CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
Policy Brief

Mitigating the Impact of Violent Extremism and Building Community Resilience:
Evaluating Cooperation between Actors in the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding Nexus.
(Region or Country Case study)

Issuance date: 11 November 2024.

Application Deadline and Instructions: Applications must be received by 6th January 2025.
All applications must be submitted electronically to recapsecretariat@wanep.org with, in the subject line "PB – Mitigating the Impact".

1. Introduction

The Research and Action for Peace (REcAP) project, funded by the European Union, is implemented by the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in [1]. The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the role of civil society, including regional, national, and community practitioners and researchers in effective peacebuilding, crisis management, and prevention of conflict and violent extremism in West Africa and the Lake Chad Basin to enable more informed decision making by policymakers. The present call is administrated jointly by WANEP, SIPRI, and DRC.

2. Rationale

WANEP, DRC and SIPRI are soliciting applications from Members of the REcAP Network to produce a policy brief on **Mitigating the Impact of Violent Extremism and Building Community Resilience: Evaluating Cooperation between Actors in the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding Nexus. (Region or Country Case study).**

The policy briefs aim to improve practices and policies to prevent conflict, violent extremism, and peacebuilding in West Africa and the Lake Chad Basin. Selected researcher(s) are expected to produce high-quality policy briefs based on desk research to identify and address, among others, the policy gaps and challenges on the chosen theme/topic with actionable recommendations to international, regional, and national policymakers.

2.1 Background

In this context, the study will thoroughly assess how actors involved in the Humanitarian Development-Peacebuilding network are cooperating or can cooperate to mitigate the impact of violent extremism at the local level, with particular attention towards the involvement and resilience of the communities concerned.

The definition of violent extremism continues to evolve and remains highly subjective and susceptible to politicisation. Within the REcAP framework, violent extremism is considered the "interpretation of

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[1] ECOWAS countries and Cameroon, Chad and Mauritania.

religious ideology to justify the use of violence to achieve specific socio-political aims"[2], keeping in mind that its drivers are complex and intersecting. They often stem from grievances within individuals, communities, or societies related to the lack of socioeconomic opportunities, marginalisation and discrimination, poor governance, violations of human rights, prolonged and unresolved conflicts, or radicalization in prisons.[3]

The focus is to be put on the actors of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus, as their complementarity is now underlined to tackle conflicts. Indeed, it is considered necessary that humanitarian and development actors should work together for more effective aid and development in crises and conflict contexts to "bridge the gaps" in conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts.[4]
Moreover, while humanitarian needs are rising rapidly in conflicted areas, humanitarian funding is becoming increasingly constrained, underscoring the need for complementary development assistance in crisis contexts.
This assistance can take the form of development interventions by dedicated actors or complementary resilience building.[5] These interlinkages imply "improved coordination, coherence and complementarity" but also "shared understanding of the root causes of crises and conflicts, shared targets goals, with the aim to reduce needs, risks and vulnerabilities and to prevent crises and conflicts".[6]

In this network of actors and intertwined initiatives, community resilience should not be considered as "a default middle-of-the-road option, situated between top-down state interventions and individual radicalisation prevention program"[7]. In the context of violent extremism, communities are, for example, considered as being able to play a unique role in protecting young people from radical influences and in tackling the grievances that may give rise to radicalisation.[8]
The "community resilience" approach focuses on the features and characteristics of communities that, it is suggested, prevent their members from being drawn into extremism. Humanitarian, development, and peace actors can help and sustain the quality of relationships and social connections through dialogue and social cohesion initiatives and actions that help reduce the vulnerabilities leading to recruitment.

2.2 Objectives of the consultancy

More specifically, the objectives of this policy brief are as follows:

- Select a region or a country for this case study (according to RECaP scope of study)
- Describe the HDP actors involved in the prevention of violent extremism at the local and community level and asses the programmes, actions developed as well as the specific relations tied with communities.
- Identify and explain the communities' specific needs in the prevention and mitigation of violent extremism.
- Provide practical recommendations to further support HDP coordination and impact at the local level.

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[2] Striegher, J-L., (2015) Violent Extremism: An examination of a definitional dilemma, Australian Security and Intelligence Conference.

[3] Saraiva, R.,Erfe, A. (2023). Preventing violent extremism with resilience, adaptative peacebuilding, and community-embedded approaches. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, vol.61,9p.
[4] SIDA, "Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus", Guidance note for SIDA, 2020.
[5] Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Force 4, "Mapping Good Practice in the Implementation of Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Approaches", Synthesis report, September 2024.
[6] [6] SIDA, "Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus", Guidance note for SIDA, 2020.
[7] USIP, "Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism: Assessing Missteps and Promising Community Approaches", The USIP Learning Agenda: An Evidence Review, March 2023.
[8] Stephens, W., Sieckelinck, S., & Boutellier, H. (2019). Preventing Violent Extremism: A Review of the Literature. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, *44*(4), 346–361.

The policy brief's findings and recommendations should contribute to understanding of the shortcomings and provide concrete and evidence-based recommendations to stakeholders to address the highlighted challenges.

This policy brief will be presented by its author during a online REcAP Meet'Up with members of the network and interested researchers and institute after its publication.

3. Scope of work and methodology

The researcher(s) or institution should clarify their research question, methodology, geographical scope and work plan in their proposal, indicating how the objectives of the research and policy brief will be achieved.

The researcher(s) will be responsible for the implementation of all stages of the study, from the design of the methodology to the drafting of the final report, including document review and data collection in the field. The researcher(s) will apply the highest standards of rigour, quality and professionalism.

The researcher(s) will carry out the following tasks:

- Carry out a **literature review** based on existing documentation (scientific and academic literature, NGO and institutions reports) to provide a summary of current knowledge on the subject.
- Conduct **key informant interviews with main stakeholders**, especially representatives of international, regional and local organisations in contact with impacted populations, as well as local, regional and national authorities.
- Drawing up a **preliminary preparatory report** highlighting: the definition of the subject of the study; the research and data collection methodology to be used in the field; the methodological approach to data processing and analysis adopted; the findings and conclusions of the literature review.
- **Write the first draft of the Policy brief** based on the analysis of the desk review.
- **Write the final draft of the Policy brief** including comments received from the REcAP Scientific Committee and EU FPI.
- Produce a high-quality policy brief as a resource or tool for advocacy and policy discourse.

If travel is required, the researcher(s) or institution will be responsible to arrange transportation, accommodation, insurance, securing proper visas and research authorizations for their research activities and to make adequate provision in the Financial Proposal. The researcher(s) or institution is also responsible for any staff or sub-consultant they may engage as part of this mission. The final research product is subject to REcAP's internal review and editing process, and the researcher(s) or institution will resolve all necessary revisions within the scope of the contract.

Based on a request from the REcAP Project Secretariat, and conditional on the final product not revealing information that can put anyone or an organization in danger, the researcher(s) or institution might present a briefing of the findings for the public with a focus on targeting practitioners in the field, policymakers, and financial and technical partners.

4. Expected deliverables & timeline

The researcher(s) will be expected to deliver to the Project Secretariat:

- A policy brief on the selected topic in English or French.
- The policy brief should be approximately **three thousand words (3,000),** excluding the cover page, the executive summary, the table of content, and references (single spacing using Calibri 12).

- The researcher(s) will provide the deliverables by e-mail to the to the Publication Team (marie.riquier@sipri.org).
- The researcher(s) might be invited to a virtual meeting with REcAP's Scientific Committee to discuss the contents, including policy claims and positions, intellectual arguments, and any other issues.

Expected deliverables	Indicative description	Maximum expected timeframe
Draft Policy Brief	Desk research, work meetings and analysis. The draft Policy Brief embedded with in-depth situation analysis, key findings and action-oriented recommendations is presented to the REcAP Scientific Committee. The researcher might be invited to a virtual meeting with REcAP's Scientific Committee and the EU FPI to discuss the findings.	15 working days
Comments	*Comments & feedback from the Scientific Committee and/or the EU FPI*	*7 working days*
Final Policy Brief	Final version taking into consideration comments & feedbacks from the Scientific Committee and/or the EU FPI	7 working days

5. Duration of Assignment and payment schedule

- The assignment is expected to last one month (20 working days) from the contract signature date.
- The payment will be made in one instalment upon approval by the Scientific Committee of the final version of the deliverable.
- The maximum budget available per policy brief is two thousand euros (2,000 EUR).

6. Qualifications

Interested researcher(s) are expected to have the following qualifications:

- Be a member or an aspirant member of the REcAP Network. Members of the REcAP's Scientific Committee cannot apply. However, other researchers from their respective organisations can apply.
- Have a Master's degree or PhD in a relevant field.
- Have research experience in the selected themes/topics.
- Excellent command of French (spoken, read, and written) or English (spoken, read, and written). Working knowledge of the other one. Knowledge of Portuguese is considered an advantage.

7. Application

Interested researcher(s) should submit the following documents to the REcAP Project Secretariat (recapsecretariat@wanep.org) **before 23.59 GMT on 6th January, 2025.**

- One page statement of Interest presenting an interesting and innovative angle to approach the theme.
- A CV with an updated list of publications.
- Two examples of policy briefs or similar documents published.

Only those shortlisted will be contacted.

8. Evaluation criteria for research proposals

The following criteria will be used by the Scientific committee to evaluate research proposals:

No.	Criteria	Max. Score
1	**Education:** Master's degree or PhD in a relevant field;	**10**
2	**Languages:** Excellent command of French (spoken, read, and written) or English (spoken, read, and written). Working knowledge of the other one. Knowledge of Portuguese is considered as an advantage.	**10**
3	**Research Experience:** At least 3 years of research. Familiarity and knowledge of the selected topic/theme as well as evidence of previous research experience in the selected theme/topic	**20**
4	**Relevance technical narrative proposal:** Does the research proposal address the objective of the research? Are the research objectives and research questions well-constructed and easily understood? Do they align with the research problem?	**25**
5	**Methodology:** Technical soundness and quality of the proposed methodology including understanding of the assignment and innovativeness of the approach to undertake it.	**25**
6	**Overall quality of proposal:** the degree to which the proposal complies with the application guidelines and is of high quality (table of contents, organization, pagination, margin and font size, ideas effectively presented, referencing, well prepared vitae etc.)	**10**