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Title: East Africa Collective Impact Evaluation of Countering Violent Extremism Programs

Within the field of conflict, security, and development, the impact of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) programming on strengthening and securing communities is not well understood. Although the use of rigorous data collection methods to measure the impact of single interventions is increasing, it is still rare to measure the strategic effects of a group of CVE interventions in a specific country or region.

To address this gap, the Department of State's Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO), in partnership with DevTech, is conducting a quasi-experimental impact evaluation (IE) to measure the overall impact of 18 CVE programs in Kenya and Tanzania under the Counterterrorism Partnership Fund (CTPF). The evaluation measures progress against identified CVE indicators that measure communities' risk for or resilience to violent extremist (VE) activity and recruiting, including measures of socio-economic inequality, religious and ethnic conflict, good governance, political freedom and participation, and social cohesion. This evaluation focuses on determining the overall strategic-level impact of the cumulative CTPF activities on the above indicators and identifying recommendations for future CVE programming in the region.

The evaluation methodology consists of a difference-in-differences (DID) impact evaluation with propensity score matching (PSM) to compare outcomes in counties receiving CVE assistance to statistically comparable counties not receiving assistance. The evaluation team is collecting quantitative data (household surveys) and qualitative data (key informant interviews and focus group discussions). The baseline data collection was completed in 2017, a qualitative midline was conducted in 2018, and endline data collection is scheduled for 2019. At the end of the evaluation, DevTech will analyze the rounds of survey data as a time-series panel dataset, using the DID+PSM approach to estimate impacts. This study will demonstrate the impact of CTPF programming by assessing the difference between the mean outcomes of the CVE indicators and other measures for the treatment group before and after the project, compared to the mean outcomes for the comparison group before and after the project. The study provides insight into methodologies appropriate for evaluating CVE programming as well as how current CVE interventions in Kenya and Tanzania are, or are not, producing desired results.