

Building Resilience in Civil Society (BRICS)

Call for Concepts

Initiatives to support positive influences to strengthen community resilience to violent extremism in Kenya

The BRICS programme is requesting Concepts from organisations or partnerships that have the capacity, legitimacy and relationships to help support positive influences to strengthen community resilience to violent extremism in Kenya. The deadline for submission is **04 Nov 2016**.

1. Introduction

In September 2016, H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta launched the National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism (NSCVE). The strategy sets out an ambitious, multi-agency, multi-disciplinary approach to countering the threat of violent extremism (VE) at both the national and local levels throughout Kenya. It emphasises the need to engage a broad section of Kenyan stakeholders to deliver CVE related outcomes and refers to a number of experiences, perceptions and narratives that provide entry points for violent extremism. The NSCVE points to the need to develop a range of efforts involving research, psychosocial, media, technological, faith-based and educational approaches in order to effectively reduce opportunities for recruitment into VE.

This Call for Concepts seeks to identify, support and strengthen collaborative initiatives at the community level. Of particular interest is **to understand more about the types and effects of positive and negative influences interacting with young people, and in which contexts. This Call for Concepts seeks to understand which positive influences exist at the community level that could be supported or further strengthened to effectively reduce the risk of, support for, or recruitment into VE causes.**

2. Areas for consideration

Initial findings¹ suggest that a range of factors or influences may contribute to strengthening community resilience. These include the importance of leadership (frequently religious leadership), strong social and economic networks which include young people, effective communication loops within the community - and to some extent, contact with alternative pro-social ideas and narratives².

This Call is open to a wide range of potential entry points³, some of which are offered below for consideration. However, applicants should not consider themselves limited to the following:

¹ Draft Community Resilience to Violent Extremism report USIP

² PACCS *Countering violent extremism through media and communication strategies; a review of the evidence* Dr Kate Ferguson 1 March 2016; and Professor Michele Grossman, Victoria University, Melbourne, speaking at Rift Valley Institute seminar on CVE and Community Resilience 31 May 2016

³ Readers are asked to note that a Call for Concepts (CFC) on the role of security forces has previously been issued and thus concepts involving engagement with security forces do not form part of this CFC.

- Strengthening co-operative, multi-stakeholder leadership structures or mechanisms involving county and sub-county security structures and county governments.
- Strengthening the role of (customary) elders and their engagement with young people.
- Strengthening the role of leaders and narratives which hold particular appeal to groups of young people.
- Strengthening relations between and within religious leaders, their groups and/or institutions which create opportunities for broadening dialogue and understanding.
- Strengthening the role of education institutions in fostering social conditions where ideas can thrive and be challenged by young people.
- Strengthening the role of media in shaping public discourse, attitudes and perceptions, promoting narrative, changing collective beliefs, dispelling misinformation, providing early warning of increased risk of VE, and facilitating contacts between groups, and interactions between leaders and intended audiences.
- Developing and offering viable short term and long term alternatives to those considering recruitment into VE causes.

3. About BRICS

BRICS East Africa is a pilot programme within the Conflict, Security and Stability Fund (CSSF) aimed at helping the UK Government and host governments understand and respond to the challenges of CVE faced in East Africa. BRICS tackles the drivers of extremism by building the capacity of multilateral and other partners (including civil society, community and private sector actors) in countering extremism. BRICS increases the capability of local stakeholders to respond to the emerging threats of VE while encouraging closer cooperation between government and non-government actors in a way that builds resilience. As part of this, the programme will 1) develop evidence-driven approaches, 2) initiate pilot projects to help better understand the changing context, and 3) scale up initiatives that demonstrate the ability to respond effectively to threats and community needs.

4. Definitions

To aid organisations prepare their responses to this call, we encourage applicants to use the following definitions as stipulated in the NSCVE:

Violent Extremism – refers to radicalised individuals who are prepared to engage in, or actively support, acts of violence in furtherance of radically illiberal, undemocratic political systems or ideologies⁴.

Countering Violent Extremism – is the employment of non-coercive means to delegitimise violent extremist ideologies and thus reduce the number of terrorist group supporters and recruits⁵.

⁴ Government of Kenya National Strategy to counter violent extremism September 2016

⁵ Government of Kenya National Strategy to counter violent extremism September 2016

Resilience – The capability of people, groups and communities to rebut and reject proponents of terrorism and the ideology they promote⁶.

Positive Influences – ideas, narratives, and initiatives and the groups, institutions, individuals, and leaders able to exert constructive influences within communities or groups of people which aid in strengthening community level resilience to VE.

5. Expectations for the concept

The written concept must address the following expectations:

- **Identify ‘at risk’ or target groups for programme implementation.** BRICS will prioritise concepts that specifically identify groups that could be considered ‘at risk’ to VE by means of exposure to ideology, recruitment, and narratives or vulnerable to VE groups driven by economic or socio-political reasons. BRICS requires that the applicant be specific as possible for the targeted groups, reasons the group is at risk and the group’s context in the area.
- **Propose a specific geographic focus area.** BRICS would like the grantee to propose a specific geographic area for their activities and a justification for that area. Consideration may include areas where communities have developed their own ways of responding to threats of violence; areas which have recently experienced VE incidents; areas which are prioritised by the government of Kenya for focus on countering VE; areas where local initiatives appear to be showing success in CVE.
- **Demonstrate deep knowledge of the local context and the problem that the activity will respond to.** In line with the NSCVE approach, initiatives need to be demand-responsive, evidence-driven, non-dogmatic, and built on knowledge that is locally relevant. Applicants must demonstrate their knowledge of the local context and of the dynamics which would affect the success or failure of the initiative, and and if relevant, what research methodology will be developed to improve understanding of the problem. Specifically, the concept note must clearly set out the nature of the local VE-related problem that it is responding to, and how success will be evidenced and measured.
- **Demonstrate legitimacy to work in the proposed area.** Applicants should demonstrate how their organisation is able to work effectively and legitimately in the proposed area. In particular, the applicant should emphasise the strength of their relations with stakeholders such as community leadership structures, county government, security agencies and local citizens.
- **Demonstrate ability to compliment existing initiatives.** The applicant must demonstrate a sound understanding of existing or planned initiatives taking place within the proposed area (including activities led by other donors, NGOs, civil society actors, GoK etc), and how the proposed activity will complement these.
- **Demonstrate management of risk.** The applicant must articulate clearly the nature of the risks involved in the delivery of the proposed activities within the local context, and how

⁶ *STRIVE for Development: Strengthening Resilience to Violence and Extremism*, European Commission/Royal United Services Institute, 2015, p.54.

these are to be managed. This should include not only security risk to the organisation and staff but also the political and socio-economic risks to the stakeholders.

- **Demonstrate capacity to engage and work with informal community structures.** Potential partners might envisage helping deliver change by working through informal, or non-traditional institutions. How would an effective community-based programme engage with these informal systems? Why?
- **Demonstrate innovation and creativity.** What might be some innovative or creative ways of developing engagement between stakeholders? How could bridge-building and collective action with, for example, local leaders or the private sector, best deliver improved results?
- **Demonstrate capacity as an organisation.** Briefly explain the ability of the applicant to deliver change in the targeted communities as an organisation or partnership. Organisations would be expected to demonstrate the following:
 - Project, finance & budget management
 - Monitoring, evaluation and learning
 - Networking, collaboration and learning opportunities
 - Capacity development.

6. Eligibility to apply

BRICS is looking for new ideas, great partners and the potential to help support initiatives with high potential. We encourage applications from a wide range of possible partners; community based organisations, religious organisations, NGOs, local security agencies, civil society, and informal institutions.

We ask that all applicants be realistic about their ambitions and the likely results to be achieved, and to be flexible in the concepts they submit.

7. Selection process

- 1) Following review of concepts and initial shortlisting, BRICS will invite a number of applicants to a detailed follow up discussion,
- 2) BRICS will then work with selected applicants to develop their concept into a detailed proposal and work plan.

8. Submission of Concepts

- Length: Please answer the above criteria **in no more than 4 pages of A4.**
- Submission to BRICS no later than: **04 Nov 16.**
- Anticipated Start Date: **09 Jan 17**
- Timeframe for proposed activities: 6-12 months.

Budget ceiling:

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|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Seed Project | 10,000 GBP / Capped |
| 2) Intermediate concept | 36,000 GBP / Capped |
| 3) Mature concept | 60,000 GBP / Capped |

BRICS East Africa

Building Resilience in Civil Society for Countering Violent Extremism in East Africa

Please submit all Concepts to: Info_BRICS@dai.com