



# Denmark

## Contributions to Global Military and Civilian Efforts to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism/Terrorism

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### Introduction

This document provides an overview of Denmark's contributions to military and civilian lines of effort to prevent and counter violent extremism/terrorism through support to global engagements as well as regional and national efforts in the Middle East, Sahel/West Africa, the Horn of Africa and South/South East Asia. A number of capacity building partnerships are funded by the Government of Denmark's inter-ministerial Peace and Stabilisation Fund comprised of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Justice. The overview was most recently updated in June 2021.

### Global Engagements

As part of its engagement in the Global Counterterrorism Forum ([GCTF](#)), Denmark provides USD 2 million (2020-22) core support to the Global Community Engagement & Resilience Fund's ([GCERF](#)) work with grassroots organisations to prevent violent extremism in vulnerable communities in a number of partner countries including Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Tunisia, Bangladesh, Kenya and Somalia, where Denmark together with the EU represents the donor community on the Country Support Mechanism for Somalia. Together with the United States and France, Denmark is a founding partner of the Academic Unit within the International Institute for Justice & the Rule of Law ([the IIJ](#)), an international training institute in Malta established by the Global Counterterrorism Forum. To promote a human rights and rule of law-based criminal justice response to terrorism, the Academic Unit provides in-depth training courses to investigators, prosecutors, examining magistrates and judges from a number of partner countries on the African continent including Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. As in-kind contributions to the multilateral counter-terrorism architecture, Denmark seconds experts to the EU Counterterrorism Coordinator ([EU-CTC](#)) and the European Commission in Brussels as well as the Vienna-based Terrorism Prevention Branch of the UN Office on Drugs & Crimes ([UNODC-TPB](#)).

### Middle East

Denmark is among the founding members of the [Global Coalition against Daesh](#) and in support of its military line of effort (Operation Inherent Resolve, OIR), Denmark currently contributes with radar operators and head quarter personnel to the Coalition. Until mid-2022, Denmark commands NATO Mission Iraq ([NMI](#)), which seeks to bolster Iraq's ability to counter terrorism and instability. The focus is on strengthening and training Iraqi security institutions and forces, and the mission complements and supports Coalition training efforts (OIR).

Within civilian lines of effort to counter Daesh, Denmark provides funding from its regional Peace and Stabilisation Programme for Syria and Iraq to the UN Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Daesh ([UNITAD](#)). UNITAD works to support Iraqi national efforts to hold Daesh accountable by collecting, preserving, and storing evidence of crimes committed by Daesh in Iraq. The aim is to hold perpetrators accountable to the highest possible standards, ensure broadest possible use of evidence before national courts, and to complement counterterrorism investigations being carried out by the Iraqi authorities. Under the EU-umbrella, Denmark contributes seconded personnel to the European Union Advisory Mission to Iraq ([EUAM Iraq](#)). EUAM Iraq advises Iraqi authorities (National Security Advisory, Ministry of the Interior) on implementation of civilian security sector reform, which involves efforts to strengthen capacity to prevent and counter violent extremism and terrorism.

### **Sahel/West Africa**

Denmark plans to deploy Special Forces and a surgical team to the French-led counterterrorism operation Task Force Takuba in January 2022. Takuba aims to enable Malian defence and security forces to manage threats posed by terrorist groups in the tri-border Liptako-Gourma area between Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. Moreover, the Danish Defence supports a French-led initiative to establish a Regional Multinational Coordination Cell (RMCC) in Dakar, Senegal, in order to enhance security force assistance in the region.

As part of a regional peace and stabilisation programme (PSP-II), Denmark provides funding for the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Sahel Programme, which aims to improve Sahelian governments' capacity to counter illegal trafficking, transnational organised crime and terrorism, and to improve prevention-focused justice responses. In order to strengthen border management and border security, Denmark supports the work of the international NGO Search for Common Ground on building the capacity of governments, security and defence forces and other relevant actors in cooperating with local communities in the Liptako-Gourma border region between Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. Through the international NGO 'Center for Civilians in Conflict' (CIVIC) Denmark supports efforts to build the capacity of Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso defence and security forces to mitigate harm to civilians. Through the civil society support fund FAMOC, Denmark supports the Malian NGO Think Peace that seeks to build capacity and increase awareness on violent extremism amongst Malian youth as well as to prevent and address local community tensions and conflicts through dialogue. Think Peace reviewed Mali's Action Plan for P/CVE and formulates its next phase. In the northern part of Burkina Faso, Denmark plans to continue long-standing support to civil society actors implemented by OXFAM Ibis, with a focus on preventing violent extremism through promotion of dialogue between populations and security forces, and intra- and inter-community dialogue to strengthen natural resources management and reduce local conflicts. In Niger, Denmark supports the High Authority for Peace Consolidation's ([HACP](#)) efforts to steer government action on preventing and countering violent extremism. This includes preventative soft security interventions, e.g. mediation and confidence building activities among communities in areas affected by instability.

### **Horn of Africa**

To strengthen experience sharing and regional cooperation on countering violent extremism, Denmark supports implementation of the intergovernmental authority of the Horn of Africa, IGAD's Regional Strategy for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, which covers the eight IGAD member states and Tanzania. This support is channeled via a partnership with the Djibouti-based IGAD Centre of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism ([ICEPCVE](#)) established in 2019. The Centre brings together state and non-state actors from across the region, involved in preventing

and countering violent extremism in order to develop and implement coherent P/CVE policies and strategies. Furthermore, Denmark supports efforts by IGAD to develop a regional strategy to prevent, counter, and respond to the threat of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) used by terrorist organisations in the IGAD Region. The objective is to significantly reduce the number of IED casualties and mitigate the growing threat represented by terrorists' use of IEDs through enhanced collaboration among IGAD Member States.

In Kenya, the Danish Security and Intelligence Service (PET) and the Kenyan National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) has collaborated since 2013 in the context of a bilateral Prevent Partnership Programme (PREVENT). The ongoing partnership focuses on sharing experiences and developing new prevention interventions inspired by the Danish approach to multiagency collaboration on preventing and countering violent extremism as well as experiences with disengagement as an operational tool for counter terrorism. Amongst other things, the partnership has contributed to the development of multiagency risk assessment tools and procedures and to disengagement from violent extremism becoming a publicly stated policy in Kenya's counter terrorism efforts. The partnership continues throughout 2021-22 with a focus on promoting disengagement as a multiagency applied operational tool in upstream preventive counter terrorism interventions.

In Somalia, Denmark for a number of years has been engaged in efforts to disengage and rehabilitate defectors from al-Shabaab via support to the Serendi Defector Rehabilitation project, an integral part of the National Programme for Disengaged Combatants that operates defector centres at three locations across Somalia (Mogadishu, Baidoa and Kismayo). The programme is part of the Federal Government of Somalia's efforts to counter al-Shabaab and other terrorist groups by offering low-risk members of terrorist organisations with sustained defection possibilities, by creating an attractive exit path from violent extremism as well as rehabilitating and reintegrating al-Shabaab defectors into their communities. Likewise, Denmark is supporting UNICEF's work on Children Affected by Armed Conflict in Somalia, and in particular on rehabilitation and reintegration of former child combatants who either fled al-Shabaab or were captured by Somali or international forces, and on improving the processes of receiving and assessing children. Denmark is supporting UNODC to conduct research and analysis under their UN Security Council mandate on al-Shabaab financing, which has provided the Security Council with substantial information on how al-Shabaab benefits financially from smuggling and trade of charcoal, sugar and illicit trade along maritime routes. UNODC also engages with governments on both sides of the Gulf of Aden to raise awareness and assist governments in countering illicit financing and trafficking of these and other commodities. The research also focuses on how Improvised Explosive Devices components are transported to Somalia. Moreover, Denmark supports efforts to strengthen the Kenyan navy's ability to enforce its authority at sea and counter maritime crime, where proceeds finance terrorist groups including Al-Shabaab. Lastly, Denmark is supporting the British Peace Support Team in their efforts to train Eastern Africa forces deployed into the African Union Mission in Somalia ([AMISOM](#)) to assist the Mission in executing its mandate to reduce the threat by al-Shabaab and other terrorist groups.

In Ethiopia, Denmark works closely with government agencies and institutions including the Financial Intelligence Unit, Federal Attorney General's Office and Ethiopian Police University College, to strengthen their capacity to counter terrorist financing and money laundering. A team of experts provides capacity building, training, and support, e.g. for a National Terrorist Financing Risk Assessment process, revision and updating of legal frameworks, and training of financial investigators. The bilateral collaboration underpins Ethiopia's efforts to comply with recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to the extent that in 2019, FATF removed Ethiopia from its list of 'non-cooperative' jurisdictions in recognition of the progress made.

## **South and South East Asia**

In Afghanistan, Denmark has been engaged for more than 15 years in supporting the Afghan National Police (ANP) and Afghan National Army (ANA). The main objective is to support the sustainment and capacity building of ANA and ANP. The two forces play a critical role in the stabilisation of Afghanistan and in enhancing the Afghan government's ability to counter the terrorism threat effectively. The engagements are supported through the Peace and Stabilisation Programme implemented by UNDP and NATO, and complement the past 20 years of Danish military presence in Afghanistan.

In Bangladesh, Partnerships for a Tolerant and Inclusive Bangladesh (PTIB) is a multi-year initiative to understand and prevent violent extremism (PVE) developed after the 2016 terrorist attack in Bangladesh. Denmark supported the first phase of the project from 2017 and seeing the success of project continued its support for the second phase. The project responds to the UN Secretary-General's call for every country to develop a coherent and contextual strategy to prevent violent extremism, while reaffirming the need for inclusive institutions, transparent politics, and a commitment to fundamental human rights. PTIB seeks to build local research capacity, integrate the findings into project activities and input lessons learned into national, regional and global PVE discussions. It achieves this goal by using its unique approach, which assesses the possible drivers of extremism through innovative research, engages key stakeholders, and develops a range of targeted citizen and government engagement activities.

Since 2004, Denmark together with Australia and the US has been involved in efforts to enhance the capacity of countries in South East Asia to counter terrorism and other transnational crimes through a partnership with the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation ([JCLEC](#)). JCLEC, located in Semarang, Indonesia, is a regional police-training center aimed at enhancing capacity to counter terrorism and transnational crime through cooperation with regional and global partners in accordance with international standards and conventions. The centre delivers training courses in a range of subjects related to preventing/countering violent extremism and counter-terrorism to Indonesian police officers, anti-terrorism units, prosecutors and judges as well as law enforcement officers from other countries of South East Asia.

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