Interfaith Dialogue on
Violent Extremism - iDove
STOCKTAKING REPORT
2017-2019
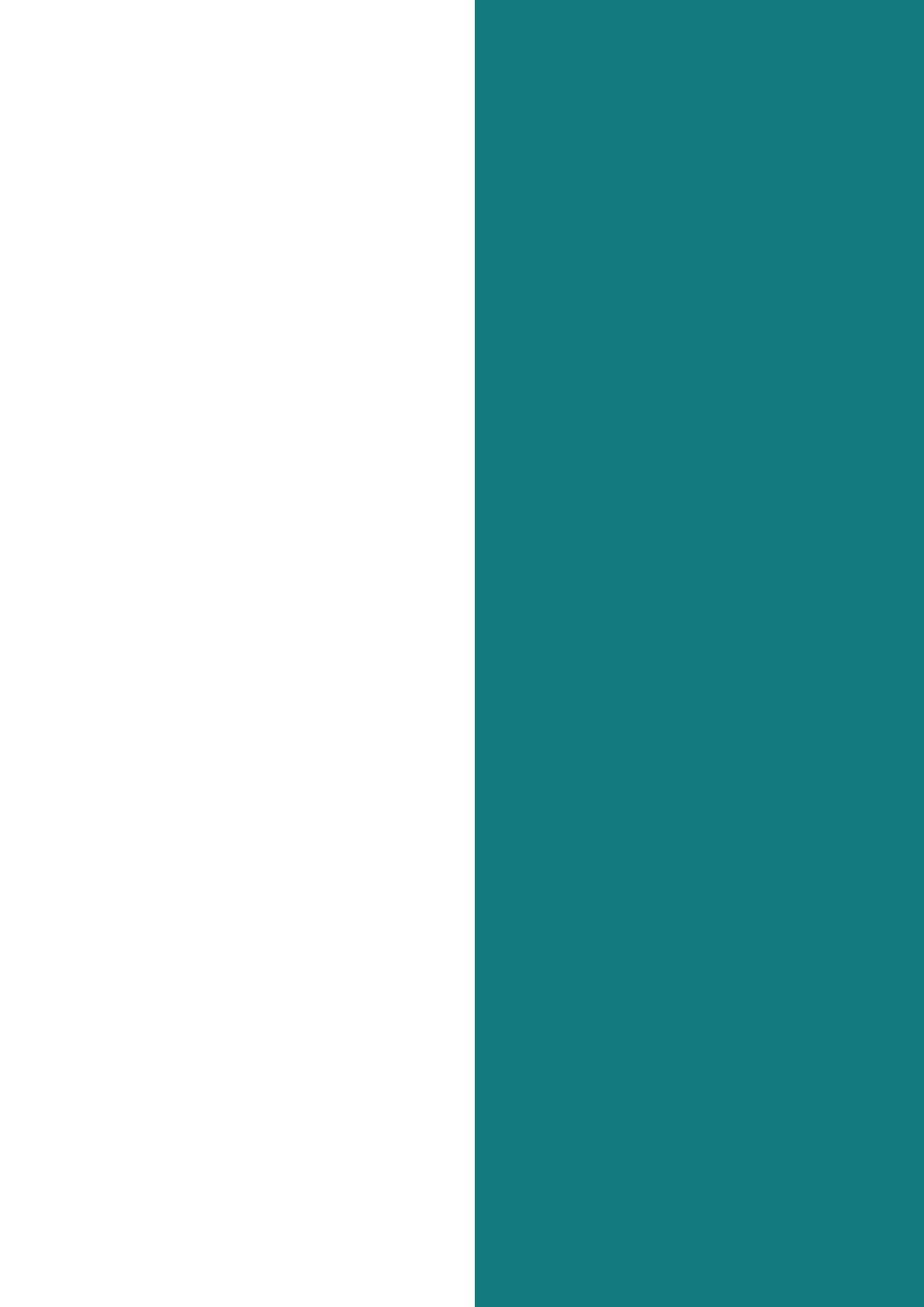
Foreword

The global threat to peace and security that emanates from violent extremism requires the development of innovative approaches to prevent the growth of local and global security risks. Security responses bear high financial and human costs; they do not tackle the root causes of radicalization and violent extremism and have the potential to exacerbate polarization within and between societies. International development actors have recognized this issue and therefore, a growing interest in supporting innovative measures that promote sustainable change for the creation of peaceful societies has emerged. This paradigm shift is also supported by the evidence that the drivers of violent extremism relate to socio-economic factors that require preventive measures seeking to address structural drivers of radicalization (governance, service delivery, access to justice, human rights, inequality, etc.).

The empowerment of youth, women, and civil society actors is essential to the prevention of violent extremism. Young people are particularly affected by violent conflicts. As a result, it is necessary to involve them more closely as peacebuilding actors in order to strengthen their resilience to extremist influences. At the same time, youth are central agents of change in their communities and beyond.

Cognizant of the central role of youth, the African Union Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (AUC-CIDO) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, through the GIZ APSA project and the Sector Project Values, Religion and Development both commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) jointly launched the Interfaith Dialogue on Violent Extremism (iDove) initiative in 2017. The aim of the initiative is to foster new approaches to preventing violent extremism (PVE) and to promote dialogue between African and European youth to develop common strategies in this field. iDove puts youth at the center of its activities, while seeking to amplify their voices and promote them as ambassadors of a shared culture of peace.

From 2017 to 2019, iDove activities have brought together participants from Europe and Africa to address PVE through dialogue, capacity building, and innovative projects using new technologies. More recently, and after two years of implementation, iDove has expanded its reach to the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

Through this report, iDove partners take stock of the achievements and impact of the initiative by reflecting on the activities that have been carried out, while emphasizing their continued commitment to support efforts for the promotion of the United Nations Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, as well as the African Union's Agenda 2063 aspirations for a peaceful and secure continent.

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Abbreviations

AACC	All Africa Conference of Churches
ACSRT	African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism
AMAN	Asia Muslim Action Network
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AUC	African Union Commission
BMZ	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)
CIDO	Citizens and Diaspora Directorate of the African Union Commission
EYIP	Enhancing Youth Initiatives for Peace
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
iDove	Interfaith Dialogue on Violent Extremism
PVE	Preventing Violent Extremism
SEA	Southeast Asia
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
ToT	Training of Trainers
VE	Violent Extremism
YAVE	Youth Against Violent Extremism

About iDove

In February 2017, the African Union Commission Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (AUC-CIDO) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, jointly launched a pilot project - the Interfaith Dialogue on Violent Extremism (iDove). This initiative stands out due to its emphasis on the soft power of religion and innovative youth-led approaches in PVE. iDove is an intercontinental project which specifically targets youth from Africa and Europe (age 18-35). In 2019, the project further expanded to the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

The rise of violent extremism has raised concerns about growing fragility, instability, and prejudice that divide communities worldwide. Violent extremism has, thus, become one of the main challenges to peaceful coexistence which pose a crucial threat to the goals and aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the 2063 Agenda: The Africa We Want.

iDove is based on the understanding that violent extremism is a global challenge. Whether it has political, ideological, or religious roots, extremism is a problem that affects societies globally in similar ways. Security interventions to address the problem only have limited effects and come at a high cost, both financially and in human lives. PVE, therefore, requires a comprehensive 'soft' approach that focuses on the root causes rather than on the symptoms of violent extremism. Sports, arts, and cultural activities offer effective means of dealing with differences within a community. Bottom-up, innovative community-based approaches in the areas of academia, arts and culture, or communication often foster mutual understanding, support, and cooperation between different social and religious groups[1].

Context

Violent extremism is a highly fueled topic and an issue that has drawn significant attention globally — hindering the trajectory outlined in achieving global development agendas such as the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union Agenda 2063. In 2019 alone, the continent of Africa recorded a massive number of 86 terrorist attacks which resulted in a total of 296 deaths. Some of the main countries that are affected by terrorism are Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Somalia, Rwanda and DRC (in decreasing order of deaths recorded).[2] Neither radicalization nor violent extremism is rooted in one cause alone – whether ideological, political or religious – nor can they be tackled simply with security or military means. The spread of violent extremism is first and foremost a development challenge and the drivers of violent extremism are complex, manifold and context-dependent. Factors such as (perceived) socio-economic inequality, repression, social injustice, political marginalization, corruption and poor governance often create an enabling environment for radicalization and violent extremism.

These factors underline that preventing violent extremism through top-down approaches alone would be insufficient. Adopting a prevention lens that focuses on the 'soft power' of religion and dialogue allows the engagement of the community and targets the root causes fueling violent extremism.

A deep understanding of one's own religion, as well as knowledge about other religions is important to avoid over-simplified answers, stereotypes, interpretations and to promote tolerance and respect. Religious leaders and organizations play a key role in these processes, especially in remote areas, and are therefore important partners in PVE approaches. The role of religion as a factor of radicalization and violent extremism is a highly contested issue in policy and academic debates. Research renders little support to a direct correlation between the level of religiosity and radicalization. Instead, religion is often instrumentalized by violent extremist groups

1 Youth Preventing Violent Extremism in their communities Training and Training of Trainers Manual, GIZ on behalf of BMZ and AUC-CIDO. (2018). Retrieved from https://jliflc.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/iDove-Manual.pdf

2 AFRICA RECORDED A TOTAL OF 86 TERRORIST ATTACKS RESULTING IN A TOTAL OF 296 DEATHS. (2019). African Centre for the Study & Research on Terrorism. Retrieved from http://caert.org.dz/?page_id=252

to justify their actions and therefore should not solely be understood as a potential contributing factor to radicalization. Religious groups and communities have a vital role in preventing violent extremism[3] ; their access, credibility, firmly established partner networks and level of trust can support and enable preventive measures and strengthen social cohesion[4].

The 'soft power' of faith and dialogue can be used to promote peace, mutual understanding, and peaceful coexistence. Religious leaders can take several measures to prevent violent extremism. They can act as educators, intermediaries, advocates, mediators and accompany behavioral changes. Religious leaders are crucial in promoting human rights as a key aspect of PVE. They are often in a unique position of trust to provide important services to their communities and may have greater access to and influence within a community than the governing authorities, rendering them valuable agents to promote human rights and bring about lasting peace.

A holistic approach is required to foster social cohesion and build resilient societies. Concisely, strengthening social cohesion and resilience from a top-down perspective requires tackling shortcomings in good governance, peace and security, as well as basic service delivery. Simultaneously, a bottom-up approach, which focuses, among other things, on supporting dialogue between local decision-makers and citizens encouraging positive interaction between all members of a community is needed. Non-violent approaches to problem solving and possibilities for community problem-solving shall be created. Sports, arts, cultural events and activities offer effective ways of dealing with differences within a community.

The values that religious and faith traditions embody are important in PVE as;

- Many extremist groups claim to be religious.

- Religions and faith traditions can bring values, beliefs, and motivations to the conversation, which may be lacking in a purely practical or 'interests-based' approach.

- There is consensus among scholars on violent extremism that religion can serve as a catalyst for recruitment, often exploited by militant extremist groups to legitimize their use of violence.

- Their unique positions of authority, credibility, institutional resources and ties with local communities are inalienable in PVE.

- Religious leaders can take a number of measures to prevent violent extremism. They can act as educators, intermediaries, advocates, mediators and help to change behavior, provide education on building peace, on health or relief services, disseminate ideas such as democracy or encourage disarmament.

- Religious leaders are cruicial in promoting human rights as a key aspect of PVE. They are often in a unique position to provide important services to their communities and may have greater access to their communities.

- Not all vilolent extremism is framed in religious terms, and not all extremism is violent, but rheotoric and media discussion of violent extremism often neglects the positive role that religious leaders can play [5].

It is against this backdrop that iDove has emerged based on the need to integrate a multidimensional, bottom-up soft approach. iDove brings together youth from Africa and Europe coming from a variety of backgrounds including policy makers, creative artists, academics, community workers and religious leaders. Together they develop innovative strategies to prevent violent extremism and build social cohesion. As current trends show, youth are the largest group directly affected by violent extremism, due to their vulnerability to recruitment.[6]

3 Religious Leaders as Human Rights Defenders? (2016) Retrieved from in: https://forbinfull. org/2016/02/01/religious-leaders-as-human-rights-defenders/

4 Religious Leaders Countering Extremist Violence: How Policy Changes Can Help, (2014). Retrieved from https://www.usip.org/blog/2014/10/religious- leaders-countering-extremist-violence-how-policy-changes-can- help

5 Religious Leaders Countering Extremist Violence: How Policy Changes Can Help. (2014), Retrieved from https://www.usip.org/blog/2014/10/religious-leaders-countering-extremist-violence-how-policy-changes-can-help

6 Darden, J. (2019). Tackling Terrorists' Exploitation of Youth. Retrieved from https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/

Boko Haram abducted over 200 school girls in Nigeria on religious grounds. Socio-cultural and economic grievances, such as unemployment, lack of access to education, lack of political participation and the use of religious narratives play a central role in the recruitment of youth by violent extremist groups[7]. Young people can also be considered pivotal agents of change, promoting social cohesion and peacebuilding within their local communities. Youth are recognized as a major resource for sustainable development, economic growth, and innovation. Harnessing the potential of the youth population – including their innovations, ideas, visions – to create an enabling environment in which their ideas and concepts can be transformed into practical work can initiate transformative change.

Academicians and Researchers		Policy Makers/Government	
Researchers in centers and institutes; Masters and PhD Students; Lecturers and Professors in Universities.	Human Rights and Law; Preventative Diplomacy; Right-wing extremism in Europe and intrastate conflict in Africa; Gender and Development; International Relations and Diplomatic Affairs; Countering cyber-terrorism; Conflict Resolution; Contribution to policy making.	Employees of International Organizations; Government attaché.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs; UN Peacekeeping Missions; Youth Ambassador for Peace and Security; Working with political parties to enforce policies.
Community Workers / Outreach		Creative Artists	
NGOs, CSOs, and grassroots organizations; Religious figures / leaders; Social entrepreneurs.	Community work directly with at risk population- youth, women, children; Capacity/skill building/ Trainings; Public education & Advocacy; Conflict resolution & economic empowernment; Intercultural & Interreligious dialogue; Peace building.	Journalists; Communication & Social Media; Poets; Comic Writers; Animators; Theatre Practioners; Mobile App and Website Developers; Gamers; Presenters.	Music Therapy; Psychotherapy; Computer Literacy; Using theatre and story telling as therapy; Plays and Skits; Photo Exhibitions; Card games; Mutimedia projects; Radio and Television Station talk shows; Using arts to mitigate hate speech, raise awareness .

Figure 1: This figure denotes the different backgrounds the iDovers have emerged from and the specific work they are engaged in within the designated categories

uploads/2019/05/report/tackling-terrorists-exploitation-of-youth/Tackling-Terrorists-Exploitation-of-Youth.pdf

7   Ramsdal, L. (n.d). Worldwide: Preventing Violent Extremism through interfaith dialogue. Retrieved from https://english.danmission.dk/project/worldwide-preventing-violent-extremism-through-interfaith-dialogue/

iDovers' Backgrounds	
Type	Unit Quantity
Academicians / Researchers	28
Policy Makers	14
Community Workers / Outreach	56
Creative Artists	21
Total	119

Examples of Types of NGOs, CSOs, Foundations and organization

NGO URU- Focus on engagement of youth in locally led conflict prevention and resolution- Central African Republic;

Action and Development initiative for the protection of Women and Children Affected by conflict (AIDPROFEN) - Democratic Republic of Congo;

Providers of social Responses to Development (PRSD) - tackle rise of violence in the northern border of Ireland among youth-Ireland;

Youth Banner- economic empowerment through entrepreneurship training addressing issues that affect youth-Kenya;

Lonamac- Support street children and families out of the streets to reduce street crime and violence- Kenya;

Daughters of Bomi- Raise awareness of women and girls rights, conflict resolution, and gender based violence etc. - Liberia;

Focus on Ability social- short film festival aimed at raising awareness of challenges of people with disabilities- Malawi;

Recup- youth participation in conflict prevention and peace-building through intercultural and inter religious dialogue- Niger;

Bomi Women's initiative- Supporting the role of women in development and post conflict rehabilitation efforts, reintegration of former Boko Haram wives- Nigeria;

Computer Initiative- ensuring computer literacy among youth- Nigeria;

Youth's Network for Human rights promotion- emphasizing equality and freedom of right for youth- Senegal;

South Africa Hindu youth Movement- aim of countering negative narratives around religion at the grassroots level amongst marginalization and impoverished communities- South Africa;

Tun'Act- Youth empowerment and participation in every sphere-Tunisia.

Integrity UK- a center for research and a subsidiary of the international center for integration and cohesion- United Kingdom;

Allied Muslimyouth Uganda- Implements projects that aim to prevent violent extremism and promote trust and relationship building by fostering dialogue among the faith leaders and young people of different faith communities- Uganda;

#Antaban Campaign- an arts collective on preventing hate speech and violent extremism through arts, festivals trainings and exhibitions- South Sudan;

Amani Women Network- Coalition of women and organizations working in peace-building and conflict resolution- Kenya;

Daughters of Ngomen for Girls empowerment- Women and girls roles in society and their empowerment- Kenya;

Roulex- a startup that recycles tires into furniture through the use of technology, employs workers from deprived and terrorist influenced regions- Tunisia;

Somali Sideways- Online international platforms and photo project that focuses on repositioning perceptions of Somalis and the diaspora- United Kingdom;

Sophie Muwanika institute of Art for Change- providing peaceful communities by building peaceful individuals through the use of theatre and storytelling and psychotherapy sessions- Uganda;

Peace and development Makers forum (PDMF) under the international Alliance of peace and Development (IAPD) – aims to unite global youth movements for SDG 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions- Singapore;

Youth to Youth initiative- PVE and CVE work within the community- Belarus;

Action youth Association – United Kingdom;

ASEAN Youth Philippines- Philippines.

iDove's Objectives

1. Provide a youth-led approach to PVE

2. Draw on the 'soft power' of religion and mutual respect by facilitating cooperation and fostering dialogue between the youth of different religions and faith as a tool for non-violent political transformation

3. Initiate an innovative and strategic alternative movement in order to prevent violent extremism

4. Create a network of iDovers - an intercontinental platform of exchange and learning for youth working on PVE and building social cohesion

The iDove Journey

The iDove journey has been characterized by the various activities that have taken place under its umbrella since its creation in February 2017. As iDove expands its operations and outreach, the number of people impacted by the project has significantly increased. A series of activities were launched as part of iDove, such as the Intercontinental Youth Forums, the implementation of small-scale projects and the development of the iDove Training (of Trainers) manual (The timeline on the following page provides an overview of all key activities).

The annual Intercontinental Youth Forums are the basis for all iDove activities and are core in building a strong network of young people (iDovers) engaged in PVE.

Small-scale projects allowed the iDovers to implement their own project ideas and the training assists young people by providing them with the tools to prevent violent extremism in their communities and foster social cohesion.

A Training (of Trainers) (ToT) manual was developed to enable trainers to deliver iDove trainings. Since September 2018, there have already been four trainings conducted in Niger, Liberia, Togo and Uganda based on the iDove PVE training manual.

In addition, three Trainings of Trainers in Bosnia-Herzegovina (target group: Balkan region), South Africa (target group: Southern Africa) and Senegal (target group: Lake Chad region) were implemented to equip young people with the necessary skills to conduct trainings themselves. The ToT manual is available in three languages: English, French and Arabic.

Finally, the first iDove Intercontinental Youth Forum outside of the African continent, namely in Southeast Asia (SEA) was held on December 4-6, 2019 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Besides two iDovers from previously held iDove Forums, participants from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, plus Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, were invited. The 1st iDove Forum in SEA was implemented in cooperation with the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers and the local organization Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN).

1. The iDove Journey

2017

2018

2019

1st intercontinental youth forum Ethiopia 21-23 February, 2017

Youth Against Violent Extremism (YAVE) launched DRC September 2017- February 2018

Training of Trainers Pilot Workshop Ethiopia 13-16 February, 2018

Training & TOT manual developed

Training Liberia December 1-2, 2018

Training Of Trainers Senegal 25-28 March, 2019

Training of Trainers South Africa 8-11 August, 2019

Training Uganda 28-29 November, 2019

Training Togo 4-6 December, 2019

Youth Bridge Project launched Kenya September 2017 - February 2018

Citizen Helpdesk Accountability Lab Mali 10 January – 31 March, 2018

Enhancing Youth Initiatives for Peace (EYIP) Cameroon March 2018

2nd Intercontinental Youth Forum Ethiopia 3-6 October, 2018

Training Niger December 13-14, 2018

Training of Trainers Balkans Bosnia and Herzegovina 3-6 May, 2019

3rd Intercontinental Youth Forum Ethiopia 18-20 September, 2019

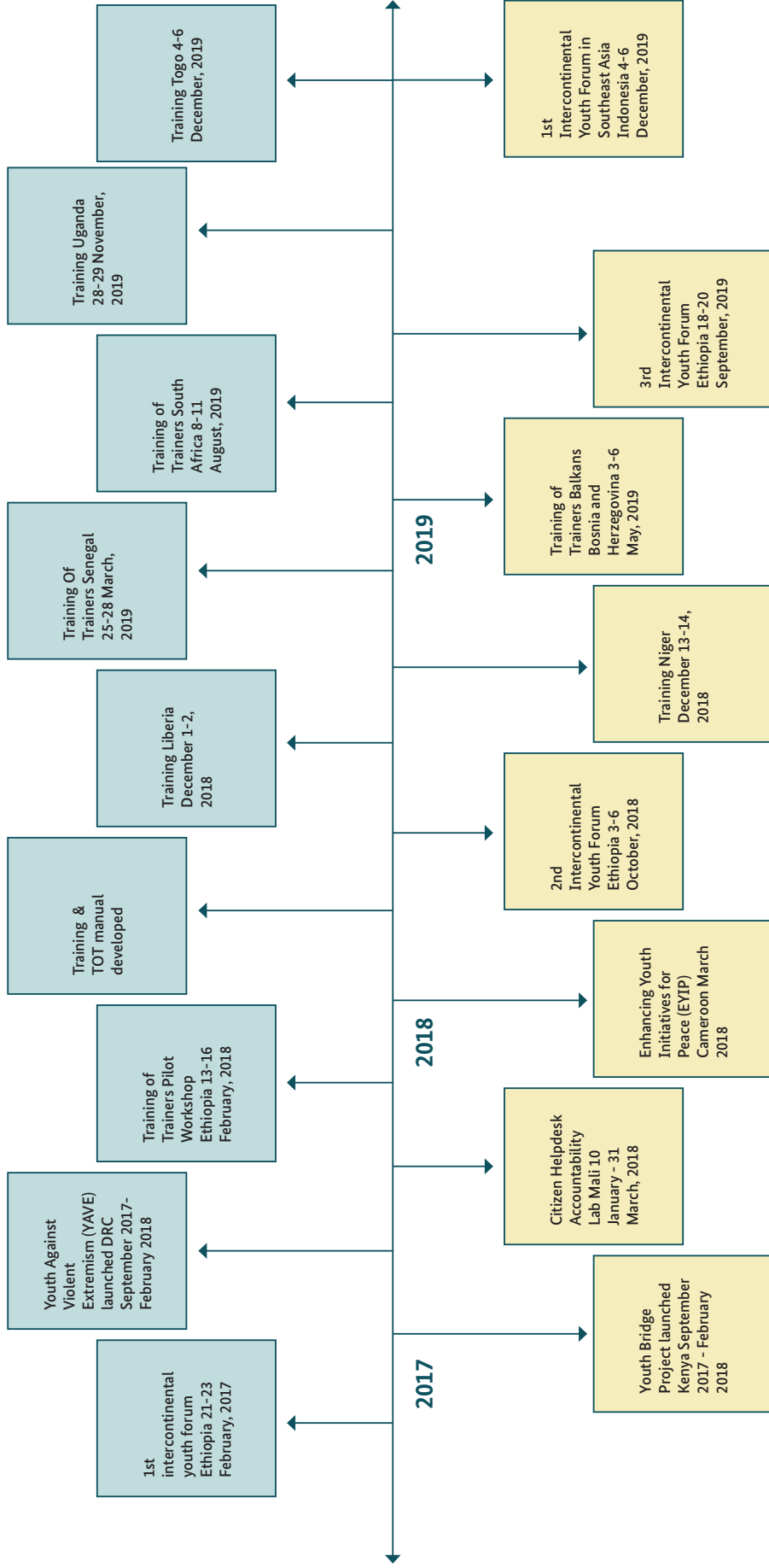1st Intercontinental Youth Forum in Southeast Asia Indonesia 4-6 December, 2019

Figure 3: This timeline shows iDove activities as they occurred from 2017 to date

- From 2017 to 2019, iDove has reached 3,560 people directly through its various activities, and 2,131 people through its online presence on various social media platforms (Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn).

This does not include the indirect reach iDove has achieved including;

› iDovers' participation in various international and national forums, meetings and conferences introducing iDove and raising awareness of PVE, such as:

- Countering Violent Extremism Week, October 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

- The Paris Peace Forum, November 2018 in Paris, France

- The African Union 3rd Interfaith Dialogue Forum in November 2018, N'Djamena, Chad

- The New Landscape of Terrorism: Applied Outcomes" April 2019 in Rabat, Morocco

- Glocal Islamism Conference, October 2019 in Berlin, Germany

- Tony Blair Insights Forum, November 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya

› Trickle down effects of small-scale projects and trainings; hence reaching out to local communities creating a deepened impact

› Social media presence, reaching out to people interested in iDove across the globe

› Individual projects implemented by beneficiaries of the various activities

1. The 1st Intercontinental Youth Forum

The 1st Intercontinental Youth Forum (IYF) marked the commencement of the first phase of the iDove project. The 1st IYF took place from 21-23 February 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Facts and Figures	
Total Applications Received	4,000
Total Selected	38
Men to Women Ratio	20:18
Europe to Africa Ratio	11:27

This platform brought together 38 (20M: 18F) youth representatives of grassroots organizations, policy makers, scholars, community workers and creative arts experts from a pool of over 4,000 applicants. The representatives came from 23 African countries and 8 European countries. The young leaders and activists, calling themselves iDovers, delved into the topic of violent extremism exploring the different types of violent extremist movements – including right wing extremism.

The Forum's main objectives

1. Draw the youth's attention to the current challenges of radical ideologies and movements;

2. Provide them with a scholarly understanding of the mindset of individuals who turn to extremism;

3. Supplement these perspectives through the real-life experiences of disengaged individuals. The discussions used an interfaith dialogue approach that promotes mutual respect, better understanding of the intra- and interfaith, inter-religious, and intercultural values that are the core principles for integration and peace.

Highlights

1. There are apparent similarities between the different types of extremism that were discussed; i.e. Islamic and right-wing ideologies. Similarities lie in aspects such as the rationale for joining and leaving violent extremist groups, as well as the vulnerabilities experienced upon exiting.

2. Despite the different ideologies, the push and pull factors emanate from grievances that arise from social, economic, political, or ideological disenfranchisement. As such, it is crucial to develop a better understanding of the underlying factors, the root causes, and motivations that lead an individual to turn to violent extremism. The first-hand accounts of disengaged individuals allowed the participants to develop a better understanding of the motivations through storytelling and experience sharing.

3. Interfaith Dialogue emerged as a tool and demonstrated the positive power of faith and religion in building peace. Dialogue is about using words to unearth differences and jointly find a way to reach a common goal. Dialogue employs several skills such as active listening and empathy. This was exhibited by the rich space that this platform provided for sharing ideas and stimulating new ones, sharing best practices, and facilitating discussions and novel approaches.

4. iDovers developed a framework for community initiatives (see small-scale projects below) in yet understudied and underrepresented areas in the field of PVE. These projects included media training, capacity building, arts, and sports. Furthermore, a monitoring framework was developed during the Forum to continuously assess the implementation of the small-scale projects over time. As one of the primary outcomes of the Forum, four small-scale projects were implemented by the iDovers themselves within selected communities (please refer to section 1.2 for further information).

5. The Forum identified the need to develop a capacity building tool that equips iDovers with the necessary skills to conduct PVE interventions within their communities. As a result, following the Forum, a Training and Training of Trainer's (ToT) manual was developed by iDovers so as to address the capacity needs and empower youth to play an active role in PVE and to build cohesive communities.

2. Small-Scale Projects

Four small-scale projects were launched to gain practical insights on the impact of local projects on PVE, as well as to empower youth to play an active role in PVE. The selected initiatives covered the areas of communications, - both digital and community-based – arts, sports, dialogue forums, and intensive trainings.

Direct Impact

496 Youth
8 Local Authorities
4 Countries (Cameroon, DRC, Kenya & Mali)
2717 Community members reached
6 months during 2017 & 2018

**Total 3,270 Individuals Reached by iDove
Through Small Scale Projects Alone!**

(1) Enhancing Youth Initiatives for Peace (EYIP), Cameroon
(2) Youth Bridge Project: Prevention of Violent Extremism through Arts Competition, Democratic Republic of Congo
(3) Youth Against Violent Extremism (YAVE), Kenya
(4) Accountability Lab Mali-Citizens Helpdesk, Mali

› All four projects targeted areas where conflict presides, a noticeable influx in violent extremism and extremist acts can be observed, and where youth are most vulnerable to recruitment. Taking account of the specific contexts, the implementation of these projects required consultations with law enforcement officials to ensure the security and safety of the participants and their activities.

› Each project successfully integrated different groups of society, including youth from diverse socio-economic and ethno-religious backgrounds and successfully promoted the messages of peaceful coexistence and social cohesion.

The small-scale projects impacted the lives of **496** youth, **43** religious leaders and **2717** community members between the periods of September 2017-August 2018 directly *. The feedback from the participants demonstrated a positive impact, in which the youth learned about their responsibilities in PVE. They adopted necessary roles within their communities as change-makers promoting peace and tolerance. The following sections describe the individual projects, their outcomes, and achievements.

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* Based on the reports of the organizations responsible. For further information, please contact the organizers via idove@african-union.org

iDove

Project: Youth Against Violent Extremism (YAVE)

Location: Kenya

Period of Implementation: 1 September 2017 – 28 February 2018

People reached: 368 youth (259M: 109F)

Target group: Young religious leaders

The YAVE project targeted young religious leaders and youth leaders, and was coordinated by the Coast Interfaith Council of Clerics in Lamu, Kenya; a region drastically affected by violent extremism. The project emphasized the importance of dialogue amongst communities affected by prejudice, hate speech and violent extremism. This project was characterized by a series of intra- and inter-religious dialogue forums that were followed by sensitization and outreach campaigns carried out in five different villages in Lamu.

Activities

› Discussion on the use of religious texts to propagate violence and hate in their communities.

› Learned to respect a variety of interpretations of sacred texts, and respect each other's religious and ethnic backgrounds.

› Sensitization forums: visits to selected villages in order to open a dialogue with village members on topics of peaceful coexistence and the importance of accepting different religious backgrounds.

› Dissemination: youth who participated in the dialogues acted as multipliers of the acquired knowledge within their communities.

The positive outcomes and lessons learned from this project were numerous. Participants expressed an overall greater appreciation and understanding of ethnic and religious differences, which contributed to building social cohesion.

Outcomes:

› Target groups have gained a clearer understanding of religious misconceptions that have hindered social cohesion – and a deeper understanding of the roots of religious stereotypes and prejudices and how to tackle them.

› Youth have been sensitized on their role as agents of peace and in promoting the agenda on preventing violent extremism. The youth became empowered to address injustices within their communities using a dialogue approach.

› Community awareness of the threat of violent extremism and its consequences has been heightened.

› The activities have promoted the communities' increased engagement and participation in PVE initiatives that promote inter- and intra-faith dialogue.

› Inter- and intra-faith gatherings and joint celebrations of events and festivals were held.

Lessons Learned:

› It is critical to involve religious leaders as gatekeepers to facilitate access to the community.

› Religious leaders who are recognized and actively participate in community initiatives are crucial to the implementation of projects. They are respected in the community and this enhances acceptance and participation of the target community members.

Project: Youth Bridge Project: Prevention of Violent Extremism Through Arts Competitions

Location: Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Period of Implementation: 1 September 2017– 28 February 2018

People reached: 217 community members, 55 youth and 22 religious leaders

Target group: Youth from different ethnic groups in DRC

The Youth Bridge project was implemented by AIDPROFEN - Actions and Initiatives in Development for the Protection of Women and Children - an NGO in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

› This project was implemented as a tool to diffuse ongoing conflicts, hate speech, and discrimination between ethnic groups in Goma and the territory of Nyirangongo. The aim was to build bridges between Kimu, Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups.

› The project intended to create a culture of mutual respect and tolerance among the youth from these groups using creative arts and expression.

› This project emphasized arts as a tool of expression, tapping into deep-rooted semantics and concepts that are not visibly apparent.

An arts competition invited talents from all backgrounds of creative arts including dance, theatre, music, painting, and drawing, etc. to demonstrate their interpretation of peace, peaceful coexistence and mutual respect within society. Following the arts competition, a social dialogue took place between 217 community members from 5 different ethnic groups (Tumu, Tutsi, Hutu, Nande, and Twa), and several religious leaders representing various faiths. After sensitization, religious leaders committed to spreading the key messages of the project within their place of worship. The dialogue opened the floor for the community members to discuss their views and values, share experiences, and recommendations. This proved to be a safe space of transparency and openness.

© Credit Photo Aidprofen

Outcomes:

› Unity among the youth from the different ethnic groups has been strengthened.

› The youth developed a sense of self-confidence in expressing their views, and a desire to promote tolerance within their ethnic groups.

› Long lasting partnerships were established to engage the youth in social and economic transformation through short-term projects and activities.

› Higher awareness within the community of the potential role youth can play in conflict resolution and prevention was created.

› Commitments from religious leaders to work on PVE was renewed.

Lessons Learned:

› Creative arts are an important tool for change, mobilizing the community to create change.

› There is a need to create (safe) spaces that allow for discussion within a community.

› The importance of mobilizing religious leaders in the prevention of violent extremism has again been demonstrated, as they have a greater reach and access within communities.

› Despite the tensions between the different ethnic groups, there was even representation from all groups and the youth were able to work together towards a mutual goal of building a community that promotes peace and respect.

Project: Enhancing Youth Initiatives for Peace (EYIP)

Location: Cameroon

Period of Implementation: 2 March 2018 – August 2018

People reached: 36 youth (15M:21F)

Target: Unemployed youth

Enhancing Youth Initiatives for Peace (EYIP) was an initiative of the Cameroonian NGO named Reach Out Cameroon. This project emphasized capacity building and focused on unemployed youth, as they are more vulnerable to recruitment in extremist groups.

EYIP was created in response to the ongoing socio-political crisis in the Southwest and Northwest regions of Cameroon, where Boko Haram perpetrated terrorist attacks in the Northern areas.

Objectives:

› Promotion of inter-religious methods to prevent extremism amongst youth by providing trainings on information and communication technology (ICT) tools, entrepreneurship, and peaceful activism;

› PVE Training of unemployed youth at risk of radicalization due to lack of employment and infiltration of terrorist groups in the region;

› Building business ideas through one-on-one coaching.

Multiple activities were conducted with emphasis on capacity building of youth. They acquired skills in specific areas, including training on peaceful activism, coding and entrepreneurship with a particular focus on the creation of an ICT project for peaceful activism. Following the ICT training, the youth participated in a training to strengthen their entrepreneurial skills by developing effective business ideas. One-on-one coaching sessions enabled participants to engage in an innovation contest, which ran for 2 days and encouraged the application of all tools acquired during trainings. Examples of the projects created include "open cake shop", "start-up company for sales of services and products", and "fruit salad juice joint".

Outcomes:

› The activities raised awareness of the threat of violent extremism and youth vulnerability to violent extremist propaganda.

› The project contributed to a better understanding of youth recruitment into radical movements and its prevention.

› A trained youth movement that aims to prevent other youth from engaging in extremist groups was formed.

› 9 innovative projects that provide employment opportunity ideas for the youth were created.

› Beneficiaries gained insights in peaceful activism and in the processes and steps to peacebuilding

Lessons Learned:

› There is a need to educate the youth on radicalization processes to prevent recruitment.

› Capacity building and skills development of youth is fundamental to promote economic empowerment as a PVE strategy.

Project: Accountability Lab Mali - Citizen Helpdesks: Local Feedback to Support Stability in Mali

Location: Mali

Period of Implementation: 10 January – 31 March 2018

People reached: 2579 (14 volunteers trained, 7 representatives of local authorities, 14 women leaders, 21 religious leaders, 23 youth and 2500 community members)

Target: create community helpdesks to close communication gap between the community and decision makers

The project established a helpdesk in Segou, Mali - a region torn by conflict and riddled with violent extremist groups - causing young people to be at risk of religious extremism. This initiative mobilized youth to be the primary custodians of the helpdesk, coordinating between the community and key decision makers at the local and national level. The youth were trained in data collection, synthesis and analysis prior to their deployment in the localities of Segou. Their specific tasks included:

› Monthly surveys (Activities using data collection software installed on smartphones) to collect data on community perceptions on critical issues, such as the general security situation and any threats, problems or issues they are facing, etc.

› Synthesizing and disseminating data using infographics and readouts in collaboration with high level decision makers.

› Analyzing the situation and assessed information to bridge the cognitive gap, then communicating back to communities on decision-making processes and public governance via community meetings and local radio stations.

Outcomes:

› A network of volunteers to manage helpdesks was created.

› Surveys and findings were shared with authorities and decision makers.

› The project provided assistance to authorities and institutions in their decision-making.

› The project contributed to restore communities' trust in authorities.

› The project contributed to enhanced community resilience and openness.

› Information was gathered on remote and unsafe areas.

Lessons Learned:

› Surveys supported religious leaders in their decision-making processes.

› Decision makers can create continuous dialogue and communication lines using community leaders.

3. Trainings and Trainings of Trainers (ToT)

iDovers who attended the 1st Intercontinental Youth Forum identified capacity building as essential in their work in PVE. The iDovers demanded to equip themselves with necessary skills and tools to build cohesive communities, by building on their PVE and training skills. Experts and selected iDovers developed a Training and a Training of Trainers (ToT) manual to accommodate these needs. A pilot Training of Trainers (ToT) took place from 13-16 February 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.[9]

The experts and iDovers agreed on a series of six modules which discuss fundamental topics in PVE:

(1) Identity and the Community;
(2) Understanding Conflict;
(3) Understanding and Responding to violent extremism;
(4) Communication;
(5) Intercultural and Inter-religious Resources;
(6) Youth in the Community.

The ToT manual serves as a manual to conduct a two-day Training and a four-day Training of Trainers. iDove trainings aim to assist those who wish to prevent violent extremism in their communities, regardless of their expertise. A training equips them with the tools and confidence to engage in PVE activities, whereas the iDove ToT teaches experienced youth to become trainers to deliver and conduct an iDove training themselves.

Key Objectives of the Trainings
Educate and sensitize young people on the meaning and dangers of violent extremism and train them to convey a message of tolerance and prevent violence;
Empower these young people to promote non-violent communication on social media and within their different communities of belonging (family, friends, religious communities, ethnic groups, etc.);
Create a network of young people active in this region to share , communicate and work together to have a dynamic impact. The conversations during the training are above all a space of dialogue and creation of bridges between these young actors;
Strengthen the capacity among the youth to combat extremism;
Promote the professional and creative development of youth;
Promote values of peace , tolerance and intercultural understanding among youth.

The trainings focus on the prevention of violent extremism and on the lack of community cohesion. There are two pivotal components to delivering the trainings (1) PVE-related content as well as (2) fundamental skills in delivering trainings. Different methodologies and styles gear participants towards community engagement in PVE activities.

Youth-led trainings and trainings of trainers

iDovers may apply to participate in Trainings and Trainings of Trainers and may be rewarded with certificates upon successful completion of a Training thereby to become a certified iDove Trainer.

Four Trainings (Niger, Liberia, Togo and Uganda) and three ToTs (Senegal, Bosnia and Herzegovina, South Africa) took place between 2018 and 2019.

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9 Youth Preventing Violent Extremism in their communities Training and Training of Trainers Manual, GIZ on behalf of BMZ and AUC-CIDO. (2018). Retrieved from https://jliflc.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/iDove-Manual.pdf

	Trainings				Training of Trainers		
Country	Liberia	Niger	Togo	Uganda	Senegal	Bosnia and Herzegovina	South Africa
Dates	1-2 Dec 2018	13-14 Dec 2018	4-6 Dec 2019	28-29 Nov 2019	25-28 March 2019	3-4 May 2019	7-10 Aug 2019
Region	Africa	Africa	Africa	Africa	Africa	Europe	Africa
Direct Reach	30	30	25	20	14	7	18
Male to Female ratio	[15M: 15F]	[15M: 15F]	[15M: 10F]	[9M: 11F]	[7M: 7F]	[3M: 4F]	[8M: 10F]
Origin of participants	Liberia	Niger and Chad	Togo	Uganda	North, Central and West Africa	Balkans, Ireland and Nigeria	Southern Africa, East Africa and Europe
Language of instruction	English	French	French	English	French	English	English

Lessons Learned and Recommendations

› Participants of the Liberia training highlighted the value of close collaboration between government and non-state actors working with communities (including NGOs, community-based organizations, CSOs).

› Participants of the training in Niger continue to inform community members on the PVE approach. They have acquired a greater understanding and awareness of violent extremism and created social media networks via WhatsApp.

› The training in Togo included consultations with CSO representatives active in PVE in Togo, in order to shed light on existing strategies at the national level. This helped to identify the gaps and necessary measures for PVE. It provided participants with the relevant information and contacts to facilitate implementation of their individual action plans.

› Participants of the Uganda training emphasized the need for training on basic planning and implementation of action plans in PVE. Additionally, they wished for more examples of violent extremism from various religions, and ideologies to avoid bias. Capacity building beyond the manual is needed so as to ensure that the pool of trained youth are well equipped to tackle violent extremism within their communities.

› The ToT in Senegal highlighted the need for flexibility and adaptation when applying the manual to the respective contexts.

› Following the ToT in Bosnia Herzegovina, facilitators stressed that participants would benefit from analyzing different models of violent extremism and from understanding radicalization processes and mechanisms. Participants suggested to include a case study by ways of a practical example.

› Following the ToTs in South Africa, facilitators noted the importance of contextualizing examples of case studies as well as sharing accounts from participants' own experience. Participants suggested to revise some training modules.

4. The 2ⁿᵈ Intercontinental Youth Forum

The iDove project continued with the 2nd Intercontinental Youth Forum, which took place on the premises of the African Union from 3-5 October 2018 in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia. This Forum gathered 39 youth (22M:17F) from 27 countries across Africa and Europe for 3 days of deliberations, group work and interactive sessions. Eight of the 39 youth representatives were selected among participants of the first Forum.

Facts and Figures	
Total Applications Received	360
Total Selected	39
Men to Women Ratio	22:17
Europe to Africa Ratio	9:30
Old to New iDovers Ratio	9:30

This combination of old and new iDovers proved to be an opportunity to share knowledge and experiences. The Forum featured participants and speakers from various fields of PVE: academicians who work on gender issues with regard to (the prevention of) violent extremism, game and mobile application developers, poets using arts to raise awareness about violent extremism, broadcasters who have developed radio programs to foster interfaith dialogue, and community activists who empower youth through local initiatives.

The theme of the second Forum was "ungoverned spaces", i.e. border regions and marginalized areas. The permeability of borders, economic marginalization and the absence of effective state control allow violent extremists to expand their networks in marginalized border communities. Moreover, violence spilling over from neighboring conflicts frequently turns communities into epicenters of radicalization and cross-border militancy coupled with organized crime.

The Sahel Sahara border regions and the Horn of Africa are prime examples in this regard, while Europe demonstrates high rates of right-wing extremism in rural and marginalized areas. As the gap between urban and rural zones is widening all over Africa and Europe, feelings of resentment and neglect spread and render rural youth more vulnerable to extremist groups.

Objectives

›   Explore the topic of violent extremism in border regions and marginalized areas in Africa and Europe; understanding its driving forces and developing concrete ideas to prevent violent extremism at community level.

›   Engage and empower young activists in PVE – in particular those working in border regions and marginalized areas – to create innovative and cross-border frameworks for PVE.

›   Explore the use of technology as an innovative tool in the fight against violent extremism.

›   Facilitate connections between African and European iDovers to exchange ideas, learn from one another and develop joint projects.

Additionally, the Forum addressed recruitment trends, gender roles and the role of youth in PVE. Participants explored the role of technology; both as a channel for the dissemination of extremist ideologies and propaganda as well as a tool to foster peace and innovation in the fight against extremism. The discussions aimed to design counter narratives for both online and offline platforms. During a Youth Innovation Hub, participants gained practical experience in developing, implementing and monitoring social media campaigns, mobile applications and board games.

#CoolImam is a social media campaign intended to bring Islamic religious leaders and youth together and build trusting relationships between them. Through joint participation in social activities and online counseling sessions, religious leaders become more approachable to the youth, who will find their struggles taken seriously in their religious community.

YOU'RE A HERO is a board game that enables its players to deal with challenges coming their way by drawing on their own skills set while not being afraid of opening up about their problems and asking for support. To achieve this in a playful manner, each player is assigned an animal character as well as skill card, terrain- and challenge cards. The game combines analog with digital elements.

Highlights

1. Small-scale project representatives shared their experience developing and implementing projects, focusing specifically on the challenges they faced, identified trends and recommendations for best practice. This proved to be a rich discussion, which allowed the participants to get a thorough understanding of the steps and provisions taken when implementing PVE projects in their community. Issues related to securing resources and facilities, security, conducting reliable and quantifiable impact evaluation, and securing support of the public were discussed in depth.

2. A gender-sensitive lens to PVE was introduced to participants. Understanding gender roles, specifically the role of women in PVE initiatives - in general and within ungoverned areas in particular - was a key thematic area of discussion. The role of women in violent extremist organizations is often misjudged due to individual gender biases. Describing women solely as victims does not paint the full picture. PVE methods run the risk of not taking the concerns and motivations of female combatants seriously, leading to ineffective prevention methods.

3. iDovers developed their own project ideas leveraging the power of new technologies. The new technologies herein refer to the high prevalence of internet, social media and computer technology that has considerably increased connectivity and digital accessibility. With the problem of online recruitment becoming ever more pressing, participants aimed to develop counternarratives and utilise these channels to prevent violent extremism.

4. To this end, iDovers developed social media campaigns, mobile applications and board games, using a design thinking approach. Participants teamed up and developed so called #17inspirations for innovative solutions to prevent violent extremism.

5. The 3ʳᵈ Intercontinental Youth Forum

The 3ʳᵈ Intercontinental Youth Forum took place from 18-20 September 2019 at the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. 44 participants convened from 19 African countries, 11 European countries, and for the first time invited three participants from Middle Eastern countries.

Facts and Figures	
Total Applications Received	610
Total Selected	44
Men to Women Ratio	25:19
Old to New iDovers Ratio	13:31

The Forum focused on the rehabilitation and reintegration (R&R) of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) and other returnees in the context of PVE. For decades, so-called foreign fighters have been involved in armed conflict across the globe[10]. With the rise of the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, as well as Boko Haram and Al Shabaab in West and East Africa, governments are increasingly concerned. The concerns arise not only with their citizens travelling into conflict zones, but also the challenges of returning to their homes. This Forum explored the specific challenges of reintegrating FTFs, applying different perspectives including the interfaith approach to R&R, the gendered approach, the international law perspective, the role of CSOs and the community as well as the impact on the children of returnees.

Objectives

› Consider R&R in the light of the soft approach to PVE advocated by iDove.

› Develop concrete ideas and youth-led strategies aimed at R&R of young returnees in Africa, Europe and the Middle East.

› Engage and empower PVE youth leaders in Africa, Europe and the Middle East to create interregional frameworks to foster social cohesion in their communities.

› Facilitate connections between iDovers to exchange ideas, learn from one another and develop joint projects.

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10 OSCE. (2018). Guidelines for Addressing the Threats and Challenges of "Foreign Terrorist Fighters" within a Human Rights Framework. Retrieved from www.osce.org/odihr

Experts from the African Center for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), Berghof Foundation, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, academicians, and a movie producer shared their expertise with the iDovers. Experts and iDovers of the three regions shared insights and identified best practices. They discussed the rehabilitation and reintegration of FTFs based on three levels: 1) policy level 2) community level 3) the individual and family level.

This Forum also included a project management workshop to equip participants with the necessary skills in 1) agile project management, 2) raising funds and mobilizing resources, 3) building and effectively using a network, and 4) creatively pitching projects and initiatives. As a result of this workshop, iDovers developed seven project proposals applying the acquired project management skills. They detailed the plans of the project from inception to execution and follow-up.

Outcomes

1. R&R approaches should follow a multidimensional approach including educational, societal, institutional, and psycho-social support aspects.

2. Most women who adhere to extremist ideologies and join extremist groups are motivated by family dynamics; joining their spouses, partners or family. They sometimes join out of frustration created by the country's patriarchal system and their economic and social marginalization. Extremists channel these frustrations and develop a narrative of radicalization as a means of empowering women.

3. The role of social stigma: the community lacks awareness and knowledge on how to reintegrate returnees. As a result, the community resorts to discriminating and stigmatizing returnees.

4. Local communities and CSO play a crucial role in the R&R of former extremists. Their involvement is essential in providing support and services such as psychosocial support and trauma counseling.

5. There are many challenges in the communities' responses, however holistic approaches of reintegrating ex-combatants into society can be successful.

6. Case study: Somalia's R&R programs were discussed. Rehabilitation programs include education, vocational and skills training, psychosocial support, and trauma counseling. These activities aim to prepare the returnee to reintegrate and become a contributing member of society. However, community acceptance remains a challenge.

7. iDovers developed seven projects using the project management skills developed during the workshop.

6. The 1st iDove Intercontinental Youth Forum in Southeast Asia

The key partners AUC-CIDO and GIZ forged partnerships with the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers and the Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN) to organize the 1st iDove Intercontinental Youth Forum in Southeast Asia. The Forum took place in Jakarta, Indonesia from 4-6 December 2019. with participants from ASEAN countries, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. This Forum, as the first of its kind to take place in Asia, served as a pilot to identify the current landscape of violent extremism and the work being done in preventing violent extremism in South East Asia. Similar to the 1st iDove Intercontinental Youth Forum in 2017, the participants were probed about their knowledge on preventing violent extremism and peacebuilding. They gained insights on the different types of extremism (i.e. religious, political, and ethnic) and developed a better understanding of the current global challenges.

Objectives

The Forum aimed to bring together youth, draw attention to the different types of extremism in the region i.e. political, ethnic, ideological and religious, to understand the challenges, to identify the gaps and to come up with innovative social cohesion solutions that resonate with the youth in that region.

›   Understand violent extremism, root causes and PVE trends in the region.

›   Develop youth-led approaches to PVE.

›   Develop concepts and mechanisms to support small scale youth led projects to be implemented in Asia.

›   Establish a platform for partnership with the existing regions under the iDove umbrella to help iDovers exchange knowledge, ideas, and develop synergies.

Four experts in the field of PVE discussed various aspects summarized as follows: (1) Ms. Ruby Kolifah (AMAN) discussed the gender dimensions of PVE in Indonesia: women are victims, but also perpetrators of violence; (2) Venerable Napan, a Buddhist monk from Thailand, discussed the use of media in influencing society and youth in particular and how media can function as a conduit for PVE; (3) a speaker gave a testimonial to share a personal account of experiences as a former Christian religious leader combatting Muslims, and his transition into becoming a community unifier and advocate for interreligious unity. Through the various presentations, the youth were encouraged to identify innovative solutions and concepts, as well as potential small-scale projects that are novel and transformative. The projects were;

(1)   Peace promotion through cohesive communication culture in Myanmar
(2)   HerStory; gender perspectives in PVE
(3)   ToT for youth in interfaith harmony
(4)   The 3-P's Project; People, Peace, Prosperity in Myanmar and the Philippines
(5)   YIPA; for at-risk youth in South East Asia

Additionally, this Forum proved to be an opportunity for existing iDovers to share experiences through cross-continental collaboration. This provided a platform to discuss PVE trends, specifically through the religious, gender, psychological and youth perspectives, and explore the gaps, challenges and opportunities for collaboration with Asia. iDovers served as role models invigorating the participants to continue pursuing their endeavors in the field of PVE and provided them with advisory support from their respective experiences.

Highlights

1. When exploring the push and pull factors, aside from acknowledging the economic, social and educational backgrounds, it was noted that other deeper factors can contribute to radicalization, such as youth's sense of alienation, exclusion and marginalization.

2. Gender is one of several important aspects to consider when looking at drivers of violent extremism, such as societal factors, intergenerational gaps, foreign interferences and neocolonialism.

3. iDovers developed five innovative small-scale projects in the area of PVE tapping into technology, addressing the role of gender, and providing peacebuilding solutions.

iDove's Online Presence

The current advances in technology and the development of social media networks have changed the communication landscape over the last years. Due to social media innovations like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, iDove is able to expand its outreach, connect and interact with people from all over the world. iDove's vision and messages can be easily disseminated, experiences can be shared and discussions and ideas can be fostered. Currently, iDove established a prominent online presence with five social media handles on five separate outlets: Facebook (@iDove00), Twitter (iDove00), Instagram (iDove0), LinkedIn (iDove) and YouTube under the hash tag *#YouthAgainstExtremism*

Communications Objectives and Goals

1. Promote ongoing exchange and communication among iDovers from Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Asia allowing them to exchange insights, learn from one another and develop joint projects;

2. Foster the existing discursive nature of iDove allowing for continuous discussions with all stakeholders;

3. Enhance the image of iDove by raising awareness and spreading the initiative's message, approach and objectives.

The platforms feature the work of iDovers, provide up to date information on their most recent endeavors. The primary users are youth who are the key stakeholders of the iDove initiative. Their participation is paramount in promoting ongoing online discussions and collaboration with and between the youth for jointly developing innovative solutions. Since its inception, iDove has been distinguishable for its emphasis on the transfer of knowledge, exchange of ideas, sharing of experiences and intercontinental collaboration.

Social Media Followings	
Facebook	1622
Twitter	409
Instagram	187
Linkedin	103

Prospects

› Establishment of an independent website under a new domain - a website that will host all iDove activities and feature information on the initiative. The platform will allow iDovers to create and manage their profiles, interact with other iDovers and jointly come up with possible projects and initiatives.

› Creation of a mobile application to accompany the website.

› Launch of the Africa Cross Border Messaging Program - providing grants to iDovers working in East and Central Africa to implement communications campaigns inspired by the #CoolImam idea formulated in the 2nd Youth Forum *(please refer to the above section 1.4)*

›*Conclusions*

The activities taking place under the iDove umbrella can be grouped under the 3 components below:

1. **The Intercontinental Youth Forums;** These annual Forums are a central element of iDove. By the end of 2019, four Forums took place, three of them in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia. The 1st Forum in 2017 explored religious and right-wing extremism; the 2nd Forum in 2018 focused on PVE in ungoverned spaces i.e. border regions and marginalized areas; and the 3rd Forum in 2019 discussed rehabilitation and reintegration of foreign terrorist fighters in the context of PVE. Additionally, the iDove Youth Forum took place for the first time in Southeast Asia, with the participation of youth from the ASEAN countries, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to identify trends in PVE in the Southeast Asian region. Following a competitive application process, an average of 40 young leaders from Africa, Europe, the Middle East*, and Asia participated in each of the Forums. iDovers identify themselves as community workers, policy makers, scholars and creatives.

2. **Small-Scale Projects;** iDovers received funding to implement 4 small-scale projects. This has enabled iDovers to apply the learnings of the Forums and trainings in their communities.

3. **Training of Trainers (ToT) and Trainings;** iDovers and PVE experts developed a ToT manual to help spread the iDove methodology for youth capacity building for PVE. As of 2019, four ToT took place in Africa and Europe, and four trainings took place in Africa.

The years of 2017-2019 marked a formation and consolidation phase of the iDove approach, focussing on Africa and Europe. For the first time in 2019, the annual iDove Intercontinental Youth Forum granted the opportunity for youth from the Middle East to take part in the forum. This was a first step to regionally expand the scope of iDove and react to the needs and interest of other regions around the globe. In 2019, iDove further expanded its regional scope to Southeast Asia, in collaboration with the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers.

The year 2019 demonstrated that iDove shows the potential and maturity to further expand its regional scope, while strengthening its core components to become a global initiative with an ever-growing network of young peacebuilders.

Through its different activities, iDove has helped demonstrate the following points:

› Youth are central agents of change within their communities and beyond. iDove supports the youth to engage in mutual exchange and learning, allowing them to further develop their capacities and become better geared towards (1) tackling violent extremism within their own communities; (2) raising awareness of the imminent threat of violent extremism; (3) mobilizing the necessary factions of society (religious leaders, decision makers and youth) to join in the prevention of extremism. iDove acknowledges the need to give youth agency. This includes creating space for youth to lead, innovate, learn and implement. iDove has not only provided support to the youth in terms of capacity building but remains a youth-led and youth-implemented program, which can be outlined as the main cause for its success.

› The positive potential of religion in general as well as religious leaders, communities and youth groups to prevent violent extremism needs to be systematically considered. Religious leaders are important partners in PVE approaches especially in remote areas. iDove has established and keeps showing the important role religion plays in the field of PVE. It fosters multireligious cooperation, mutual respect and understanding. Religion can be used as a means of raising awareness of the imminent threat of violent extremism, developing scripture-based counter narratives, building resilient communities by uniting the people and encouraging them to act. Religion promotes respect and acceptance of other ethnic and religious backgrounds.

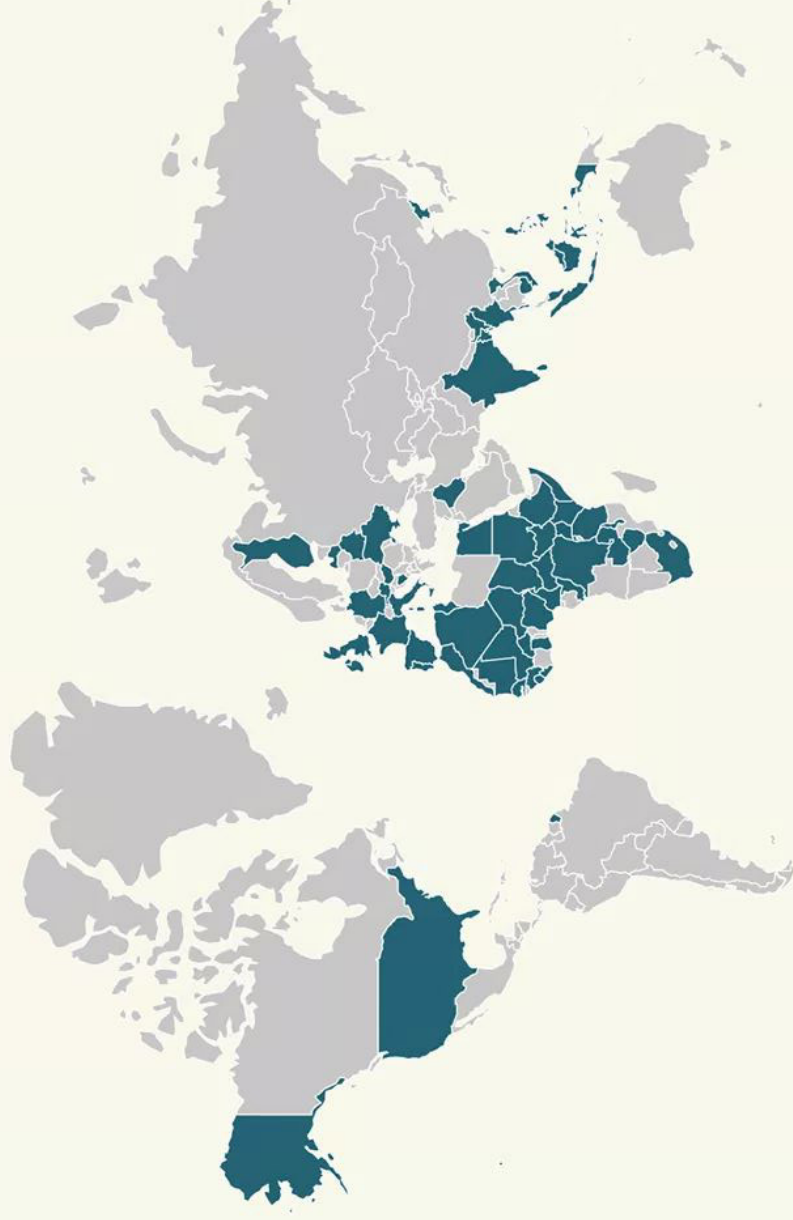* Middle East iDovers joined in 2019. A few iDovers came from North America, namely Canada & the USA.

› Dialogue facilitates discussions, creates a safe space to unearth deep-rooted grievances and brings together people to develop contemporary and innovative solutions to prevent violent extremism. Overall, a deeper understanding of violent extremism and a heightened sense of urgency to tackle the challenge is critical. The different ways in which violent extremism manifests, its deleterious impacts on the political, economic, and social order, as well as effects on the well-being of communities, families, and the individual must be addressed. iDove was able to support holistic initiatives that target all stakeholders within society by engaging in intercultural, intra- and interreligious activities. This contributes to build social cohesion and to strengthen resilience against violent extremism.

› Building cohesive communities in order to strengthen resilience against violent extremisms is central. Violent extremism thrives in ungoverned and marginalized spaces. The absence of authorities and/or a functioning state often lead to socio-economic and/or political grievances. Violent extremist groups tend to target vulnerable individuals and seemingly present an alternative path. The main preventive measure to circumvent the growth of radicalization is to strengthen social cohesion and to build resilient societies. This can be initiated through the building and nurturing of positive social identities implemented by influential members within the communities who have strong ties within the society; to the youth and to children in general and vulnerable individuals in particular.

› Gender-sensitive and gender-responsive approaches are essential in preventing violent extremism. A gendered approach to PVE is a prerequisite for the design and implementation of PVE tools. Evidence shows that women of different faiths and backgrounds continue to voluntarily take active roles in extremist groups. Such roles include being recruiters, funders, military logistical officers, and facilitators of terrorist acts. A holistic gendered approach that understands the gender-specific motivations and power dynamics is crucial for PVE, peace building, and for creating cohesive resilient communities.

› Building a strong interdisciplinary, interreligious and intercontinental network is core to strengthen and scale up individual initiatives as well as to develop innovative approaches to PVE.

› Violent extremist groups efficiently use new technologies to recruit youth. Therefore, the same technologies are necessary to establish counternarratives and prevent recruitment. Technology has allowed for innovative solutions to tackle and prevent violent extremism. Online platforms allow to develop social media campaigns to counter hate speech and promote alternative narratives, disseminate verified information and safeguard social cohesion.

Glossary of Terms

*Explanatory note: For some of the terms and concepts defined below, there is no universally accepted definition or a standard use of the terms, which often creates room for misconceptions. Below are the terms defined for the purpose of this report.

AGENDA 2030	The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was launched by a UN Summit in New York on 25-27 September 2015 and is aimed at ending poverty in all its forms. The UN 2030 Agenda envisages "a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination".
AGENDA 2063	Agenda 2063-The Africa We Want is the African Union agenda and a strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the continent over the next 50 years. It builds on and seeks to accelerate the implementation of past and existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development.
COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM	Measures to end violent extremism through a top-down approach that can include military intervention. CVE aims to develop strategies that target individuals already taking part in extremist acts and groups.
DISENGAGEMENT/ DISENGAGED	Process, whereby an individual gives up active participation in a radical extremist group or activity. This process of change does not necessarily mean that this person has given up on their political or ideological views.
iDOVERS	iDovers is a term used to describe the youth who have taken part in the initiative.
iDOVE TRAINING	A two-day workshop in which those who wish to prevent violent extremism in their communities are provided with tools and confidence to start this process.
iDOVE TRAINING OF TRAINERS (ToT)	Four-day workshop that teaches experienced trainers how to deliver the iDove Training. The ToT assumes that the prospective trainers have some previous experience in delivering trainings and background in PVE.
PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM	An approach that aims to tackle violent extremism and the threat it conveys by addressing the root causes/antecedents and motivations through non-coercive approaches. This approach addresses how violent extremism can be prevented in the first place.
RADICALISATION	The process of adopting radical/extremist ideologies and beliefs on political, social, and religious issues that can lead to violent extremism. Radicalization may be violent or non-violent.

iDovers from from around the world