

GUIDANCE ON CVE FOCUSED PROGRAMMING FOR PRINCIPAL RECIPIENTS AND THEIR SUB GRANTEES OF THE GCERF NATIONAL APPLICATION PROCESS IN NIGERIA

Going through the applications submitted by the potential principal recipients the CSM is very worried and concerned about the inability of the applications to specifically address the focus of countering violent extremism. There are no apparent linkages, and no indication in the statements of purpose and narratives of how the activities listed in the communities chosen, along with the intended programs will contribute directly or indirectly to countering violent extremism.

To improve the quality of the applications and set a firm foundation for the quality of the projects and programs that will eventually emanate from the sub grantees, the CSM is proposing the following as guidance:

- First it is important to have a common understanding of violent extremism, and therefore subsequently common and similar approaches to countering the phenomenon. In this context our understanding of violent extremism is a phenomenon that has become ideological, that is fiercely discriminatory and exclusivist; that seeks to override and supplant others, and that is based on the use to force and extreme violence – both physical and structural – to propagate the phenomenon. The current Boko Haram insurgency provides a clear example, but there are other situations with similar features, with the potential to become violent.
- The programs and projects that will be supported by this grant need to be oriented specifically on Countering Violent Extremism [CVE]; they need to be approaches that are undertaken to ensure the realization of this overarching goal.
- Such programs and projects will need to factor in one or more of three basic approaches under Nigeria’s CVE Programme: Counter-radicalization that aims to prevent radicalization of persons towards becoming violent extremists through community-based approaches; De-radicalization, that is aimed at rehabilitating and reorienting persons who have been hitherto radicalized towards violent extremism and have been practicing violent extremists; and Strategic Communication that aims to both counter the narratives of violent extremists, as well as develop and propagate positive narratives.
- Such projects need to be able to also demonstrate potential for scalability and amplified impact, while also demonstrating ability to build linkages across the country, in particular linkages with the interventions in the epicenters of the current insurgency.
- The proposed projects should also demonstrate the capacity to not only facilitate building resilience at community level, but also building synergy between communities and relevant state and non-state actors.
- In putting projects together and implementing the programs, recipients and sub-grantees should be guided by their ability to frame responses to questions such as the following:

- In what ways will the proposed project and activities contribute to countering violent extremism, preventing radicalisation, reorienting and rehabilitating previously radicalized, developing positive narratives that counter the appeal of the narratives of the violent extremists, build community resilience and positively influence policy and practice of government towards CVE?
- Examples of such projects and activities may include processes that enables communities to detect radicalisation processes, and helps communities to identify those at risk of radicalisation towards violent extremism, while also identifying factors that predisposes at risk target groups to being radicalized.
- Similarly other projects may include how communities can protect themselves against incursions of violent extremists; how victims can be supported, and how community infrastructures can be adapted towards achieving the CVE objectives; for instance how community structures can be supported, in conjunction with law enforcement, to acquire the capacity for community policing, build synergy and coordination with state security institutions to improve civil-security relations; while also serving as a mechanism for early warning and early response with respect to protection among other things for instance.
- What is becoming obvious is that communication will be central to any and every activity and program; what is communicated, how it is communicated, where it is communicated, to whom it is communicated, etc will be very key; just as building strategic relations with the media will decisive.

In our opinion applications by Principal Recipients, as well as subsequent project applications by sub-grantees that take into consideration and are built around this guidance will be most helpful in setting the pace for meaningful and impactful CVE experience in Nigeria.