Greater Resilience through Enhanced Analysis in Tanzania

Quick Facts

1. Pilot activities in five at-risk communities will yield greater insight about local violent extremist dynamics.

2. The project will develop an analytical toolkit to provide insight into regional drivers and dynamics of violent extremism.

3. Participatory planning workshops allow local governments and communities to co-design interventions that draw on their expertise and resources.

As the influence of violent extremism spreads, Tanzania is harnessing its resilience to strengthen communities.

These challenges are rooted in marginalization and amplified by those who target at-risk individuals with promises of inclusion or prosperity. With limited data and an anecdotal understanding of local drivers of violent extremism, well-intentioned responses to date have not generated expected results. A new U.S. State Department-funded program will bring robust and tested analytical tools to assess these local drivers so that the government and communities can effectively respond to them.
Called the Greater Resilience through Enhanced Analysis in Tanzania, the two-year program is developing an analytical toolkit that provides insight into regional drivers and dynamics of violent extremism. It is based on the State Department’s Interagency Conflict Analysis Framework.

The program is comprised of four key components to capture lessons learned and integrate best practices into future iterations of the tool. They include: designing the assessment tool; conducting the field research; developing pilot activities to improve community resiliency; and evaluation of the results.

Solutions from local analysis

The heart of the approach is a three-phased diagnostic assessment that blends quantitative and qualitative data to generate a nuanced, in-depth analysis of trends and trajectories. It is designed to provide clear direction to support at-risk communities’ decision-making to foster greater resilience against VE through small-grant activities.

Creative Associates International will adapt the State Department’s Interagency Conflict Analysis Framework for Tanzania.

The program will apply participatory systems mapping techniques to understand if and how violent extremism dynamics and actors are interconnected, and identify potential positive and negative feedback loops that may influence pilot activities. Creative will adapt an appreciative inquiry model to examine each community’s local resiliencies.

Supporting resilience

With this essential analysis, local organizations working with vulnerable communities in Tanzania will be able to design evidence-based pilot activities to influence specific risk factors and build up native resilience in preventing violent extremism. Participatory planning workshops will allow local governments and community members to co-design interventions that draw upon their expertise and resources. The program provides grants to implement approved activities, which may include initiatives such as community-based training for mothers to identify warning signs of radicalization or community-led dialogues between marginalized constituencies and local government.

Pilot activities in four at-risk communities will yield greater insight about local violent extremist dynamics in Tanzania, and enable Creative and its partners to test the toolkit and introduce it in other contexts.

Whole-of-society approach

The program is designed to engage a broad ecosystem of stakeholders. The Tanzanian government, local leaders, civil society, faith leaders, and many others are all key partners in this initiative.

Its participatory and inclusive methods, from conducting analysis to implementing community projects to evaluating the results and planning for expansion, encourage a inclusive decision-making on the community level and promote ideas of empathy and human rights.

This approach, and the commitment to widely disseminate community-specific findings from the pilot, will enable local and national stakeholders to create more targeted, effective prevention efforts, while building more resilient communities that can stand against violent extremism.