



PROGRESS UPDATE: AUGUST

# EMPOWERED WOMEN, PEACEFUL COMMUNITIES REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC 2017-2018






## Our Programme

With the generous support of the Government of Japan, UN Women is implementing the programme “Women for Peace and Social Cohesion” aimed at preventing violent extremism and building resilient societies.

## Where we work:

Regionally, promoting South-South knowledge exchange and cooperation

-  Focus Countries
-  Medium engagement
-  Engagement

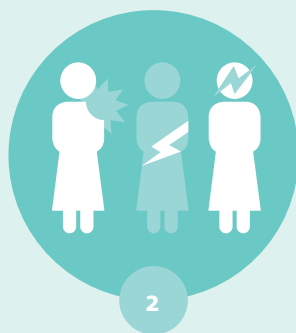


## WHY FOCUS ON WOMEN?

Women play key roles in violent extremism and its prevention:



Perpetrators,  
sympathizers,  
mobilizers



Survivors of violence,  
restrictions on women's  
rights



Preventers, peace  
activists, community  
leaders

## THEORY OF CHANGE



Empowerment  
of women



Social cohesion /  
peaceful communities



Preventing violent  
extremism

## WE ARE WORKING IN FOUR KEY AREAS:



Empowerment  
of women



Policy  
influence



Research



Knowledge  
exchange

# Focus on Bangladesh

UN Women is implementing the programme “Women for Peace and Social Cohesion”.



## Empowerment

Promote women’s leadership and economic empowerment to build social cohesion and strengthen resilience at the community level

- Supporting women’s financial inclusion and business development; mobilizing women through community action groups; and leadership training for community leaders, facilitating linkages with the Women’s Development Forum.
- Implementation in **85 unions in 6 districts**: Dinajpur, Joypurhat, Jessore, Shatkhira, Cox’s Bazar and Moulvibazar.
- **1200 beneficiaries**, focusing on female-headed households and women in vulnerable situations.
- Implementing partner: BRAC

### IMPLEMENTATION SITES



1. Dinajpur
2. Maulvibazar
3. Joypurhat
4. Jessore
5. Sathkira
6. Cox’s Bazar



## Policy Influence

Women’s groups contribute to the development of gender responsive policies to counter radicalization

- Consultations organized with women’s civil society groups across **21 districts, 7 divisions and national level** to inform development of Bangladesh’s National Action Plan on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325. (partner: BNPS)
- Curriculum being developed to train women and community leaders on social cohesion and deradicalization. This will be rolled out across Bangladesh. (partner: BNPS)
- Technical support on the National Action Plan on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 provided to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



## Research

Expand and deepen a data-driven evidence base on the drivers of extremist violence by sex and its impact on women and girls

- Research on the impact of violent extremism on women and girls, including changes in dress codes and whether this is linked to rising levels of extremism; the role of secondary education in fueling extremist violence; and the role of female teachers in prevention efforts. (partners: Bangladesh Enterprise Institute [BEI] and BNPS)
- As part of the broader regional and cross country analysis, research on the gendered differences in support, participation and perception of terrorist and violent extremist groups; and ways in which women and women’s groups are working towards preventing and countering violent extremism. (partner: Monash University)



## Knowledge Exchange

Facilitate south-south cooperation among Muslim majority countries

- Dialogues with key stakeholders including women’s

groups in Bangladesh and the region, government and UN partners to discuss the rise of violent extremism, its impact on women and girls, and the development of gender sensitive policies and strategies.

# Focus on Indonesia

UN Women is implementing the programme “Empowered Women, Peaceful Communities”.



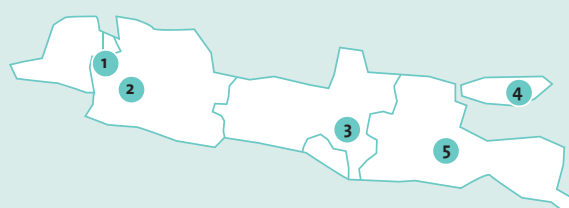
## Empowerment

Promote women’s leadership and economic empowerment to build social cohesion and strengthen resilience at the community level

- Support to **saving-loan schemes and women’s business development** through women’s cooperative groups (Koperasi Cinta Damai) in 5 districts/ areas in Java: Bogor, Depok, Sumenep, Solo City, and Malang Regency
- Development of a model of **peace village (Kampung Damai)** that promotes social cohesion through economic empowerment will be rolled out in **4 villages**.
- **Women’s empowerment curriculum** being developed to be delivered to women’s cooperative groups. Includes 24 weekly sessions that address financial literacy, economic empowerment, women’s leadership and gender equality.

### IMPLEMENTATION SITES

#### Java Island



1. Depok  
2. Bogor

3. Solo  
4. Sumenep

5. Malang



## Policy Influence

Women’s groups contribute to the development of gender responsive policies to counter radicalization

- **Trainings for civil society** on the **national action plan on women, peace and security**.
- **Technical support to BNPT** on developing a gender sensitive national action plan on PVE.



## Research

Expand and deepen a data-driven evidence base on the drivers of extremist violence by sex and its impact on women and girls

- **National Survey** on the dynamics of women’s participation in radicalism and violent extremism in Indonesia being conducted
- **In-depth research** to understand the specific push and pull factors that lead to women to engage in extremist violence.



## Knowledge Exchange

Facilitate south-south cooperation among Muslim majority countries

- **Media communications tools** being developed on gender sensitive approaches to peace and pluralism that will be rolled out by civil society partners and women faith based organizations.
- **Dialogues with key stakeholders** including women’s groups in Indonesia and the region, government and UN partners to discuss the rise of violent extremism, its impact on women and girls, and the development of gender sensitive policies and strategies.

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## Focus on on the region



### Innovative research

- Tools to **mine data** on the use of gender roles by violent extremist groups to recruit and operate on the dark web
- **Regional exploration** of the differences between men and women in **support, participation and perception** of violent extremist groups



### Knowledge Exchange

#### UN Women supported / led events

- **22-23 September** – Conference on Peace and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia, in Manila, Philippines
- **25-29 September** – UN Women / CTED Regional Workshop on Engaging Communities in Approaches in Countering Violent Extremism and Incitement in Asia, in Bangkok, Thailand
- **8 October** – International Day of Peace Community Festival: Empowered Women, Peaceful Communities, with the President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo, in Sumenep, Indonesia
- **17 October** – Forum of Women Peacebuilders on Preventing Violent Extremism, in Jakarta, Indonesia
- **November (TBC)** – Global expert meeting on Transitional Justice in an Era of Violent Extremism, in Manila, Philippines
- **21-24 November** – Regional dialogue of women peace activists on using religion to negotiate with extremist elements, in Bangkok, Thailand
- **27-19 November** – Southeast Asian Regional Workshop on Preventing Violent Extremism National Action Plans, in Bangkok, Thailand
- **December (TBC)** – ASEAN-UN Cooperation on Women, Peace and Security – The Role of Women in the Prevention of Violent Extremism, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- **March 2018 (TBC)** – Launches of commissioned research in Bangkok, Dhaka and Jakarta



### Key partners

#### Civil society / academia

- Wahid Foundation
- BRAC
- BNPS
- BEI
- Monash University
- AMAN

#### Government / Intergovernmental

- **Bangladesh**
  - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
- **Indonesia**
  - Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection
  - Ministry of Social Protection
- **ASEAN**

#### UN Entities

- DPA
  - CTED
  - UNDP
  - UNODC
  - UNV
  - Digital Blue Helmets
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#WomenEmpower4Peace

