COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) efforts aim to reduce the recruitment and radicalization of violent extremists in areas of critical U.S. national interest. CSO collaborates with the Bureau of Counterterrorism and CVE to provide research, analysis, and monitoring and evaluation of regional CVE programs. CSO identifies at-risk individuals, vulnerable communities, and CVE influencers. CSO products and field engagements make an impact on local and regional stabilization.

Balkans: Empowering Local Actors
CSO gathered over 175 CVE local and national stakeholders in the Western Balkans to address and devise solutions to CVE challenges. Linking local-level initiatives with national-level strategies, participants identified how to deal with ethno-nationalism, unofficial places of worship, online and prison radicalization, external malign influence in the region, and building research capacity. Through a micro-grants program, CSO will analyze project data documenting commonalities that lead to successful evidence-based policies and programs.

East Africa: Improving U.S. Government Efforts
CSO data-driven analysis has generated, informed, and improved evaluation of U.S. government CVE programs and policies across East Africa. In Djibouti, CSO helped develop and launch East Africa’s hub for CVE training, research, and coordination. In Tanzania, CSO influenced the U.S. government’s first CVE programs that built local NGO capacity and advanced discussion of the sensitive topic. In Kenya, CSO revamped an interagency coordination process that now serves as a model for CVE decision making in embassies throughout the region.

Global Planning and Advisory Missions
CSO advisors have collaborated with the Bureau of Counterterrorism and the interagency to advance CVE priorities in Bangladesh, Cameroon, Kazakhstan, North Macedonia, Malaysia, Philippines, Tajikistan, and Trinidad & Tobago. These missions have increased coordinated CVE programming within the U.S. government and enhanced attention to CVE by host governments. Following the mission, North Macedonia established a new Deputy for CVE and began the development of a national CVE strategy.

Embassy CVE Strategies
CSO staff have deployed to help devise comprehensive CVE strategies for embassies in Bangladesh and Malaysia. Embassies now have sustainable strategies, the impact of which can be evaluated going forward.