been postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions and political developments, and planning has instead focused on collecting data from lower levels of the security sector. Work on planning this symposium, given the security considerations around the election, continues. **Technical Assistance:**  Through technical assistance to UNDP, overall project implementation, capacity needs assessments, technical mentoring, development of a cross-sectoral program on PCVE, monitoring and reporting continued. The project was also able to pay for travel for the project staff to project sites, as well as training, which ensured that stakeholder consultations, capacity-building and research continued.   |
| **Other Key Achievements**:N/A |
| **COVID-19 response**The work with networks of religious leaders was refocused to respond effectively to the COVID-19 crisis. Additional funds were mobilized to support the networks in promoting awareness around COVID-19 and combating misinformation. Well-known and trusted religious leaders have been engaged and trained to disseminate accurate information around COVID-19, bolstering the government's information campaign efforts whilst debunking superstitious and harmful narratives. Health and medical information have been combined with religious guidance on what defines the daily routine of most Somalis, especially attending mosque prayers and other religious gatherings and sending children to madrassa schools. In addition, religious leaders have been encouraged to incorporate messages of peace, solidarity, human sympathy and support in a time of global crisis, and to specifically counter misinformation by al-Shabaab that the virus is being spread by government officials and non-believers. This approach has not only helped mitigate the spread of the pandemic itself but additionally allowed for the refocusing of the initially allocated funding to address the emerging challenge of COVID-19 whilst still meeting the key project objectives.During the reporting period, the awareness raising campaign was successfully conducted in the Federal Member States of HirShabelle (Jowhar, Balcad, Beletweyne and Warsheikh), Jubaland (Kismayo, Bardhere, Bulahawo and Garbaharey) and Galmudug (Dhusamareb, Aaabuwaaq, Guriceel and Adaado), engaging a total of 172 imams, sheikhs, madrassa teachers, and local government representatives. Through these leaders, 150,000 flyers and 27,000 masks were disseminated. In addition, 32 loudspeakers were disseminated to key focal point mosques to play awareness-raising tapes. In the Benadir Regional Administration a network was created of 17 focal point mosques in all 17 districts of Mogadishu, represented by 17 sheiks, 17 imams, and 34 associated madrassa teachers. Through these focal points, 50,000 flyers and 17,000 face masks disseminated over a period of nine weeks, as well as 17 focal point mosques equipped with audio tapes and loudspeaker systems. |
| **Challenges (incl: Delays or Deviations) and Lessons Learnt:** <*if any, briefly describe the delays or changes in focus, approach or targets, and provide a short justification for the change (1-2 paragraphs*)>COVID-19 has been the main challenge to project implementation in 2020. The impact and effects of the pandemic have required both adjustments to consultative approaches and committee formations involving gatherings of people, as well as tailoring the intervention itself towards addressing emerging hate speech and discrimination used by violent extremist groups with reference to COVID-19.   Despite adjustments made due to COVID-19, the project is meeting its expected outputs and has been able to strategically respond to new external challenges and ensure that implementation continued. When the COVID-19 pandemic reached Somalia in early 2020, the OPM together with the UNSOM/UNDP PCVE team decided that it was not safe to convene PCVE platform meetings - especially in newly recovered areas - in order not to fuel into al-Shabaab's narrative that government representatives are spreading a virus said to affect non-believers. Instead, the OPM PCVE unit in coordination with the PCVE focal points at the FMS presidencies started in-depth conversations with the FMS authorities to understand more about the needs of the communities in the potential project locations. New areas for potential activities have been identified through consultations at the local level and have been integrated into the 2021 annual work plan.  |
| **Peacebuilding impact** N/A – Programme does not receive PBF funding |
| **Catalytic effects**N/A – Programme does not receive PBF funding |
| **Gender** The project prioritizes the inclusion of women in PCVE strategy and implementation through output 2: stakeholder consultations. The project seeks the input of women through the PCVE Platforms, which bring together local community representatives to discuss grievances and possible solutions. Feedback from these workshops has highlighted gender-specific grievances, such as the issue of rape for women and girls in internally displaced camps (IDPs). This is relevant to PCVE work as some women and girls, as well as their family members, reported grievances such as injustice and marginalization, due to lack of prosecution of these sexual violence crimes.   Recognizing that the religious space in Somalia is a heavily male-dominated domain and that religious leaders (sheiks, imams) are exclusively male, the project intervention undertook efforts to ensure the inclusion of women and female perspectives, experiences and knowledge into the work with the religious community. During the consultative process on the manual of religious counter-narratives in Jowhar district, three women were identified in the district of Jowhar who themselves lead madrassas (Quranic learning schools) were invited to the consultations and their inputs informed the writing of the manual. Whilst initially the male religious leaders in Jowhar formed a committee that did not include women, the project staff on the ground – with the support of the HirShabelle Minister of Religious Affairs himself – managed to convince the religious leaders to include the female madrassa teachers into the committee structure.  It was acknowledged by the religious leaders that creating pathways to counter the exclusion of women and actively engage them in faith leadership would help to instill knowledge and belief of respect and non-discrimination, equality and human rights and as such directly contribute to the Religious Leaders Committee's mandate and objective to address and counter attitudes underpinning the use of violence. Engaging women in the network of religious leaders was further supported in order to increase and strengthen the profile of women who are already working to counter violent extremism, and to help support female commitment to this cause. In addition, religious leaders also worked side by side with female healthcare professionals and female staff of the Benadir Regional Administration’s Health Department as they engaged with communities during the COVID-19 awareness-raising campaign targeting the 17 districts of Mogadishu.  |
| Proportion of gender specific outputs in Joint Programme[[3]](#footnote-3) | **Total no. of Joint Programme Outputs** | **Total no. of gender specific Outputs** |
| 2 | 1 |
| Proportion of Joint Programme staff with responsibility for gender issues[[4]](#footnote-4) | Total no. of Staff | Total no. of staff with responsibility for gender issues  |
| 3 | 3 |
| **Human Rights**The project applies a human rights-based approach throughout all activities by ensuring they include those members of society who are most marginalized, giving voice to the most excluded, using the UN's convening power to bring them together to ensure they are heard and that their rights are respected and promoted by government institutions and service providers.  The project systematically identifies and engages different groups as important stakeholders and to ensure that the most vulnerable are included. Throughout the project, the inclusion of a variety of actors and viewpoints has been essential to the project's goal to develop a grassroots infrastructure for peace. The PCVE platform coordinates a collaborative approach between the Somali Federal and State authorities, with focal points set up in relevant line ministries. As part of the implementation of the National Plan and Strategy for PCVE, consultations have been held and continue to be organized with identified core constituencies. These include youth groups, organizations focused on empowering women, religious leaders, the diaspora, the private sector, and other partners at the national, regional, and international level. Consultations with the key constituencies have taken place across the Federal Member States, as well as through events organized through the Federal Government of Somalia. This engagement between communities and the government has allowed for greater inclusivity and new activities to promote peace and dialogue, as well as an opportunity for feedback from these stakeholders to determine their perceptions of whether the project is including their viewpoints in implementation.  The application of a human rights-based approach to the programming intervention was of particular importance during 2020 in the context of the pandemic and the resulting harmful misinformation. The awareness-raising campaign on COVID-19 was implemented by religious leaders who are not only the trusted messengers for Somali communities but also able to identify and reach to those community members most in need of support. Traditionally, the imams at the mosques know their community well and have the role of distributing aid and guidance to the most marginalized. When disseminating masks and advising people by combining health-related information on the pandemic with religious guidance, the intervention ensured that the religious leaders were indeed identifying and targeting the most marginalized and vulnerable members of their respective communities. For example, the Clerics vs. COVID campaign identified marginalized groups with religious leaders visiting markets, mosques, schools, businesses, overcrowded public spaces and IDP camps to reach the most vulnerable. In addition, by including madrassa teachers into the awareness-raising campaign, the project intervention supported the teachers after madrassas had been closed and the teachers had lost their basic income during the time of the pandemic. They were, therefore, themselves recognized as vulnerable members of the communities and, through their engagement into the campaign, received financial support and life-saving information during the pandemic. |
| Has the Joint Programme included a protection risk assessment in its context analysis, including on gender issues, and taken measures to mitigate these risks to ensure they are not exacerbated or new risks created? | **Result (Yes/No)** |
| Yes |
| No. of Joint Programme outputs specifically designed to address specific protection concerns. | Result (Number) |
| N/A |
| No. of Joint Programme outputs designed to build capacity of duty bearers to fulfil their human rights obligations towards rights holders. | Result (Number) |
| Outputs 1 and 2 |
| **Other** |
| Does the Joint Programmes have a national cost-sharing component (i.e. funds and/or other resources provided by the FGS and/or FMS (including in-kind contributions)? (if ‘Yes’, describe below). | Results (Yes/No) |
| No |
| Have FMS(s) been engaged in one or more of the following: design, planning, implementation, coordination and/or monitoring of the Joint Programme. | Results (Yes/No) |
| Yes |
| **Describe nature of cost sharing:**A government cost-sharing contribution was agreed upon for the project in 2020, where the Prime Minister’s office contributed inter alia to office running costs, transportation and meeting facilitation.  |
| **Communications & Visibility** PCVE programming is a highly sensitive endeavor and any communication and visibility of activities in Somalia need to undergo a dedicated analysis of the related risks, not only for UN staff members and partners implementing the activities but most importantly for people participating and attending events. Nevertheless, program activities have been actively shared through the communications department of the OPM-PCVE-CU, as well as through the UNDP and UNSOM communications channels.   Through technical assistance and capacity building, the Federal Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs was supported to develop its vision, mission statement and mandate (including the key objectives of promoting Islam as a religion of tolerance and peace) and publish it on the ministry’s newly developed website (mera.gov.so), laying the foundation for future interventions as well as enabling the formation of strategic partnerships with other ministries (MoIS, MoJ, MoD).  In response to misinformation on COVID-19, the project organized talk shows of religious leaders on TV and radio, addressing stigma and debunking rumors. In addition, assistance was provided to improve the social media presence of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.   To mark the third anniversary of the 14 October attack, government accounts, such as the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, spread awareness around the activities of the anniversary through [digital messages](https://twitter.com/MoERA_Somalia/status/1316385938327638016) and a [livestream of the prayer event](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDWwJa2K8Ks&feature=youtu.be) on YouTube. The day’s activities were also covered by the media, such as this [news article](http://sonna.so/ar/%D8%B1%D8%A6%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A1-%D9%8A%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%83-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%A3%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86-%D9%84%D8%B6%D8%AD/) by SONNA. In addition, a communications campaign using the hashtag #NamesNotNumbers also commenced with the objective to begin a longer digital campaign to raise awareness to the victims of violent extremism in Somalia.  |
| **Looking ahead** The project is launching a Project Initiation Plan that is capturing the programmatic shift to “Tolerance and Dialogue”, focusing efforts to contextualize the notion of PCVE and tailor our programming closer to the needs of the Somali context. This PIP with the title “Supporting Tolerance and Dialogue for Conflict Transformation, Addressing Violent Extremism and Building Peace in Somalia” is building on the pilot component. In addition, the project has engaged a consultant on peacebuilding and mediation to develop the new phase of Tolerance and Dialogue programming. Lastly, the PIP has a third output focusing exclusively on improving the Monitoring and Evaluation capacity in order to better capture the impact of community-based programming on peacebuilding, conflict transformation and reducing violent extremism. This is also in response to feedback and suggestions received from the Regional Center on improving data collection and analysis on PCVE programming.  The project will continue coordination, capacity-building work, stakeholder consultations and research. Using insights gathered from previous research and consultations, which have been analyzed in this reporting period, further work engaging with key stakeholders will continue to strengthen the creation of an environment conducive to dialogue and tolerance, supporting conducive conditions to peace dialogue. The project also continues to monitor domestic and regional developments. In particular, the upcoming election and its impact on programming is being closely observed and analyzed.  |

# ANNEX 1. RISK MANAGEMENT

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Type of Risk5   | Description of Risk   | Mitigating Measures   |
| Political: Risk of Increased internal political divisions  | An increase in internal political divisions will have a detrimental effect on all activities and interventions under the project. Internal political divisions are likely to further deepen the communication gap between the FMS and FGS  | The project will work to create preconditions for building strong relationships at the technical levels with all local, FMS and FGS partners, with a focus to support a harmonized approach to the development of the security architecture in the country.  |
| Strategic: Lack of Inclusiveness of all groups in the dialogue platforms  | Inclusiveness of all groups, especially women would be important for this project. Lack of inclusiveness is likely leading to actions taken and policy framework developed being based on a “false” baseline undermining a whole of society approach.  | Ensure coordination with MoWHRD and MoIFA to ensure all groups especially women’s participation is ensured. Relevant groups are identified in the project and women’s groups are included in the discussions on PCVE at the FMS. SNWO, specifically aiming at capturing women’s perspective on PCVE, to inform the national policy framework and action plans.    |
| Delivery: Limited engagement with FMS   | Limited engagement with FMS may undermine the overall objective of the project  | Ensure that the project activities are well coordinated with other program interventions especially on rule of law. Coordination meetings to be well recorded.  |
| Operational: Evidence-based research may not be completed during the timeframe of the project, due to lack of skilled interviewers and willingness of respondents to answer sensitive questions  | Lack of evidence-based research to inform policy development and action plans will likely lead to actions taken and policy framework developed not leading to the intended aim of reducing drivers and push-factors for radicalization and recruitment to violent extremist organizations.  | - Ensure coordination with all PCVE focal points from all member states through the PCVE Unit at OPM. -Develop clear TORs on the skills required for interviewers and provide briefing/training to them before starting the research -Ensure confidentiality of sensitive information with clear indication on the purpose and how the information is managed.  |
| Political: Varying level of commitment of the Federal Government and FMS to coordinate with stakeholders and engage in PCVE activities   | Variance in commitment to PCVE objectives can be caused due to political dynamics, the capacity of the PCVE experts, resulting in unequal levels of implementation among states  | -Ensure national ownership and leadership in undertaking PCVE related activities -Set up and monitor coordinating mechanisms with all the related groups (youth, elders, communities and state authorities)   -Constant ongoing engagement and encouragement to address challenges encountered at different states; -Support capacity development and results-based approach.  |
| Operational: Lack of donor commitment to support the implementation of a full-fledged project on PCVE   | There may be a possibility that the project may not be fully funded, leading to partial implementation of the program objectives.  | -Resource mobilization strategy to be developed; -Regular engagement with bilateral and multilateral stakeholders; -Ensure successful delivery of the results under Project, visibility and reporting on results -Regular engagement with government stakeholders, pillar working group and other development partners.  |
| Delivery: Restrictions in operations due to COVID-19   | Due to health restrictions as a result of COVID-19, large community gatherings in the context of PCVE Platform meetings in FMS have been postponed– including in newly recovered areas; Small action research interventions in FMS that include consultations and community gatherings; and PCVE symposium.    | Activities have continued through virtual channels. For all paused activities, priorities and actions have been rescheduled to ensure business continuity, with adjustments towards virtual exchanges and a focus on preparations.   |

#  ANNEX 2. MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES <list here the monitoring and oversight activities undertaken during reporting period. Precise and specific, the table should not exceed one page>

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Monitoring Activity**  | **Date**  | **Description & Comments**  | **Key Findings / Recommendations**  |
| Small Action Research   | June 2020  | Data collection on the two remaining research locations, Galkayo and Adado, completed.  | Data collection to be integrated into analysis for recommendations.   |
| Technical Task Force Meetings  | Regularly | Technical level discussion held regularly with government counterparts and donor partners / PSC members, and formal PSC planned for August.   | To review project and key decision making   |
| Project Steering Committee Meetings | Regularly, September and December 2020  | Project Steering Committee meetings were also held reviewing PCVE activities and Ministerial programmatic work.  | Responded to challenges posed by COVID-19 to agree on a new annual work plan. The project acceleration plan (Sept-Dec 2020), as well as project extension, was agreed. PCVE work was integrated into the mainstream programmatic work of the FGS and FMS ministries and presidencies.  |
| Independent Evaluation   |   | An independent evaluation through a Third-Party Monitoring report has taken place reviewing the COVID-19 awareness campaign.   | Project review, oversight and planning   |

**ANNEX 3. TRAINING DATA**

| **#** | **Target Group** | **Dates** | **# of participants** | **Title of the training** | **Location of training** | **Training provider** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ministry. District or UN staff** | **Others** |
| **M** | **F** | **Total** |
|  | Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs |  | 8-14 December 2020 | 51 | 3 | 54 | Capacity building training on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) | Mogadishu, Somalia  | UNDP, OPM PCVE Unit  |

1. **Uncertified expenditures**. Certified annual expenditures can be found in the Annual Financial Report of MPTF Office (<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/4SO00> ) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Fill in only the numbers or yes/no; no explanations to be given here. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Gender Specific Outputs are those that are specifically designed to directly and explicitly contribute to the promotion of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Staff members are those contracted to undertaken work for the Joint Programme including full time staff, consultants, advisors, interns, etc. Staff members with responsibility for gender issues are those who have gender related activities included in their Terms of Reference. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)