



Fact Sheet

Contributions to Civilian and Military Efforts to Prevent and Counter Terrorism and Violent Extremism

January 2025

This document outlines Denmark's contributions to global and regional efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism, encompassing both civilian and military-led efforts. These contributions include support for various international, regional, national, and local initiatives, some of which are funded through the Danish Peace and Stabilisation Fund. This fund is an inter-ministerial mechanism that utilises civilian and military resources with a Whole-of-Government approach involving the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, and the Ministry of Justice through the Danish National Police.

➤ Global Engagements

Denmark is a founding member of the Global Counterterrorism Forum ([GCTF](#)), an informal multilateral platform, which is currently co-chaired by the EU and Egypt. The GCTF develops tools for policymakers and practitioners and serves as a space for global dialogue on counterterrorism and the prevention of violent extremism. Denmark provides financial support to two GCTF initiatives: i) The Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund ([GCERF](#)). GCERF is a global fund supporting local civil society-led initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience against violent extremism in various partner countries in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Western Balkans region. ii) The International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law ([IIJ](#)). The IIJ is an international training-hub set up to enhance the competencies of justice sector stakeholders (investigators, prosecutors, judges) in Africa to disrupt

terrorism and related transnational criminal activities through a rule of law framework. Other partners include the [Strong Cities Network](#), a global network of cities dedicated to preventing violent extremism through local policy and practice initiatives.

➤ West Africa

One of the key objectives of the Danish government's strategy for strengthened engagement with African countries (2024) is to support local, national and regional solutions that can address the continent's security challenges including violent extremism and terrorism while at the same time promoting African ownership. Denmark's Regional Peace and Stabilisation Programme for West Africa (approximately EUR 40 million, 2025-2028) aims to mitigate instability in key border areas of the region. The programme has a Whole-of-Government approach with a combination of military and development cooperation with regional



partners in Benin, Togo, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. Specific focus is on supporting:

- Building regional and local conflict prevention and resilience capacities with civil society, regional institutions and national governments (in the coastal states) in support of at-risk communities in northern border areas of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo, and in the Liptako-Gourma border area of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.
- Building, strengthening and institutionalising regional human-rights-compliant law enforcement training capacities in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo.
- Training and supporting response capacities of regional and national institutions in counterterrorism and countering Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo.

Furthermore, the regional programme includes police efforts focusing on law enforcement and the secondment of a Danish expert from the Danish National Police to UNODC (United Nations Organisation for Drugs and Crime) and support to UNODC in the region, support for the regional training centres International Academy for the Fight against Terrorism ([AILCT](#)) and Counter-IED Centre in Benin ([CPADD](#)), as well as peer-to-peer training of the Ghana Army Special Operations Brigade delivered by the Danish Special Forces. Other implementing partners include the Integrated Border Stabilisation Mechanism (IBSM), the UNDP Atlantic Corridor Initiative and the Danish Institute for Human Rights and MOPPS, a civil society consortium which promotes peaceful coexistence between livestock pastoralists and sedentary farmers.

The regional programme will be complimentary to two other Danish engagements in the region: An upcoming partnership with ECOWAS through the 'Africa Partnership for Peace and Sustainability' (APPS) as well as the Danish Maritime Security Programme in the Gulf of Guinea, whereby Denmark supports regional capacity building to strengthen the entire criminal justice chain in response to the threat of maritime threats and training of the Ghana Special Boat Squadron.

➤ **Horn of Africa**

Through UNODC, Denmark promotes implementation of the UN Security Council sanctions regime against Al-Shabaab (UNSCR 2713) as part of the Danish Peace and Stabilisation Programme for the Horn of Africa (2023-2026). This includes strengthening the Somali and Kenyan coast guards and cross-border cooperation to counter transnational organised crime by Al-Shabaab and others such as smuggling weapons, drugs, money and people both at land and at sea.

In the maritime sector, Denmark collaborates with the Kenyan Navy to enhance regional maritime security in the Horn of Africa. Denmark aids Kenya in countering maritime crime, disrupting Al-Shabaab activities, and strengthening counter-violent extremism operations. This collaboration aims to promote legitimate authority at sea and empower Kenya to take greater responsibility for maritime law enforcement in the region.

In Somalia, Denmark supports IOM's Reconciliation and Stabilisation Support - Early Recovery Initiative (RSS-ERI), aimed at creating the conditions for stabilisation and recovery in areas liberated from Al-Shabaab. Denmark is a long-time substantial donor to the Somalia Stability Fund, which seeks to reduce political and



communal conflict through local governance, establishment of service delivery and political inclusion. Denmark supports UNICEF in Somalia to protect children affected by armed conflict, focusing on reintegration of former child soldiers and prevention of re-recruitment into violent extremism. All three initiatives aim to counter and diminish Al-Shaabab by reducing the terrorist organisations' local influence and recruitment base.

In support of the Somali government's efforts to manage security threats in the country, Denmark seconded advisors to the civilian EU Capacity Building Mission in Somalia ([EUCAP Somalia](#)) and plans to support Somali federal defence institutions through deployment of staff officers to the military EU Training Mission Somalia ([EUTM-S](#)).

At the regional level, Denmark supports the operational capability of the East African Standby Forces ([EASF](#)) and collaborates with the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC) in Kenya in its efforts to train members of the national defence, law enforcement and civilian security architecture in the region. Many of these staff members are deployed to UN peacekeeping missions across the world and to the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia ([ATMIS](#)), which is mandated by the UN Security Council to counter Al-Shabaab.

➤ **Middle East**

As a founding member of the [Global Coalition against Daesh](#), Denmark supports the Coalition's military efforts in Syria and Iraq - Operation Inherent Resolve, [OIR](#) - through deployment of staff officers to the operation's regional headquarters in Iraq and Qatar, as well as bases outside the region. Within NATO, Denmark has deployed staff officers, advisers and capacities to the

NATO Mission Iraq ([NMI](#)), a capacity-building and advisory mission established to strengthen Iraqi national security institutions. The mission complements and supports the work of the Global Coalition against ISIL/Daesh, and the advisory and assisting efforts of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Denmark supports civilian efforts to counter ISIL/Daesh through its regional Peace and Stabilisation Programme for Syria and Iraq (2022-2025) with a total budget of approx. EUR 80 million and an overall objective to promote inclusive peace and stability and reduce violent extremism and protracted displacement in Syria and Iraq.

Denmark provides both funding and seconded staff to support the Global Coalition's Communication Cell that counters violent extremist narratives and thereby reduces Daesh's abilities to radicalise and recruit in the online space. Additionally, Denmark funds a project to support Iraqi efforts to repatriate and reintegrate Iraqi citizens from camps in North East Syria led by the UN Office of Counterterrorism ([UNOCT](#)).

Through UNDP's Social Cohesion Programme ([UNDP](#)), Denmark supports efforts in Iraq to strengthen the ability of civil society and national and sub-national governance institutions to promote social cohesion, prevention of violent extremism and foster sustainable development.

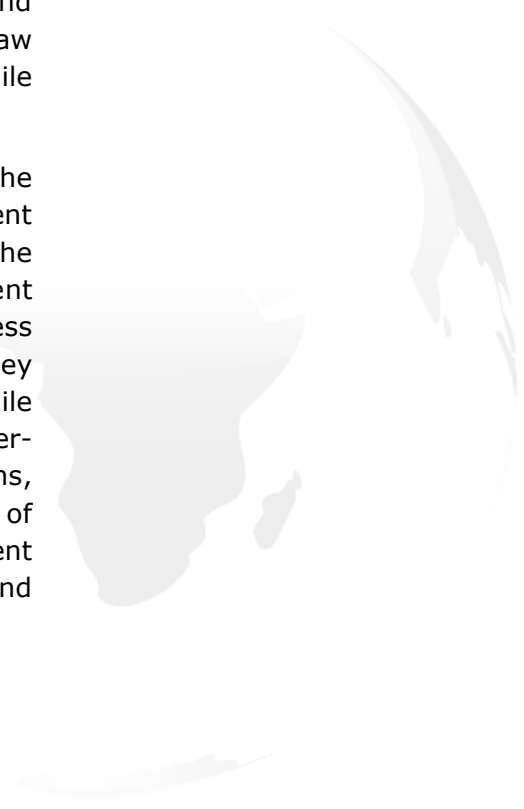
In Syria, Denmark provides support to the Syria Network for Human Rights ([SNHR](#)) that gathers evidence of crimes committed by all parties to the conflict, including Daesh as well as efforts to improve conditions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in the Al-Hol camp.



➤ **South and South East Asia**

In Pakistan, Denmark through UNODC supports efforts to strengthen Pakistani authorities' approach to preventing violent extremism among young people in vulnerable communities. By advising on ways to disrupt communication networks that finance violent extremism and share related online content, the project has a specific focus on countering the distribution of terrorist-related online content. In parallel, the partnership contributes to increasing the ability of Pakistani law enforcement authorities to cooperate and prevent violent extremism in a rule of law and human right compliant manner while involving youth and local communities.

In Indonesia, Denmark partners with the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation ([JCLEC](#)) to strengthen the effectiveness of Indonesian law enforcement agencies. By strengthening the effectiveness of Indonesian authorities to counter money laundering and terrorist financing while applying a human rights and gender-sensitive approach in criminal investigations, the partnership promotes the principle of rule of law by establishing a law enforcement system that is fair, accountable and inclusive.



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