

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

NEW REPORT LOOKS AT THE NEXUS BETWEEN COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND HUMAN SECURITY

A new report sheds light on efforts to counter violent extremism and whether actors have taken an overly securitized approach to such initiatives.

LINK TO REPORT

(New York, NY – March 12, 2020) A new report, by The Soufan Center and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, explores whether actors have taken an overly securitized approach to countering violent extremism. ‘The Nexus between Human Security and Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism,’ analyzes, in three case studies, P/CVE efforts and the ways in which they affect communities and practitioners on the ground.

The report focuses on Bosnia & Herzegovina, Niger, and Tunisia — three countries that have been targeted by the international community for counter-terrorism and (P/CVE) efforts. The report highlights key findings and challenges in recent approaches to countering violent extremism in these countries. The lack of publicly available data on P/CVE funding makes it difficult to track trends, including whether funds have been diverted from one sector to another and the quantitative and programmatic impact of such diversions.

Researchers found that there are poor-to-non-existent mechanisms for monitoring, assessment, and evaluation of both state and civil society initiatives in P/CVE. The report also found that many P/CVE funding initiatives to civil society groups went toward projects that focus on capacity-building or dialogue rather than tangible development, resulting in more time spent in training or discussions in a learning setting than in on-the-ground programs.

The report also found that international P/CVE funders have significant influence over local and national civil society organizations (CSOs) and projects in recipient countries, in some cases even driving CSOs to reconsider their priorities in order to attract donor funding. Some local CSOs were even seen to move away from their areas of expertise to secure lucrative P/CVE funding. At the same time, some NGOs embraced the opportunity to implement local programming funded by international donors for P/CVE initiatives.

The report concludes that P/CVE approaches are ultimately unlikely to succeed in the long term without addressing a range of structural factors — specifically political, economic and social drivers, including over-policing, the socio-economic exclusion of particular communities and groups based on ethnicity, race, gender or religion, and lack of economic opportunity — all of which create the sense of injustice on which violent extremism feeds. Researchers also underscored that international P/CVE efforts should view interventions as a long-term relationship rather than an operation to be deployed one time to solve a problem, often at the expense of local and national human development programs and work.

ABOUT THE SOUFAN CENTER (TSC)

Based in New York, [The Soufan Center](#) is a non-partisan strategy center dedicated to serving as a resource and forum for research, analysis and strategic dialogue related to global security issues and emergent threats. Please contact **Stephanie Foggett** with any media inquiries or interview requests: stephanie.foggett@thesoufancenter.org.

ABOUT ROCKEFELLER BROTHERS FUND (RBF)

The Rockefeller Brothers Fund advances social change that contributes to a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world.

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