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FINAL REPORT

Ghana

Strengthening Response Capacities of State and Civil Society Actors in Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Coastal States in West Africa [June 2022]



Project Information

Reporting Period	June 2022
Start Date - End Date	March 2021 – March 2022
Implementing Partner(s)	KA IPTC/UNDP
Total Contribution	USD 400,000
Project Location	Ghana
Project Beneficiaries	Ghana, Togo, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, and Burkina Faso
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I. Executive summary

The Strengthening Response Capacities of State and Civil Society Actors in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism in Coastal States in West Africa project was implemented from March 2021 to March 2022. This report summarises project outputs for the period under review. The project sought to build capacities among border security agencies and civil society organisations (CSOs) to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange in and between five (5) countries: Benin, Togo, Ghana, Cote d’Ivoire, and Burkina Faso to better respond to the realities of increasing extremist incursions. Overall, eighty-one (81, 71 men, 10 women) state and civil society actors strengthened their capacities and knowledge on preventing and countering violent extremism and terrorism in the West African sub-region in two training courses and one cross-country workshop held in Ghana, Cote d’Ivoire, and Burkina Faso respectively. Three consultative missions were also undertaken to Burkina Faso, Benin, and Ghana in addition to a research publication on the nature of violent extremism and radicalisation in West Africa, using Ghana as a case study.

The Government of Japan (GoJ) through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided financial and technical assistance to the project. The UNDP worked very closely with the KAIPTC in its project implementation. Experts identified during the consultative visits were also roped in to support the project implementation. These were from the army, navy, forest and park rangers, academia, peace councils and civil society. The project also took cognisance of the COVID-19 pandemic environment and ensured that all the protocols were observed to the letter in all its activities. Notwithstanding the tense security situation in Burkina Faso, the project was able to hold one cross-country workshop and participants benefitted immensely from the cross-fertilisation of ideas and experience sharing. The project through its consultative missions met with a cross section of actors from varied backgrounds including youth and women groups, religious and academia as well as state and civil society actors. This enabled information from a bottom-up approach and the inclusion of other non-traditional views. The human security approach was employed to implement the project, it was people-centred as the focus was on preventing harm and through the national consultations context specific issues were identified that informed the design of course and identification of stakeholders for training.

Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Achievement
Output 1	<i>1.1 55 state and civil society organisations have strengthened capacity to prevent violent extremism and terrorism.</i>	0	55	49 state and civil society actors trained with enhanced capacities against violent extremism and terrorism.
Output 2	<i>2.1 stakeholders actively engaging in cross-border exchanges to prevent violent extremism.</i>	0	30	32 participants reached through consultative engagement in Burkina Faso
	<i>2.2. research paper on the nature and extent of terrorist activities in West Africa produced and guiding policy formulation</i>	0	1	One (1) research paper published.

II. Background

Violent extremism and terrorism (VET) have been gaining momentum in Africa with the Sahel region experiencing frequent attacks targeting both civilians and security officials. In the West Africa sub-region, insecurity occasioned by the threats to human security continues to rise at an alarming rate. Countries alongside Burkina Faso such as Togo, Benin and Cote d'Ivoire continue to encounter jihadists along their contiguous borders resulting in several fatalities, and continuously challenging current responses in place. Responses to terrorism and violent extremism has involved mainly kinetic approaches, however, conventional wisdom indicates that this approach has not had the desired effect, rather breeding intransigence and leading to a growing number of new recruits. Border communities, civil society and other non-state actors are often overlooked as key partners in reducing this menace. Their inclusion offers multiple alternatives for preventing insecurity engendered by violent extremism and terrorism. Other actors such as those in charge of the parks and gardens have critical inputs in collective efforts at addressing this menace. Security Analysts warn that the terrorist threat is spreading south from the restive Sahel region to countries that were largely free of jihadist violence along the coast of West Africa. In efforts to prevent this menace and also contribute to the security of the West Africa sub-region, the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), the Government of Japan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), implemented a one-year project on *Strengthening Response Capacities of State and Civil Society Actors in Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Coastal States in West Africa*. The project sought to build capacities among border security agencies and civil society organisations (CSOs) to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange in and between five (5) countries: Benin, Togo, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, and Burkina Faso to better respond to the realities of increasing extremist incursions. To contribute to addressing the situation the following activities and outputs were identified and implemented.

III. Results

Output 1: Increased capacity of border agency personnel and civil society actors to prevent and counter violent extremism and terrorism.

Activity 1.1: In line with the project outputs for this intervention, a course review, also known as the Learning, Design and Development (LDD) Workshop was held at the KAIPTC in September 2021. The course review is essential in shaping the course package which formed the nucleus of the training courses. As such, the LDD sought to define and outline the key components of the course, identify, and agree on subject matter experts to develop the course modules, decide on the delivery methodology of the modules and identify facilitators for the various modules. A total of 10 experts from the 4 targeted countries were identified to support the LDD process. These

were made up of experts who had largely been identified in earlier consultative missions to Burkina Faso, Benin and Ghana and whose experience proved invaluable to the development of the course modules. There was a mix of virtual and on-line participation. These were complemented by personnel from the UNDP and KAIPTC who also took part in the development of the modules. Consequently, the workshop deliberations by the group of identified experts resulted in the development of eight modules to form the basis of the course package. These were then contracted to identified experts who were guided by the terms of reference from the LDD to convert the themes into power point presentations to form the course package. These presentations were later reviewed and translated into French. The modules benefitted from earlier consultative visits to Burkina Faso, Benin, and Ghana. They helped to inform the content and current realities of violent extremism and terrorism on the ground.



A cross-section of experts during the course review at the KAIPTC

Activity 1.2: Though the KAIPTC runs some courses on violent extremism and terrorism, the context and content are different from the present focus of the project, that is connecting the Sahel to the coast. This training intervention therefore bridged that gap by including actors working on the sea and land to share their experiences and improve their understanding and skills on preventing the menace. Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire hosted the two training capacity building courses on *strengthening response capacities to violent extremism and terrorism in coastal states in West Africa*. The objectives of the capacity building courses were to provide a platform for state and civil society actors to meet, share experiences and dialogue on best practices in countering violent extremism and terrorism (VET) in coastal states in West Africa. It also sought to improve the knowledge as well as strengthen skill sets needed in responding to the menace. A good blend of civil society and state actors from organizations working on VET ensured a cross-fertilization of ideas, experiences, and unique perspectives. The sessions were interspersed with some practical field activities such as scenarios and role play at the Army Combat School (ACTS), Teshie for participants in Accra, and a visit to Cote d'Ivoire's counter terrorism centre in Jacquville (l'Académie Internationale de lutte contre le terrorisme), Cote d'Ivoire. These further reinforced the lectures and demonstrated the practical realities on the ground in the context of preventing and countering VET.



Accra capacity building course proceedings

A total of 49¹ participants were trained during the two capacity building programmes. Civil society actors as well as agencies such as the water and forests enriched their knowledge and added to their experience on violent extremism and terrorism. Networking, Intelligence sharing, and inter-agency collaboration were also highlighted during the training sessions. Key issues that were flagged during the capacity building programs was the issue of human rights in VET, the inclusion of women in preventing and countering VET and the use of geographic spaces as havens for VET necessitating an all hands-on deck approach in dealing with the issue.



Participants at the training in Cote d'Ivoire

Output 2: Improved evidence-based community engagement and cross-country cooperation on preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism.

Activity 2.1: As part of best practices in the field, the KAIPTC does a needs assessment of the existing situation relative to its intended intervention to ensure the project outputs are in sync with realities on the ground. Consultative visits were thus organised to three countries namely Burkina Faso, Benin, and Ghana. The latter country was not originally part of the countries to be visited but due to data already acquired in Cote d'Ivoire, among several other factors, Ghana was chosen instead. The consultative meetings were useful in introducing the project to the target countries and seeking their buy-in and inputs into the project implementation. Similar themes on the nature of VET were noted in all three countries. These revolved around the triggers for violent extremism and terrorism, the nature of the porous borders, youth vulnerabilities and geographic spaces as havens for terrorist activities. The consultative visits helped to identify key experts whose contributions proved invaluable to the course design process. The

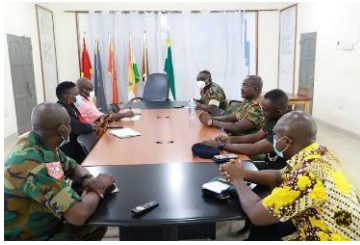
¹ There was a shortfall on the part of the institutions in charge of nominating personnel to the training programs

consultative visits additionally ensured the project received visibility from the target countries and mapped out the target beneficiaries as well as identify key experts who contributed to the module development for the course package. Furthermore, a number of ‘non-traditional actors’² on VET such as fisherfolk and ECO-Benin in Benin; parks & wildlife and prisons in Burkina Faso and inter youth dialogue committees and women groups in Ghana were consulted who also brought to bear rich perspectives in terms of maritime terrorism, youth vulnerabilities and dealing with the issue of radicalism among convicted militants in the correctional services.

Activity 2.2: One cross-country workshop was organised in Burkina Faso as part of efforts to encourage peer to peer exchanges and a cross fertilisation of skills and best practices in preventing and countering VET. Since 2015, Burkina Faso has had a running battle with militants especially in its northern borders which has resulted in a flurry of norms, interventions, and capacity building programs in efforts to stem the tide. To understand and draw lessons from the Burkinabe experience with fighting terrorism, 32 state and civil society actors from the five targeted countries met in Ouagadougou in November 2021 to discuss the nature of the violent extremist threats in their respective countries and learn particularly from Burkina Faso’s experience. The 2-day workshop outlined the drivers of the spread of violent extremism to coastal states in West Africa, the different forms of national and regional response mechanisms and their impact on the spread of the threats from violent extremist groups. The multidisciplinary group of participants at the workshop deliberated on several crosscutting issues and provided their national experiences on the nature of the threat and response capacities of their individual countries as well as effective approaches necessary for addressing violent extremism and terrorism in the beneficiary countries in the sub-region.

Activity 2.3: In efforts to understand terrorist footprints and some of the triggers or pre-conditions for violent extremism in the sub-region, field research was undertaken to analyse patterns of the threats in the sub-region using the case study of Ghana. A research paper titled ‘*Beneath the seeming resilience: Assessing Ghana’s Vulnerabilities to Threats from Violent Extremist Groups*’ emerged from this output. It highlighted critical issues to watch from the activities of suspected extremists who use various communities as their safe havens. It also flagged governance related issues that serve as drivers of radicalization which could be exploited by violent extremist groups to garner support for their activities. It concluded by noting, that though there are risk factors, the country has also put in place some structures such as the National Security and Peace Architecture which have contributed to reducing tensions and preventing conflicts from escalating into crisis situations. Nonetheless, the ingredients that contribute to extremism and violent rebellion are already present across communities. Further and perhaps more important, extremist movements are processes, rather than events. They are the outcomes of long-standing dynamics of oppressive governance structures which produce exclusion and underdevelopment, as well as systemic violence against citizens and communities. Thus, coastal states should do more to prevent these processes from mutating into lethal terrorist acts. The research publication serves as a primer on VET threats and movements in Ghana.

² these from the consultations are typically not consulted as part of VET prevention in the countries visited.



Photos from the consultative meetings in Ghana and cross-country workshop in Burkina Faso

Project governance - Project Management personnel costs, visibility, M&E, Sustainability, communication, administration

As part of the processes to increase [visibility](#) for the project, a [project launch](#) was held to kick start the project at the UNDP office in Accra in July, 2021 and a project closure event held on 26 May 2022. Present at the launch and [closure](#) were the three project partners from the KA IPTC, Embassy of Japan and the UNDP. All partners reiterated the importance of the project in the midst of a worsening humanitarian crisis occasioned by the effects of VET. The media was invited to the project launch and other training programmes³ and cross-country workshop. The activities in Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire also received wide media coverage as it was televised on the Television stations, and the print media. The display of logos of Japan, UNDP and KA IPTC were also visible in all the interventions. This includes project related documents, publications, participants' identification cards, power point slides and other communication materials to maximize the project's visibility.

- Sena Radio Online: <http://www.senaradioonline.com/2021/07/04/undp-japan-outdoors-projects-to-advance-sustainable-development/>
- Modern Ghana: <https://www.modernghana.com/news/1091719/undp-and-japan-outdoor-two-projects-to-advance.html>
- Ghana Web: <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/UNDP-and-Japan-outdoor-two-projects-to-advance-sustainable-development-1300759>
- Facebook link <https://www.facebook.com/BF1TV/videos/286660173344510/>,
- <https://www.facebook.com/415057391885207/posts/pfbid028Bv5TrYy1wU7KEUMY5HoLz5T98BW8z9gjjqN1V5TTghT7DoLWPrWTLjAXgVUKwKXl/?d=n>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UNDPGhana/status/1530094609216544770?t=XqGHeSqM79sgyjUKBzFvsA&s=19>
- YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/OxRquPLuHE0>

Partnerships and Collaboration

The KA IPTC worked closely with its partners, the Embassy of Japan and the UNDP in the successful implementation of the project. All project partners participated in the project launch and opening ceremonies of the training courses. The UNDP further supported the course review process as well as participated in the Accra and Cote d'Ivoire trainings. These meetings were useful in ensuring that the objectives of the project were met in the most responsive and efficient way. The project implementation was done in close partnership with counterpart programme officers at the UNDP Country office in Ghana.

³ [Stakeholders urged to strengthen collaboration to promote peace and security in West Africa | UNDP in Ghana](#)

The KAIPTC also collaborated with the Secrétariat Permanent du Comité Interministériel de l'Action de l'État en Mer (SEPCIM-AEM) in Cote d'Ivoire, the commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in Burkina Faso, as well as relevant state security agencies and CSOs in the target countries.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) unit of the KAIPTC which operates separately from the Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research (FAAR) where the project was hosted conducted an independent evaluation of the project in February 2022. Generally, participants interviewed after the training expressed a better appreciation of violent extremism manifestations in the sub-region.

Below are some lessons learnt from the M and E exercise;

- The initial consultations aided the project team with inputs from actors and experts which ensured the alignment of the project to existing initiatives aimed at responding to VET. It also helped the team to get the buy-in from authorities which enhanced the implementation of the project.
- Personnel who participated in the project activities occupy positions relevant to the fight against VET in their respective agencies. The experiences shared during training and workshop activities enabled the participants to have a deeper understanding of the VET in the region from diverse perspectives. It also enhanced the implementation of knowledge and skills acquired from the project activities.
- The diverse backgrounds of the persons who participated in the project activities enhanced the appreciation of the fight against VET from both military and non-military approaches. It also created the platform for personnel from security agencies and civil society organizations to explore initiatives that will improve collaboration among national and regional VET actors.
- Experts who facilitated the modules on capacity-building activities were made up of persons from diverse backgrounds including the military, police, practitioners, and academia among others. This helped the training participants to have a deeper understanding of the dynamics of VET challenges in West Africa and appreciate the need to apply multidimensional approaches to respond to these challenges.
- The research output highlights the extent of radicalism footprints as a sounding board to countries not yet fully in the grip of terrorists but with all the preconditions for such insidious activities to be on their guard and reduce the likely vulnerabilities to VET.
- Women formed just 10% of total personnel trained and this situation indicates the difficulties in getting women in the security sector.

Below excerpt is a reflection from a participant in Cote d'Ivoire...

I will no more stop at the contemporary situations to analyze the causes and factors of violence extremism and terrorism. I take into account the very old evolution of individual communities involved in these groups to better understand their motivations and find just elements against them. In addition, I will propose a strong implication of women and youth in this fight as actors in the sensitization, the information or as

targets in working on their vulnerability to turn away violent groups. I will also stress on more internal collaboration but often at the sub-regional level with my colleagues.

Immigration Officer, Cote d'Ivoire

Outputs	Activities	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Achievement	Remark Please use this space to explain why the project under/overachieved the set target
Output 1	<p>Develop course package and translate into French</p> <p>Organize a two-week course on preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism in coastal states in West Africa at the KAIPTC for 25 participants from 5 countries</p> <p>Organize one (1) 5-day training on preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism course for 30 participants in Cote d'Ivoire.</p>	<p>1.1 55 state and civil society organisations have strengthened capacity to prevent violent extremism and terrorism³</p>	0	55	49 state and civil society actors trained with enhanced capacities against violent extremism and terrorism	<p>Underachieved due to non-participation of 6 people</p> <p>Achieved course package produced and translated into French</p>
Output 2	<p>Undertake in-country consultations/dialogues in Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire and Benin to ensure buy in, transparency multi-country support to project implementation</p> <p>Organise one cross-country</p>	<p>2.1 stakeholders actively engaging in cross-border exchanges to prevent violent extremism</p> <p>2.2. research paper on the nature and extent of terrorist activities in West Africa produced and</p>	0	30	32 participants reached through consultative engagement in Burkina Faso	Overachieved reached more participants
			0	1	one (1) research paper published.	Achieved

	workshop for 30 participants in Burkina Faso for targeted countries to ensure engagement with border communities in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism in coastal countries in West Africa Research paper on VET	<i>guiding policy formulation</i>				
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IV. Lessons Learned

Generally, the knowledge and understanding of VET actors, manifestations and modus operandi is deficient in the targeted countries. This is particularly worrying given that the state agencies particularly along the border communities are the front liners and usually first responders and targets of attacks. Several calls were made for the training to be replicated in the other countries not affected by this intervention. Together with calls to increase more actors or agencies such as correctional facilities and parks and forests as well as justice agencies. Continuous training will enable both state and CSO to better prepare, understand and pre-empt VET attacks in a collaborative informative manner. It will also help them to sift and treat intelligence, connecting the dots between seemingly innocuous statements or activities with actual planning on the ground. Though most countries have laws on countering terrorism, kinetic approaches to this menace still dominate and softer alternative approaches must be sought to avoid intransigence. It is also useful to highlight the importance of respect for human rights and rule of law in dealing with suspected terrorists as the issue of whether terrorists had rights was hotly debated and indicated the mind-set or approach of particularly state security actors.

Though efforts were made to have equal numbers of men and women the outcome was different with security agencies nominating men who are mostly in the fields of work, it is noted that not many women are within these areas of work, women are usually in the administrative sectors which affects the numbers for the technical.

V. Way Forward

Generally, the project was well received and implemented in the targeted countries. Nonetheless, the perennial problem of the inclusion of women was manifest yet again as out of the 81 trained, only 11

were women reflecting repeatedly the dearth of women actors in this field. Even with the inclusion of the CSOs, men were still nominated or dominated most of the interventions. Further, the project fell short of training 85 personnel as 6 participants did not show up in the capacity building training. In future, other participants will be considered if the nominating institutions fail to comply within a stipulated timeframe.

To improve the capacities of border agencies and CSOs in VET, it is recommended that, more targeted training be organised in the sub-region to increase the understanding and manifestations of VET primarily at its nascent stages to prevent it from gaining roots especially in border communities. Further, a more enlarged and inclusive role for CSOs in preventing VET should be vigorously pursued. With the requisite knowledge, networks, and information, CSOs can better complement the role of state security agencies in reducing VET in communities.

Additionally, more women should be encouraged and involved in preventing and countering VET. Future programs will target women led civil society organisations to ensure that more women are participating in these forums. Correctional officers should also be involved in future interventions as they provide useful information on convicted militants and the tendency of recidivism and radicalism thus necessitating a holistic approach to the extremist issue. The inclusion of the water and forest agencies also enriched the discourses allowing for a more inclusive approach and awareness of geographic spaces as havens for terrorist activities.

Finally, future interventions should also include addressing some of the gaps that drive vulnerability to VET such as youth unemployment and perception of deprivation. Interventions in the provision of social amenities such as boreholes in deprived communities, equipment's such as drones, motorcycles, computers to facilitate the work of security agencies in gathering intelligence could help address the problem.

VI. Financial Status⁴ (Amount USD)

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Output	Budget (A)	Expenditure (B)	Commitments & Advances (C)	Expenditures & Commitments (D=B+C)	Budget Balance E(A-D)	Delivery Rate (%) D*100/A
Output 1: Increased capacity of border agency	175,925	164,932.06	0	164,932.06	10,992.94	93.7%

⁴ *Disclaimer: Data contained in this financial report section is an extract of UNDP financial records. All financial provided above is provisional.*

personnel and civil society actors						
Output 2: Improved evidence based community engagement and cross-country cooperation	77,814	77,599.80	0	77,599.80	214.20	99.7%
DPC	142,301	132,199.95		132,199.95	10,101.05	92.9%
Total program	396,040	374,732.01		374,731.81	21,308.19	94.6%
1% Coordination Levy	3,960					
	400,000					

VII. Human Interest Story and Visibility Achievements

“My participation in the program has been very impactful to me as an individual and then also to the work that I do. As a women’s right organization and working on issues around security and conflict management, it has impacted on our work greatly. I can attest that it has boosted my ability to be able to contribute to the discourse around issues of violence, vigilantism and then also extremism. and I want to appreciate Kofi Annan peace Centre for the training and the sponsors that is the people of Japan as well as UNDP I appreciate it so much.

I have represented my organization in bigger platforms including both community to local and national platforms and media platforms and I can say that the training is what has given me the confidence to do that. One thing I can say is that I took a topic on gender, vigilantism and the role of women in conflict resolution and I think that was a great one there, I was contacted by Star Ghana Foundation to do that in a district that had almost every time several conflicts between Fulani Headmen and the indigens and it helped us to support communities to form watch dogs, but above all as an organization we have mainstream the issues of vigilantism and extremism action in our work by giving key messages to communities to continue to be vigilant and observing activities of strange behaviors especially for the people they do not know.

This has been impactful to me, and I want to say that this training should be an ongoing one and we should have more people trained and sensitized around these issues”.

Lamnatu Adam is the Executive Director of Songtaba, a civil society organization (CSO) in the northern part of Ghana. She participated in the two-weeks training of trainers’ workshop organized in Accra from 22nd November - 2nd December 2021 with 25 participants coming from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Togo, and Ghana. The training course aimed to strengthen response mechanisms of the key actors to prevent violent extremism and terrorism in coastal states in West Africa

Photo gallery of the project activities





Graphic, Friday, July 16, 2021

Graphic SPORTS now Online! News

Japan supports fight against terrorism

By Emelia Ennin Abbey

THE Japanese government has provided support for a project that seeks to counter or even prevent terrorism in Ghana and four other West African countries.

The project, dubbed "Strengthening Response Capacities of State and Civil Society Actors in Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Coastal States in West Africa", is being implemented by the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (UNDP) and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC).

Apart from Ghana, other national and regional security and civil society organisations in Benin, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso will also benefit from the project.

The Japanese Ambassador to Ghana, Mr Tsutomu Himeno, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative, Dr Angela Lusigi, signed and exchanged documents on the project in Accra.

Activities under the project will include workshops on preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism in coastal states in West Africa for the five countries.

It is expected to increase the

capacity of border agency personnel and civil society actors to prevent and counter violent extremism and terrorism.

The project is also expected to improve evidence-based community engagement and cross-country cooperation on prevention and countering terrorism and violent extremism.

Terrorism

An overview report on the project indicated that in recent times, terrorism and violent extremism had continued to gain momentum in Africa,

particularly in the Sahel region, with regular attacks by militants and extremists on civilian and military populations.

It said the formation of the Jama'at Nusrat ul-Islam wal-Muslimeen (JNIM) in March 2017 changed the dynamics of violent extremism in the Sahel.

Also, the JNIM — having emerged from an alliance of Ansar Dine, the Macina Liberation Front, Al-Mourabitoun, and Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) — had

rapidly expanded its activities from Mali to Niger, with the current geographic focus shifting to Burkina Faso and the coastal West African states.

Purpose

Mr Himeno said Japan supported the project because peace contributed to development.

He expressed the hope that the support from the people of Japan would help to address any form of terrorism and attacks along the coastal states in West Africa.

Dr Lusigi said most of the terrorism and violent attacks were as a result of poverty and unemployment, and that there was an urgent need to put in place measures to curb the menace.

She said the project was aimed at improving peace and security in West Africa, enhance understanding of

counter-terrorism and violent extremism strategies, and improve the capacity for terrorism and violent extremism prevention and management in the West African sub-region.

The Commandant, KAIPTC, Brigadier General Francis Ofori, said more than 6,000 fatalities were recorded by the UN in 2020 in three Sahelian countries — Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso.

"As recently as June 6, 2021, Burkina Faso witnessed one of the deadliest terrorist attacks in one of its northern villages where 160 civilians were killed," he said.

He said security was a fluid concept, and that there was the need to constantly ensure that the gaps created by insecurity were plugged.

"This means we must take a proactive rather than reactive approach in tackling insecurity, particularly in our troubled region," he said.



Major General Francis Ofori (left), KAIPTC Commandant, and Dr Angela Lusigi (2nd right), UNDP Resident Representative, exchanging documents on the project as Mr Tsutomu Himeno (right), the Japanese Ambassador to Ghana, looks on

As recently as June 6, 2021, Burkina Faso witnessed one of the deadliest terrorist attacks in one of its northern villages where 160 civilians were killed.

MP for Okraikwei North