**TEMPLATE FOR REPORTING ON RECENT INITIATIVES ON SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE**

***Sports for Enhancing Resilience and Amplifying Social Inclusion (SERASI)***

***Task:*** *Provide a summary of the initiative, including a brief overview, proposed/actual outcomes and an assessment of any lessons learned and the way forward.*

In March 2023, a sports and peacebuilding youth workshop titled ‘Sports for Enhancing Resilience and Amplifying Social Inclusion’ (SERASI) was held by UNDP and the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the National Sports Council, and ethnic/faith/community-based organizations. The workshop aimed to leverage sports for youth to build community resilience towards withstanding violent extremism (VE) and non-VE narratives. Participants learned to embrace challenges positively, to communicate and problem-solve effectively, and to respect others, which are indicators for resilience to forms of VE narratives. The workshop also highlighted the need to invest in youth and peacebuilding, in providing space to design activities and find solutions. Participant interviews indicated that sport is effective to strengthen youth resilience by providing a safe platform to find common purpose in a diverse community.

***Timeframe:*** *Please only include initiatives that fall within the reporting timeframe of January 2022 – February 2024*

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| **Please provide more details on each initiative including items below:** |
| **Objective(s):**The SERASI project’s objective was to promote interracial and interreligious unity among Malaysian youth by leveraging sports as a platform for peacebuilding. Focusing specifically on futsal, the sessions were crafted to allow youth to have the opportunity to engage with one another in a safe environment, to have transparent discussions and to encourage and instill prosocial/life skills such as teamwork, inclusion and resilience-building, which are integral components of peacebuilding and preventing violent extremism in a diverse and multicultural environment such as Malaysia.  | *Please indicate which, if any, of the following fall among the main objectives of the initiative:* |
| * Ensuring no one is left behind (advancing empowerment, inclusiveness and equality through sport)
 | * Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity
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| * Leveraging sports events to promote action to combat climate change, advance peace and/or sustainable development
 | * Conflict prevention/peace building

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| * Research development, data collection and/or data dissemination
 | * Safely harnessing sport for sustainable development, peace and wellbeing in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through the use of technology
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| * Reinforce the 2030 Agenda and eradicate poverty in times of multiple crises, leading to the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions
 | * Safeguarding sport from corruption and crime
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| * Strengthened global framework on sport for development and peace
 | * Other (please specify)
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| **Situation** | *What is the challenge or problem that the initiative aims to address?*The concept for SERASI was borne out of insights on youth perspectives on unity, violent extremism and hate speech, following an internal survey undertaken by UNDP on youth in Malaysia. The idea was to gather information, including ideas on how to address hate speech and VE, and to transform them into on-ground activities and/or policy, wherever possible, due to the proliferation and acceptance of hate speech amongst youth in Malaysia. This was further backed by events that took place during the2022 General Elections, which saw a spate of hate speech/fear-mongering messages being propagated on a popular social media platform, by irresponsible parties—including politicians— and spread by young people towards minority groups. In this regard, recognizing that Malaysian youth remain susceptible to all forms of VE narratives, especially those that are political in nature (which manipulates their existing fears), this workshop sought to provide a safe and fun platform for youth from different ethnic/religious groups to engage with one another as well as could discuss sensitive issues that may affect them. The aim here was to foster peace and prevent violent extremism by enhancing individual as well as group resilience, through sessions that promoted agency, provoked critical thinking, and prioritized social cohesion and inclusion, which can serve as a good foundation for societal resilience against any form of VE that may arise. |
| **Implementation mechanisms:** | *What are the means/processes of implementation of the initiative?*The main means of implementation for this project was partnerships; a ‘whole-of-society’ approach involving community groups were sought, given the diverse range of topics and/or instruments being used in the project (interfaith, sports for resilience, etc.) beyond PVE. Understanding the importance of ensuring that the programme has credibility, UNDP and the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), an agency under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, partnered with a number of ethnic/faith/sports-based community organizations in order to enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of the activities with the youth, which also served to pave the way forward for more transparent conversations about difficult topics. *What are the main deliverables/activities involved?*The main deliverable for the SERASI project was a 3-day sports clinic, which focused on activities such as:1. Developing a workshop code-of-conduct to ensure a safe space for all;
2. Sharing sessions by national sports personalities on how sports can play a role in unifying Malaysia and how they overcame personal challenges;
3. Awareness raising on VE, PVE and how VE narratives aim to sow discord between communities;
4. Interfaith forum;
5. Futsal activities aimed at inculcating the need for inclusion, safe spaces and good conduct.

*What is the time frame of implementation?*Workshop was conducted on 19-21 March 2023. |
| **Target Audience(s):** | *Who are the beneficiaries of the proposed/implemented initiative?*48 university (24 boys; 24 girls) students from diverse ethnic/religious backgrounds across urban and rural areas. |
| **Partners/Funding:** | *Who are the main organizations/entities involved in the initiative and what are their roles?*The main implementing partner for the project was SEARCCT, given their mandate in conducting PCVE in the country as well as their experience in youth and PVE initiatives. Supporting partners include, Ministry of Youth and Sports, National Sports Council, Malaysian Islamic Youth Movement (Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia – ABIM), Malaysian Youth Council (Majlis Belia Malaysia – MBM), IKRAM Malaysia, Buddhist Missionary Society Malaysia, Malaysian Hindu Sangam, Federation of Taoist Associations Malaysia, Fellowship of Christian Athletes Community Church, and Azzumaar Operator (implementer of sports-based resilience activities).*What are the main sources of funding of the initiative?*The project was conducted under the ‘Preventing Violent Extremism Through Promoting Tolerance and Respect for Diversity, Phase II; a project funded by the European Union. |
| **SDG Alignment:** | *To what SDG goal/target/indicator is this initiative targeted?*SDG 16 (16.A) & 17 (17.17)*Please indicate any other national or internationally agreed goals/commitments to which this initiative is aligned.*UNDP Country Programme Document for Malaysia (2022 -2025)Output 4.1: Malaysia makes significant progress towards inter-ethnic and cultural harmony and cohesion.Indicator 4.1.2: Number of ethnic/faith- and rights-based groups represented in intergroup or community dialogues/initiatives to develop shared values for a more cohesive society. |
| **Alignment with global frameworks:** | *How does this initiative align with/contribute to the objectives of the* [*Kazan Action Plan*](https://en.unesco.org/mineps6/kazan-action-plan)*,* [*WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity*](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/272722/9789241514187-eng.pdf) *or other related internationally agreed frameworks on sport and/or physical activity?**Kazan Action Plan – Main Policy Area II – Maximizing the Contributions of Sport to Sustainable Development and Peace - II.4 Build peaceful, inclusive and equitable societies.* |
| **Alignment with United Nations Action Plan on SDP:** | *Which of the four thematic areas of the* [*UN Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace*](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2018/06/14.pdf) *is this initiative designed to align?**To which action area(s) of the Plan is this initiative designed to contribute?*Global framework for sport for development and peace – improve cooperation and coordination to create a common vision of the role of sport for development and peace. |
| **Outcomes:** | *What are the expected/actual outcomes of the initiative?*The expected outcomes of the initiative were that the youth would be more resilient to violent extremism activities and/or narratives through the enhancement of values such as inclusion and trust, which will hopefully lead to higher levels of inter-ethnic/religious social cohesion.  |
| **Mechanism for monitoring and evaluating implementation:** | *What are the mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation, outcomes and impact of the initiative?**What specific monitoring and evaluation tools are involved?*The project implemented a post-survey analysis, developed by the partners, that looked to obtain participants’ perspectives, particularly with regard to the quality of engagements with facilitators, soft skills related to sports activities in overcoming hardship and crises, areas of programming improvements, areas of interest (more information on VE, communication, interfaith forum/religious unity), key takeaways from the SERASI programme, and commitment to undertaking PVE actions related to the project for the next 3-6 months. |
| **Challenges/Lessons learned** | *What have been/were the main challenges to implementation?** Obtaining partners for PVE initiatives – the subject of PVE remains relatively unknown, particularly amongst CSOs/NGOs, which resulted in more time being taken to raise awareness and obtain commitment for the project.
* Implementation was also limited in terms of participation, due to the lack of manpower to execute bigger, expanded programming. There were also limitations with regard to the execution of monitoring and evaluation, both substantively as well as logistically – partners are not equipped to carry out M&E.

*What lessons learned have been/can be utilized in the planning of future initiatives?** Importance of evidence-based programming can improve buy-in for donors and partners.
* Partnerships are key in implementing multifaceted PVE programmes that involve other components beyond traditional PVE.
* Important for government agencies to lead the initiatives, especially if the aim is to also enhance a whole-of-society approach to PVE.
* Might be better for M&E to be properly budgeted for and conducted by UNDP and/or external parties, instead of partners due to limitations in capacity as well as knowledge.
* Youth remain very interested in PVE and peacebuilding; they should be provided more agency and more opportunities to engage in activities such as this. Future activities should include an expanded scope of implementation, and possibly, policy-work to include peacebuilding in national sports curriculum, if possible.
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