

## FINAL EVALUATION

### *Kallewa Manio: An Integrated Approach to Counter Violent Extremism in Diffa*



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Yssa Oumar BASSE  
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## Abbreviations

BH	Boko Haram
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CVE	Countering Violent Extremism
DME	Design, Monitoring and Evaluation
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
IDP	Internally Displaced People
KII	Key Informant Interview
PVE	Preventing Violent Extremism
Search	Search for Common Ground
SWOT	Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threat
VE	Violent Extremism

## Executive summary

### Background

Search for Common Ground Niger has completed the implementation of "Kallewa Manio" (Searching for Peace in Kanuri language), an 18-month project funded by the US State Department Bureau of Counter Terrorism. Implementation of this project began in December 2016 and sought to provide an integrated approach to the response against Violent Extremism (VE) in the Diffa region. It aims to develop community resilience to violent extremism by inducing positive engagement against violent extremism among young people. The objectives of the project are to (1) strengthen collaboration between community members and decision-makers on the community response to violent extremism and (2) increase community members' access to credible and sensitive information on violent extremism. The project has been completed and Search hired an independent external evaluator to conduct the present final evaluation in order to assess its achievements. The overall project was implemented in partnership with moderate youth and community leaders in all the targeted communes.

### Objectives of the evaluation

The objectives of the evaluation are to measure the changes resulting from the activities implemented by Search and on assessing the progress and influence of activities on:

- (1) capacity building of moderate youth and community leaders;
- (2) Community dialogue to counter violent extremism (CVE);
- (3) the restoration of trust between the various stakeholders and
- (4) access to reliable and accurate information.

The evaluation will also document successes, good practices and weaknesses observed in the project. It will identify constraints and opportunities, as well as lessons learned, to improve future interventions and contribute to organizational learning for the development of future programs. This second part will use four of the five OECD evaluation standards - relevance, effectiveness and sustainability.

### Methodology

The methodology consisted on the collection and analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data which were collected from the four Communes of Bosso, Diffa, Maine Soroa and Nguigmi where the project was implemented. A desk review based on the projects' documents such as the logical frameworks, the narrative reports and the projects' proposal preceded the field data collection which lasted ten days with one senior consultant who supervised seven enumerators.

For the qualitative data collection, one-on-one interviews were conducted with key informants while focus group discussions were held with men and women who were involved in the projects. In each Commune, a SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat) analysis was conducted with a sample of stakeholders who participated to the project's activities' development and implementation. The SWOT analysis sessions aimed to make the evaluation more participatory and have the project's stakeholders provide the maximum information while assisting in the primary analysis of the data that they provided.

The data collection was conducted in two communities from each of the four Communes of Maine Soroa, Bosso, Diffa and Nguigmi as shown on the table below. The Terms of Reference suggested targeting a sample of 30 respondents per Commune, given the fact that there were 4 communes involved in the study and in each one, two communities were selected for the study.

Overall, 4 FGD; 4 SWOT analyses and 4 FFA were held along with 14 KII. Interview and FGD guides were tailored to each of the respondents below.

Overall, 37 people (15 women and 17 men) participated to the SWOT Analysis sessions in the four Communes all the participants to those sessions were stakeholders who actively participated to the project's activities implementations. Moreover, 28 people (13 women and 15 men) participated to the FGDs. As far as the Key Informant Interviews are concerned, all the respondents were men and they were composed of 6 Imams, 8 neighborhood chiefs, 1 Search's project coordinator, 1 Search's M&E assistant in Diffa and the Media production manager in Diffa.

The enumerators were instructed to strive to have a gender balance among the respondents in all the communities where the data were collected. While the gender of the respondents was equally split (50% women and 50% men), the average age of respondents differed. The average age of male respondents was 29.5 years while that of females was 23 years.

### **Key findings**

The findings are generated from the analysis of the qualitative and quantitative data. They focus on assessing the evaluation criteria which were indicated in the Terms of References:

- **Relevance**

This part of the study analyses the extent to which the project is justified with regards to the context of the violent extremism prevailing in the Diffa region; the ways in which the activities undertaken in the framework of the project fit with the cultural norms of the participants; whether the targeted project beneficiaries can enable the project to reach its objectives; whether the project's activities have responded to the needs of the populations; and how the participants appreciate its effectiveness in the context of their traditions.

- **Effectiveness**

This subsection assesses whether all the planned activities have been realized, how much the timing of the activities was appropriate for the implementation of the project; if the targeted stakeholders were the same as those who implemented it; and if the participants were selected in accordance with pre-established criteria and in a fair process.

- **Sustainability of the achievements**

The sustainability of the achievements pertains to the extent to which participants were able to maintain and continue to cultivate nonviolent conflict management within populations without any support from the project; whether there has been any replication of the activities; and if stakeholder engagement likely to continue or increase after stopping external funding.

- **Relevance of the project**

Problems of security and Violent Extremism have been decried as being the most serious concern throughout the region. The project thought to develop resilience in order to better manage the consequences of violent extremism in the region. Kallewa Manio is therefore relevant in terms of the context in which it was implemented because it addressed issues that the populations of the Diffa region perceive as being the most serious ones to which they are confronted.

The project selected the most influential community stakeholders to participate in its activity's implementation. The involvement of the youth and moderate community leaders who are elected by their communities to be neighborhood chiefs, religious and traditional leaders as well as members of the

security forces have proved to be relevant also because these groups of actors from different professions and backgrounds are not only representative of the members of the communities in their diversity but also, by getting them to work together on the activities implementation, they get to know and learn from and understand each other. The gendarmes for instance would get the opportunity to better explain to the other project's stakeholders their role in the exceptional security context.

The collected primary data showed that the project is contextually relevant because it addressed issues that the respondents were the most concerned about. When asked to name the most serious problem with which their communities are confronted, 72% of the respondents to the survey respondents named problems related to violence as their main concern.

During the SWOT analyses, each of these issues was discussed in depth and it appeared that the violence within the big cities such as Diffa, the phenomenon of "the Palais" is perceived as a major problem which is considered as the main issue tied to both violent extremism and unemployment and one of the major consequences of the insecurity situation prevailing in the region. Kallewa Manio has addressed the issue of 'the Palais' by including them in the community youth led activities and in so doing, better communication was created between the security forces, the community leaders and "the Palais" members, which reduced the frictions them. The sensitization component of the Kallewa Manio project has developed programming around these issues which were also addressed through the radio round table programs and magazines, the 'Tribune d'Expression Populaire", Town Hall Meetings; participatory theatres and during community mobilization.

The selection of the community leaders who became stakeholders in the project led to the identification of leaders who were already democratically elected such as neighborhood chiefs and mayors in addition to other community leaders who were identified by their peers such as religious leaders and men and women in civil society who the community members respect and trust to represent them.

#### ➤ **Effectiveness of the project**

The sensitization activities were adapted to the communities' cultural contexts, thus cultural and sportive activities such as traditional wrestling, dance and soccer tournaments. Because these events gather big crowds, they become an opportunity for the project's implementer to sensitize the public on CVE. Besides strengthening the links between youth and their communities these cultural events offer young people a positive activity that builds self-esteem and confidence as well as sportsmanship.

The effectiveness of the project was analyzed during the SWOT and Force Field analyses which were conducted in the four Communes. During these sessions, representatives of the elected, the traditional and religious leaders, the youth and women leaders who participated to the project's implementation were invited.

Among those who have participated to at least one event organized in the framework of Kallewa Manio, more than 90% think that they were very effective at sensitizing the public or that they were very important because they address issues to which they are confronted and only 6% thought that the activities were not useful.

The project has supported the organization of community coordination meetings with the aim to discuss key issues and challenges faced by the communities, the new and relevant risks and their contribution to bring back peace and social cohesion in Diffa region.

Thanks to the skills acquired from the training received, the youth have participated in awareness raising campaigns to create consciousness about delinquency, radicalization, and violent extremism. In response

to the unemployment problems that the young people are facing, the young leaders who participated to Kallewa Manio have initiated youth profile identification for the purpose of lobbying the decision makers and the private sectors.

The data show that there has been an improvement in the collaboration level between the community leaders and the authorities has contributed.

Discussions about VE have not been a contentious issue, the respondents are generally open to express their feelings about the ongoing violence and how it has impacted on their livelihood, and 100% of the respondents were comfortable answering all the questions pertaining to VE. During the group discussions, 100% of the participants, both the youth leaders and the community leaders stated that they feel comfortable to discuss about ways to counter violent extremism with the deciders. When asked about their level of preparedness to manage the cases of VE, more than 73% of the community leaders said that they are well prepared.

The SWOT analyses conducted with the project's implementing partners, the FGDs with the communities' members and the quantitative data have shown that the youth and moderate communities' leaders and the decision makers have collaborated in order to find solutions to the problems related to Violent Extremism within the communities. The communities' members are at ease to discuss openly about the ways to counter violent extremism with the decision maker. The project Kallewa Manio has conducted capacity building sessions for the youths and the moderate community leaders in order to enable them to better manage conflicts and improve communication with the public. The data has shown that the confidence level with the information received from the media has also increased.

Through the discussions and activities undertaken in the framework of the project, the main sources of violent extremism within the communities have been identified with the participation of the community members who are directly affected by them and specific solutions that are adapted to the communities were proposed. In Diffa for instance, one of the main problems leading to VE is related to the "the Palais" and the project has managed to include members of those Palais in its activities, therefore improving communication between them and the community leaders.

The community members who participated to the project's activities such as the participative theaters and the Tribune d'Expression have agreed that the presentations have helped them better understand the causes of conflicts within their communities and how to counter them.

➤ **Sustainability of the project's accomplishment**

The town hall meetings (Tribune d'Expression Populaire) have been replicated by the beneficiaries and the youth activities have been replicated by the project's stakeholders. After the training and the youth activities, those youth went and replicated those activities and even used the skills they learned in project development to propose micro projects to other donors.

The youths who participated to the training have learned new skills that they replicated during the youth led activities. The community leaders and youth leaders were trained and possess the skills to positively engage in their community. They used the newly acquired skills to take initiatives which address issues of community interest such as sports and cultural activities, sanitary/health activities, community mediation.

The project's stakeholders stated that thanks to what they learned in the project, they know where to get relevant information and they will be able to continue to rely on each other for support when needed.

➤ **Summary of the indicators**

	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
% community members who feel comfortable discussing openly how to counter violent extremism with decision makers (disaggregated by youth and community leaders)	% of youth leaders	20%	<b>100%</b>
% community members who say that collaboration with decision-makers on the response to violent extremism has increased since the beginning of the project (disaggregated by youth and community leaders)	% of youth and community leaders	20%	<b>49.25%</b> Community leaders <b>20.75%</b> Youth leaders
Performance Indicator 1.1	# of youth trained	60	<b>60</b>
Performance Indicator 1.2	# of community leaders trained	45	<b>45</b>
Performance Indicator 1.3	# of community-led events or projects with primary objective of building resilience among communities most at risk of recruitment and radicalization to violence	24	<b>25</b>
Performance Indicator 2.1	# of 'Town Hall Meetings'	18	<b>26</b> This information was gathered from the last quarterly report
Performance Indicator 2.2	# of bi-monthly radio programs produced and diffused providing security information and advice for communities	25	<b>34</b> This information was gathered from the last quarterly report
Performance Indicator 2.3	# of produced CVE short movies	45	<b>45</b>
Performance Indicator 2.4	# of roundtable discussions recorded and broadcasted	19	<b>30</b>
Performance Indicator 2.5	# of trained youth/ community leaders/security leaders taking part in radio roundtable discussions	40	<b>160</b>
Performance Indicator 2.6	# of youth trained in Bluetooth sharing and facilitation of this content	30	<b>63</b>
Performance Indicator 2.7	% change in population who say that they have access to credible information related to peace and security in their communities	35%*	<b>91.5%</b>
Performance Indicator 2.8	% change of population who see their community and law enforcement leadership as effective focal points for issues related to peace and security in their communities	18%*	<b>52.5%</b>

\* Please see further explanation on these indicators on page 45.

## Recommendations

### Towards the media

- Thanks to the training that the media professionals have received from Kallewa Manio, they should be able with the support from Search's programs to create a Media Platform which involves all Search's supported radio station and make the Platform a permanent Dialogue Table dedicated to informing the public with accurate and relevant information about all the issues pertaining to security and the sources of conflict in the region, as a Watchdog for the media to identify and expose the main factors that contribute to jeopardize the social cohesion throughout the region. Create Media Platforms at regional as well as Commune levels throughout the Diffa region. The Media Platform should also be a forum for the media professional to also improve their capacities to deliver accurate information throughout the country.
- Let the community members always find local solutions to their problems. One of the main strengths of the project has been to train the stakeholders into identifying the main problems for themselves instead of having the Search's staff indicated to them what the issues were. This approach must be maintained so that local solutions are found for the local problems although Search's approach for conflict resolution is privileged.

### Towards Search for Common Ground

#### ➤ With regards to the media

- Search should assist in the creation and the capacity building of the Media Table of Exchange for the next two years in order to help them give content to their mission and in order to identify obstacles and help remove them.
- The programs provided by Search to the media have so far made a great deal of a difference not only on the citizens but also on the capacities of the radio stations. Search's Studio should diversify more the programs in order to produce more programs aimed at communities in the rural areas where the education level is still low and where people are more vulnerable VE.
- The social media needs to be more leveraged in the context of changing technologies. Internet on Mobile devices is becoming more accessible in Niger and more and more young people are using their mobile telephones as a way to get informed. Search needs to anticipate on the changes and leverage the new technologies to reach out to the maximum of young people in the country. Youtube and Facebook are currently being used by Search, but there is still a need to connect more to the youths so that they are informed about those Search channels along with other social media such as Whatsapp which is used to exchange videos faster.

#### ➤ With regards to the Youths and Community Leaders

A permanent platform of the Youth and Community Leaders aimed at identifying and monitoring of VE and the citizens' propensity to resort to violence should be set up. It will monitor and report all the excess of language noticed at public gatherings and on the radios and report it periodically. The monitoring

platforms must be established from regional to Commune local levels with the involvement of all the participants to Kallewa Manio.

➤ **Develop and propose a new project to address the sources of VE that were identified during Kallewa Manio implementation.**

The threats posed by inter-ethnic violence which results from the fighting over more and more scarce resources is likely to spill over in the urban areas and cause more violence. This is likely to have devastating effects on the region if it is not addressed soon. A new project specifically designed to appease the existing tensions in the rural parts of the region where farmers and cattle herders have started fighting should be designed to specifically address that form of conflict.

➤ **Income Generating Activities**

IGA activities promotion has not been an important item in Search's activities in the region of Diffa. However, in poverty ridden communities, the lack of jobs, idleness and poverty can be the root causes of people's vulnerability to VE. When people are busy working and are mindful of the consequences of violence on their property, they often refrain from igniting hatred towards others. For the projects implemented in the rural areas, it would be advisable to dedicate some resources to helping divided communities engage in IGAs together, contributing to long-term peacebuilding. The security context of the Diffa region has attracted many NGOs operating in the field of food security and developmental projects aimed at promoting economic resilience. Search could initiate project in partnership with those local and International NGOs in order to develop programs aimed at creating Income Generating Activities within the communities in the region.

## 1. Introduction

### a. Context of the project

Over the past five years, the widespread prevalence of extreme violence in the region of Diffa in Niger has created severe security threats which have resulted in death, destruction and social instability throughout that region. The prevailing violence has put the whole region in turmoil with more than a hundred thousands of Internally Displaced People<sup>1</sup> who are fleeing violence in their communities, about 7,000 children having abandoned school and half a million people in need of food assistance<sup>2</sup>. The violence cause by BH has created a series of other problems in the region as it has compelled entire villages to be abandoned for fear of violent attacks from the extremists and their populations moved to safer places. This has resulted in an increase of unemployment because the displaced people are obliged to abandon their livelihood and look work. These problems have sown seeds for the development of new types of crimes in the major cities of the region as well as in the rural areas.

Indeed, the Komadougou Yobé River which flows into Lake Chad through Nigeria and Niger has been the breadbasket of the Diffa region for centuries; it is the area where most of the fish and vegetables consumed in the southern regions of Niger and the northern part of Nigeria come from. It provides employment and livelihood in fishing and agriculture to tens of thousands of people who lived around the Lake. However, because it had also become a refuge and shelter for the Boko Haram combatants, the Nigerien government decided in the year 2015 to secure the surroundings of the river from the combatants by closing its banks from any economic activity and resettling more than 200 villages along the national Highway Number One (RN 1). In so doing, more than one hundred thousand people were resettled with their inhabitants losing their sources of income and their livelihood. All the people who were employed in the value chains of fish and vegetable production and sales in the Diffa region lost their jobs.

Furthermore, the demographic pressure caused by the Internally Displaced People from the shores of the lake to the sides of the national highways next to villages which were already struggling with the dearth of social infrastructure worsened the plight of both the Internally Displaced Persons and the inhabitants of the villages. That situation has started causing friction between the newcomers and the old dwellers as it is the case the village of Kablewa where the shortage of water is such that the whole village used to share 17 cubic meters of water per day, with the arrival of the IDPs, the population of the village has doubled but the supply of water still remains the same.

Moreover, still in the context of the insecurity caused by Boko Haram, the government decided to prohibit the use motorbikes as a means of transportation because the Boko Haram combatants were known to use them to commit crimes. Given that motorbike taxis were widely used by young people as a means to earn a living, the prohibition has resulted in thousands of them becoming unemployed. In addition to these governments' security measures taken in the context of the State of Emergency declared throughout the region, a curfew has been imposed throughout the region, making it illegal to circulate between 10 PM and 5 AM anywhere in the region. This decision has resulted in the shutting down of all the economic activities which used to occur at night time. The concomitance of these measures has resulted in a drastic increase of unemployment above all among the active population mainly composed of young people. The idleness generated by the unemployment has created a new form of criminal organization thus far unknown in the region. As a matter of fact, over the past three years more and more young people are starting to form gangs involved in organized crime such as kidnapping, drug trafficking

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<sup>1</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/niger/bulletin-humanitaire-niger-f-vrier-mars-2018>

<sup>2</sup> Idem

and usage, theft and violent aggressions<sup>3</sup>. These gangs locally known as “Palais” are now found all over the region and they are becoming more and more of a serious safety concern for the public authorities. Animosity between these “Palais” which fight for neighborhood control for drug trafficking often results in violent aggressions and death.

Niger also faces a serious problem with the low education level of its population. As a matter of fact, in Niger, only 19.1% (27.3% of men and 11% of women) of the population aged above 15 years is able to read and write<sup>4</sup>.

With the shrinking of pasture lands in Niger due to the rainy seasons becoming shorter and that country being the one with the highest demographic increase rate in the world, less and less land is found by livestock owners in a country where livestock production is among the main economic activities. In the late nineties a new ethnic group called the Mahamid Arabs arrived from Sudan and Chad with tens of thousands of camels competing against the local farmers and livestock owners for pastures and scarce water. The competition for pastures has resulted in violence between the different communities involved. The scarcity of land dedicated to pastures has been one of the main causes of ongoing conflicts between farmers and livestock owners to the extent that every year extremely violent clashes between farmers and cattle, camel; sheep and goat herders end with the death of tens of people. Given that the Fullahs are generally livestock owners while the Hausas, the Toubous and the Kanuris are mainly farmers, the conflicts often take ethnic contours, which aggravates the issue and makes the local conflicts in the rural areas spill into the urban communities where everyone perceives the clashes to be aggressions against the ethnic group to which one belongs.

The situation is worsened by the ongoing war against the BH fighters because often, when there is a clash between the government armed forces and the BH combatants, some of the fighters run away leaving their weapons on the battlefield and these weapons end up being picked up by civilians who keep them for personal use. This has ended up increasing the proliferation of light weapons circulation throughout the region thus increasing the possibility for extremely violent armed conflicts between the different ethnic groups residing in the region of Diffa.

Violent Extremism is therefore becoming more and more the greatest threat to peace and security in Diffa in particular and Niger in general. It is in this context that Search for Common Ground Niger, with the funding support from the Counter Terrorism Office of the US State Department initiated the project Kallewa Manio, An integrated approach to counter Violent Extremism in Diffa, Niger.

### **b. Objectives of the project**

Kallewa Manio is an 18-month initiative that sought to address the increased risk of susceptibility to Violent Extremism (VE) as well as the destructive effects resulting from VE on social cohesion across key communities in the region. The project seeks to address the increasing risk of susceptibility to VE as well as the destructive effects resulting from VE on social cohesion across key communities in the region of Diffa in Niger.

The overall goal of the project is to develop community resilience to violent extremism in the Lake Chad basin region of Niger. This was supported by two specific objectives:

- 1) Strengthen collaboration between community members and decision-makers on community-based violent extremism response.

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<sup>3</sup> [Dead Man's Market and the Boy Gangs of Niger – Foreign Policy](#)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2103.html>

- 2) Increase community members' access to credible and conflict-sensitive information on violent extremism.

The project was implemented in the five Communes of Bosso<sup>5</sup>, Nguigmi, Kablewa, Diffa and Maine Soroa.

**Table 1: Communities benefiting from the project**

Communes	Communities
<b>Diffa</b>	Sabon Carré
	Château
	Diffa Koura
	Festival
<b>Maine Soroa</b>	Ingoual Yamma
	Bouji Kollomi
	Abdouri
	Guidan Kadji
<b>Nguigmi</b>	N'Guigmi
	N'Guigmi/Réfugié
	N'Guigmi/Tchougoundi
	Habitant Kablewa
<b>Bosso</b>	Quartier 1
	Quartier 2
	Quartier 3
	Quartier 4
<b>Kablewa</b>	Kablewa

### c. Activities planning

Based on the logical framework, the following activities were planned:

**Table 2: Activities planned for the project's implementation**

<b>For Outcome 1: Community and decision makers work together to find responses to violent extremism at the community level</b>	
Output 1.1: Moderate youth and community leaders have communication and conflict management skills	Activity 1.1.1. Youth training
	Activity 1.1.2. Moderate community leaders' training
Output 1.2: Systems, projects and actions for CVE are operational	Activity 1.2. Community coordination meetings
	Activity 1.3. Support for youth engagement
	Activity 1.4. Participative theatre
<b>For Outcome 2: Community members have access to credible information on the consequences of Violent Extremism</b>	

<sup>5</sup> The activities held in Bosso were financed by another donor. The Department of Foreign Affairs Trade and Development Counter Terrorism Capacity Building Programs of the Canadian Government

Output 2: Crisis sensitive and credible information on violent extremism is shared	Activity 2.1. Town hall meeting (Tribune d'expression populaire)
	Activity 2.2.1. Production and broadcasting of 'Kamaskine Yanani' (My Neighbor is My Brother)
	Activity 2.2.2. Production and broadcasting of round tables
	Activity 2.3. Production, sharing and Projection of short films

All the planned activities were implemented. As a matter of fact, the activities' planning was done at the incipient stages of the project's elaboration, before the communities stakeholders were invited to participate to its implementation. The activities chronogram consisted therefore in five steps:

- The programmatic planning through a workshop held in Diffa
- The elaboration of the media activities and the development of the radio programs to be broadcast and the films to present at the mobile cinema
- The selection of the main project stakeholders
- The training of the youth and community leaders
- The implementation of the different activities throughout the beneficiary Communes

The programmatic planning was conducted in a participatory manner through a workshop held in September 2016 with the participation of Search staff relevant to the project. The activities development was elaborated during the workshop and it was decided to create the following activities:

- Innovative CVE short Film Development
- Radio Program Development
- Mobile Cinema

The two programs produced before being broadcast on 8 partner radio stations. These are Search's partner radio stations whose reach cover all of the targeted zones by the program (as well as additional zones). Because of the sensitivity of the themes and topics which were to be presented to the public, a media Training and Strategic Design session was initiated with the participation of Search media personnel along with the local radio partners in order to share Search's understanding of the strategy to follow in the framework of the project and to create programs with a format that fits the objectives of the project.

Subsequently, the rollout of Search media programs, the finalizing of the partnerships with the local radio stations to broadcast those programs, as well as the launch of community outreach activities using the participatory theater tool, was to be conducted after the main project stakeholders were selected.

The identification of the stakeholders was done through a participatory process of community led selection of key individuals to take part in the trainings as well as the subsequent activities. Then, the process of youth identification enabled Search to identify key young people who have the most influence over their peers and, thus, their generation, focusing particularly on female and male youth between the ages of 15 and 29. Additionally, through this process, Search identified other community leaders who took part in the subsequent trainings and activities. The consultation within the communities provided an opportunity for the Search staff to introduce the project to the communities.

Capacity building sessions were then organized for the youth and community leaders in order to have them acquainted with the project's objectives and then teach them the needed tools to effectively implement the project's activities. The objective of the training was to strengthen the knowledge,

understanding and skills of the youth on leadership, conflict transformation, rumor management and communication skills. It also aimed at teaching participants' skills and techniques of addressing conflicts using the Common Ground approach so that community members interact peacefully and can address the security threats while using collaborative solutions together. This in turn would allow them to engage positively within their communities as positive role models to their peers, identify and manage conflict and violence, as well as address issues related to the rise of violent extremism.

The trained youth and community leaders served as partners in all the project activities implementation. They assisted in the mobilization of the populations during the town hall dialogue sessions, the mobile cinema projection, the participatory theatres and the community coordination meetings. According to the participants to the SWOT analysis sessions, all those who were selected to be stakeholders to the project did participate to all the activities as planned.

The project's implementation was completed at the end of July 2018 and Search Niger has commissioned the present final evaluation to assess its achievements.

#### **d. Objectives of the evaluation**

The evaluation of the Kallewa Manio project focuses on measuring the changes resulting from the activities implemented by Search and on evaluating the progress and influence of the activities on:

- (1) Capacity building of moderate community and youth leaders;
- (2) Community dialogue to counter violent extremism (CVE);
- (3) The restoration of trust between the various stakeholders; and
- (4) Access to reliable and accurate information.

The evaluation will also document successes, good practices and weaknesses observed in the project. It will identify constraints and opportunities, as well as lessons learned, to improve future interventions and contribute to organizational learning for the development of future programs. This second part will use four of the five OECD evaluation standards - relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability.

## **2. Methodology of the evaluation**

The methodology used for the purpose of the present evaluation was agreed upon between the consultant and the Search Niger team in collaboration with the Institutional Learning Team after the submission of an inception report and the subsequent meeting held at the Search office in Niamey.

The methodology adopted consists of a documentary review and a field study combining quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis.

#### **a. Scope of the study**

The data collection was conducted in the four Communes of Diffa, Bosso, Nguigmi and Maine Soroa where the project was implemented.

**Figure 1: Map of the project's intervention areas**



### **b. Documentary review**

The literature review consisted of the study of the project's documents, more specifically the projects' proposals and logical frameworks, the monitoring reports and quarterly narrative reports. The indicators in the logical framework served as a yardstick for the comparison between the expectations from the project and what was actually achieved. The logical framework informed the evaluators about specifics of the evaluation criteria and it served in the elaboration of the data collection tools.

The baseline report was studied in order to assess the situation at the beginning of the project's implementation, it informed about the level of knowledge, the attitudes and practices in the targeted communities about Violent Extremism, however, it did not provide enough information on the indicators contained on the project's logical framework.

The projects' narrative reports were studied to help in assessing the effectiveness with which the project was conducted. The narrative reports informed about all the steps that were followed during the project's implementation and how all the activities were undertaken to reach the project's objectives as well as the limitations. They provided information on every activity undertaken in the framework of the project, from its inception to the decisions made on action plans and their implementations. In addition to the project documents, other documents related to the security conditions of the region were also studied. Documents found on the Internet related to the political and socio-economic context caused by the widespread prevalence of violence and the subsequent displacement of populations and reports from work done about it were also exploited to better contextualize the project. These documents include the monthly newsletters published by ECHO which assesses the prevailing humanitarian needs and the levels of insecurity across the region.

On the basis of the findings from the literature review the data collection tools were created and compiled in the Inception Report submitted to the Search evaluation steering team for approval.

### **c. Field data collection**

The field data collection was conducted between June 24th and July the 5th 2018. The quantitative data collection was conducted with men and women from the four Communes of Diffa, Bosso, Nguigmi and Maine Soroa. The qualitative data collection consisted of Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with key

stakeholders, traditional leaders, youth group representatives, and religious leaders and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) that were conducted with men and women from the communities as well as members of youth and women’s associations.

### i. Enumerators’ training

A full day was spent on training the enumerators. A team of 7 enumerators (four men and three women) was hired in Diffa to conduct data collection successively in the four Communes. These enumerators speak Kanuri, Hausa and Fulani fluently and they reside in the region. The training focused on the following aspects:

- Introduction and overview of the objectives and process of the research;
- Ethical Considerations and Code of Conduct for Researchers;
- The tools used for data collection;
- How to identify and randomly select participants in to the survey;
- Protect participants in the research process;
- Obtaining consent; and
- Problems of language and translation.

At the end of the training, a test was conducted to assess both the enumerators’ understanding of the expectations and the relevance of the questions and their congruity. It was after the senior consultant was satisfied with the results of the test that the actual data collection started.

### ii. Sampling process

The data collection was conducted in two communities from each of the four Communes of Maine Soroa, Bosso, Diffa and Nguigmi as shown on the table below. The Terms of Reference suggested targeting a sample of 30 respondents per Commune, given the fact that there were 4 communes involved in the study and in each one, two communities were selected for the study, the sampling was conducted as shown on the table below.

**Table 3: Communities targeted for the quantitative data collection**

Communes	Communities	Samples		
		Men	Women	Total
Diffa	Sabon Carré	8	7	15
	Diffa Koura	8	7	15
Maine Soroa	Ingoual Yamma	7	8	15
	Bouji Kollomi	5	10	15
Nguigmi	N’Guigmi/Réfugié	8	7	15
	N’Guigmi/Tchougoundi	8	7	15
Bosso	Quartier 1	7	8	15
	Quartier 2	7	8	15
<b>Totals</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>120</b>

### iii. Quantitative data collection

The quantitative data collection was conducted with both men and women on the basis of one questionnaire. The questionnaire – available in Annex section – sought to assess the perception, attitudinal and knowledge changes that occurred as a result of the project implementation. The questionnaire was crafted on the basis of the indicators on the project’s logical framework as well as the evaluation’s Terms of Reference. The enumerators went through the targeted communities and randomly selected respondents to administer the questionnaires as they went to the first house to ask questions and skip the following one.

### iv. Qualitative data collection

The qualitative data collection consisted of one-on-one interviews (KIIs), focus group discussions (FGDs) and sessions of Strength, Weakness Opportunity and Threat Analyses – (SWOT), and Force Field Analyses (FFA) in every one of the four Communes. When used in a project’s evaluation, the SWOT analysis helps identify the factors that made the project reach its objectives, the constraints related to its design or the ways in which the activities were conducted that were faced during its implementation. It also identifies the opportunities offered outside of the project that are still favorable to its sustainability as well as the external threats that could hinder its sustainability.

A Force Field Analysis provides a framework for looking at the factors (**forces**) that influence the project. It compares the driving forces that facilitated the project’s implementation with the restraining factors that hindered its activities.

KII and FGD guides were used for the data collection. For the sake of better triangulation, the respondents to the quantitative data collection were not interviewed for the qualitative data collection. The respondents to the qualitative data collection included Local Youth Leaders who were involved in the project; women community beneficiaries; men community beneficiaries; and traditional and religious leaders.

Overall, 4 FGD; 4 SWOT analyses and 4 FFA were held along with 14 KII. Interview and FGD guides were tailored to each of the respondents below.

- The staff of Search directly involved in the implementation of projects. The project coordinator was interviewed at the Search office in Diffa;
- The producers of media programs for communication;
- Religious leaders;
- Neighborhood chiefs;
- The associations of young people and women;
- The members of the groups or local associations which have benefitted from Search support;
- Participants to at least one of the activities of the project (members of the platforms, leaders of associations of young/women).

**Table 4: Qualitative data collection respondents**

Areas	Respondents	Data collection methods	Dates
Search for Common Ground	Project coordinator in Diffa M&E assistant in Diffa	KII	June the 25 <sup>th</sup>
	Media production manager	KII	June the 25 <sup>th</sup>
Diffa	Imams	KII, SWOT Analysis, FF Analysis	June the 28 <sup>th</sup>

	Neighborhood chiefs	KII, SWOT Analysis, FF Analysis	June the 28 <sup>th</sup>
	Youth leaders	SWOT Analysis, FF Analysis	June 29 <sup>th</sup>
	Women leaders	SWOT Analysis, FF Analysis	June 29 <sup>th</sup>
	Community members who participated to Kallewa Manio activities	FGD	June 29 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Maine Soroa</b>	Imams	KII, SWOT Analysis, FF Analysis	June 30 <sup>th</sup>
	Neighborhood chiefs	KII, SWOT Analysis, FF Analysis	June 30 <sup>th</sup>
	Youth leaders	SWOT Analysis, FF Analysis	July 1 <sup>st</sup>
	Women leaders	SWOT Analysis, FF Analysis	July 1 <sup>st</sup>
	Community members who participated to Kallewa Manio activities	FGD	July 1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Nguigmi</b>	Imams	KII, SWOT Analysis, FF Analysis	July 3 <sup>rd</sup>
	Neighborhood chiefs	KII, SWOT Analysis, FF Analysis	July 3 <sup>rd</sup>
	Youth leaders	SWOT Analysis, FF Analysis	July 4 <sup>th</sup>
	Women leaders	SWOT Analysis, FF Analysis	July 4 <sup>th</sup>
	Community members who participated to Kallewa Manio activities	FGD	July 4 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Bosso</b>	Imams	KII, SWOT Analysis, FF Analysis	July 6 <sup>th</sup>
	Neighborhood chiefs	KII, SWOT Analysis, FF Analysis	July 6 <sup>th</sup>
	Youth leaders	SWOT Analysis, FF Analysis	July 7 <sup>th</sup>
	Women leaders	SWOT Analysis, FF Analysis	July 7 <sup>th</sup>
	Community members who participated to Kallewa Manio activities	FGD	July 7 <sup>th</sup>

Overall, 37 people (15 women and 17 men) participated to the SWOT Analysis sessions in the four Communes all the participants to those sessions were stakeholders who actively participated to the project's activities implementations. Moreover, 28 people (13 women and 15 men) participated to the FGDs. As far as the Key Informant Interviews are concerned, all the respondents were men and they were composed of 6 Imams, 8 neighborhood chiefs, 1 Search's project coordinator, 1 Search's M&E assistant in Diffa and the Media production manager in Diffa.

#### **d. Biography of the evaluator**

The evaluation was conducted by Yssa Oumar BASSE, the Managing Director of the Group Strategies and Leadership consulting firm. Yssa has implemented several major projects directly for major International NGOs including SFCG in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Liberia, Norwegian Refugee Council, Plan WARO and the Plan COs in West Africa and for that NGO through other structures including the ACPF (African Child Policy Forum) and Partners-Senegal as well as World Vision, CARE International, Oxfam Intermon and ChildHope UK. He has conducted research and evaluation in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia several times on behalf of Plan International and World Vision. Yssa is a Senegalese native who speaks fluently French, English and Fullah.

Yssa was supported by a team of seven enumerators (four men and three women) who are natives of the Diffa region and speak very fluently the local languages.

#### **e. Ethical considerations**

The evaluation was designed to comply with the standards of research globally recognized<sup>6</sup>. It aimed to define strict ethical standards that promote trust between the evaluation team and the people interviewed, allowing the latter to respond to the questions honestly and in a manner conducive to the accuracy of the collected data.

The respondents must make their own choices as to whether they want to participate in the evaluation or not, and to do this, the team provided them with adequate information on the evaluation and they understood its purpose and to what end results will be used. They were informed that they can withdraw from the research at any time and that the confidentiality will be guaranteed. None of the project documents will contain information that will enable to know that they are the ones who provided the information.

#### **f. Constraints and limitations**

The main constraint encountered during the study pertains to the exploitation that was supposed to be made of the baseline study report. In any project evaluation, it is expected that the data analysis to involve a comparison between the data collected during the evaluation and those included in the baseline report, however, for the present project this had been very difficult due to the fact that the baseline study presented a report which looked more like a “Knowledge, Attitude and Practices” study than a baseline study, the baseline study did not take into account the project’s indicators. The data collected for the baseline could not and did not inform any of the project’s logical framework indicators, which made the comparison between the baseline data and the evaluation data difficult.

Moreover, the evaluation data were collected in a context of widespread insecurity throughout the region of Diffa which made respondents leery about answering questions from people they do not know. However, the enumerators were instructed to not insist when the potential respondents refused to participate to the data collection and go to next persons.

### **3. Analysis of the findings**

The findings are generated from the analysis of the qualitative and quantitative data. They focus on assessing the evaluation criteria which were indicated in the Terms of References:

- **Relevance**

This part of the study analyses the extent to which the project is justified with regards to the context of the violent extremism prevailing in the Diffa region; the ways in which the activities undertaken in the framework of the project fit with the cultural norms of the participants; whether the targeted project beneficiaries can enable the project to reach its objectives; whether the project’s activities have responded to the needs of the populations; and how the participants appreciate its effectiveness in the context of their traditions.

- **Effectiveness**

This subsection assesses whether all the planned activities have been realized, how much the timing of the activities was appropriate for the implementation of the project; if the targeted stakeholders were the same as those who implemented it; and if the participants were selected in accordance with pre-established criteria and in a fair process.

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<sup>6</sup> What is ethics in research and why it is important ? by *David B. Resnik, J.D., Ph.D.*

- **Sustainability of the achievements**

The sustainability of the achievements pertains to the extent to which participants were able to maintain and continue to cultivate nonviolent conflict management within populations without any support from the project; whether there has been any replication of the activities; and if stakeholder engagement likely to continue or increase after stopping external funding.

**a. Demographic characteristic of the respondents**

The analysis of the respondents’ socio-demographics is critical to understand their attitudes, knowledge and perception in relation to community cohesion and VE and also their attitudes regarding solutions to provide and prevention measures to take in order to counter VE within their communities. The people’s openness to dialog is to a certain extent explained by their levels of knowledge about the issues pertaining to VE and their education level.

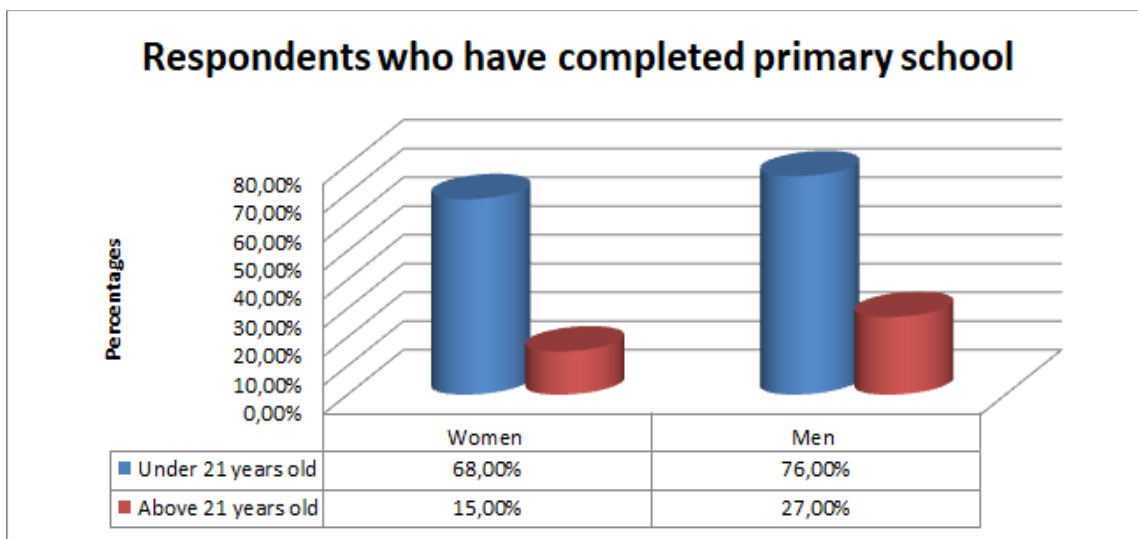
The enumerators were instructed to strive to have a gender balance among the respondents in all the communities where the data were collected. While the gender of the respondents was equally split (50% women and 50% men), the average age of respondents differed. The average age of male respondents was 29.5 years while that of females was 23 years.

**Table 5: Respondents' age distribution**

	Average age (in years)
<b>Men</b>	29.5
<b>Women</b>	23

The education levels show that the women from all four Communes lag far behind men, although the overall education levels remain low for both genders. Among the women who are less than 21 years old, 68% have completed primary school while 76% of the men in the same age bracket have done so. Among the women who are over 21 years old, only 15% have finished primary school and among the men, only 27% have done so. Overall, the percentage of the respondents who have attended university is less than 5% with none of the female respondents having attended university.

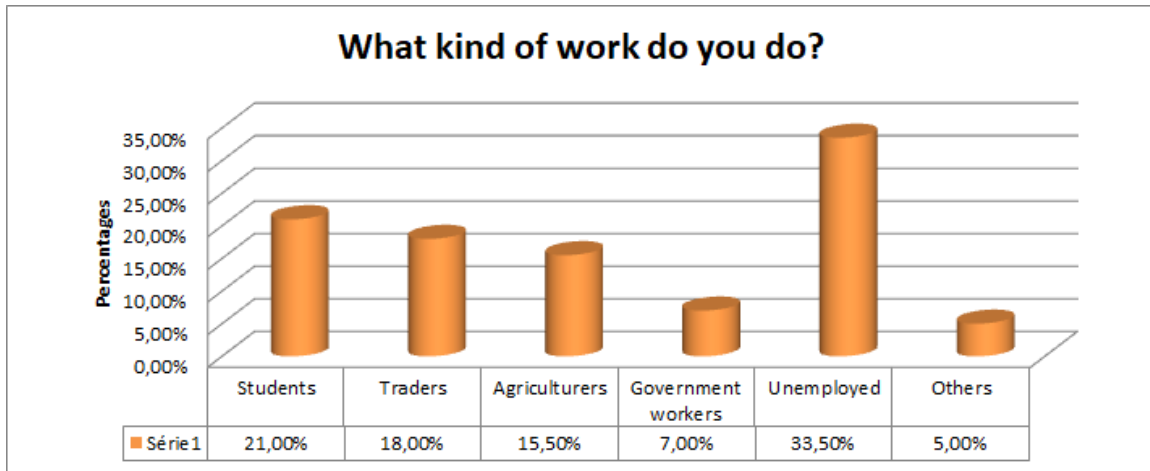
**Figure 2: Primary education completion**



Sources: Quantitative data

Among the respondents, more than 33% are unemployed and among those who are working, 55% are women working as petit traders and in agriculture. The study sought to assess the education level of the respondents and education because, as stated on the baseline report, the role of education continues to emerge as an important factor in examining a wide range of dynamics pertaining to violent extremisms. In the broader examination of drivers of violent extremism, evidence suggests that the level of education is positively linked to higher incomes, often rendering individuals who have access to education less likely to participate in VE<sup>7</sup> Research at national levels has found that higher levels of education are positively correlated with economic growth and reduction in inequality and poverty.<sup>8</sup>

**Figure 3: Respondents’ professions**



Sources: Quantitative data

**b. Relevance of the project**

The project’s relevance relates to the extent to which it responds to the needs of the communities where it was being implemented; how it adapts to conflicts and to the priorities of the targets and the beneficiaries and the extent to which its implementation is adapted to the context targeted populations.

The project was being implemented in an exceptional security and intercommunity conflict prone region which calls for reactive solutions as well as preventive actions to preempt and forestall VE throughout Diffa. The analysis of the security situation with regards to the needs expressed by the different categories of the project’s beneficiaries encompasses several aspects: It relates first of all to the relevance of the different social categories targeted as the project’s beneficiaries in the present context; secondly, it seeks to analyze the opinions of the various target groups on the impact of this situation on the social relationships between the communities and the ways in which conflicts are resolved. In other words, the present section seeks to determine if the project is relevant in the region of Diffa in its current context; if it is relevant for its target groups and how the participants to its implementation and its beneficiaries perceive the effectiveness of its activities.

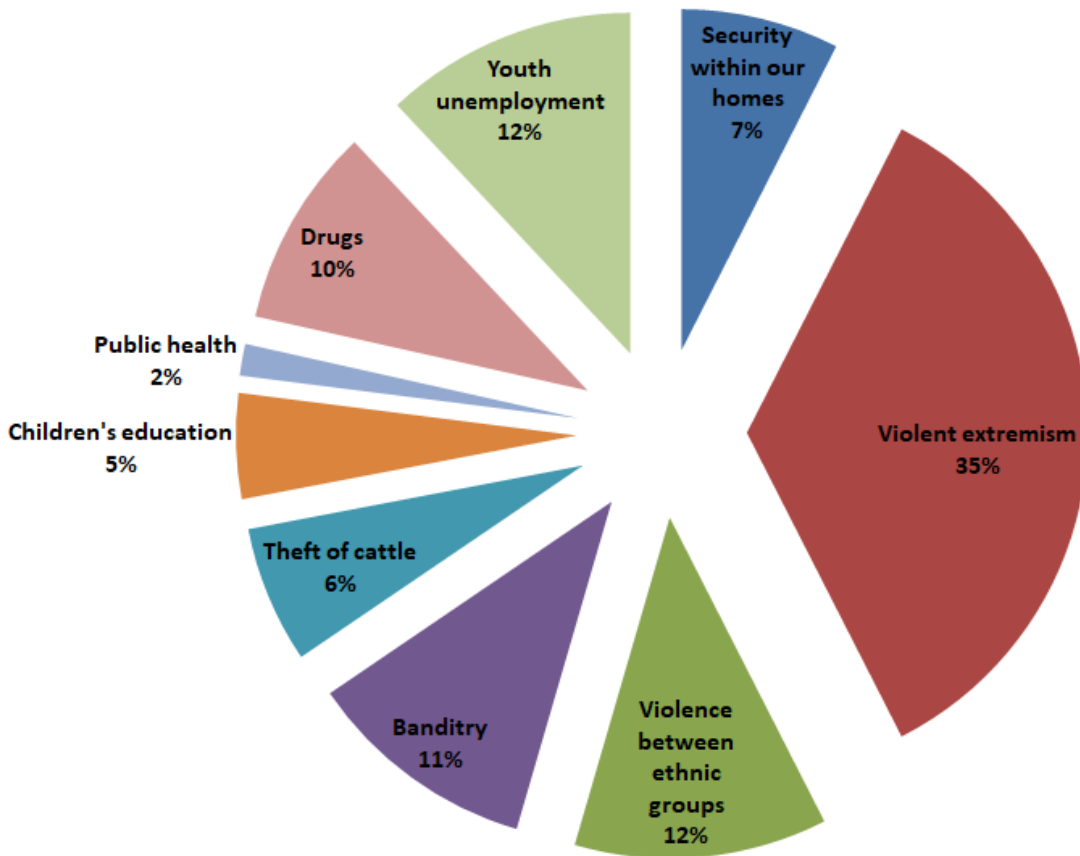
<sup>7</sup> BROCKHOFF,S., Tim Krieger & Daniel Meierrieks. 2012. Great Expectations and Hard Times – The (Nontrivial) Impact of Education on Domestic Terrorism. CESifo Working Paper N°.3817, Category 5: Economics of Education, p.1-37.

<sup>8</sup> Temple, J. (1999). A positive effect of human capital on growth. *Economics Letters* 65, 131-134. ; Cohen, D. & Soto, M. (2007). Growth and human capital: Good data, good results. *Journal of Economic Growth* 12, 51-76.

**i. Relevance with regards to the context**

As described in the introduction, the fragile security context of the Diffa region in Niger is laden with factors that can lead to Violent Extremism. When asked to name the most serious problem with which their communities are confronted, 72% of the respondents to the survey named problems related to Violence. Among the proposed responses, there were education, health, drugs and other issues pertaining to violence. Among the responses, the first five are related to violence with 35% who named VE as their main concern, 12% named violence between ethnic groups, 11% stated that banditry is a major concern, 12% youth unemployment and 9.5% named drug use. The problems related to health and education are considered to be secondary to violence related issues.

**Figure 4: The main problems to which the communities are confronted**



**Sources: Quantitative data**

During the Focus Group discussions, the same issues were raised. The consultant just asked the participants to the discussions to name the main problems to which the communities were confronted and he let them name what they deemed to be the most serious ones: Those problems were listed on the boards used for the purpose of facilitating the discussions. The listing below in Figure 5 was done in Maine Soroa. It shows security within the homes, the mosques, the farms, the markets, among the Internally Displaced People; Boko Haram; lack of understanding between the different ethnic groups, unemployment; poverty and social injustice in the areas of education, the local administration and the justice system to be the main problems to which the communities are confronted.

During the SWOT analyses, each of these issues was discussed in depth and it appeared that the violence within the big cities such as Diffa, the phenomenon of “the Palais” is perceived as a major problem which is considered as the main issue tied to both violent extremism and unemployment and one of the major consequences of the insecurity situation prevailing in the region. The unemployed youths who are members of “the Palais” were accused by the participants to the discussions of constituting gangs which rape women, steal and cause mayhem throughout the main cities of the region.

**Table 6: The main problems faced by the communities**

Communes	First major problem	Second major problem	Third major problem	Fourth major problem	Fifth major problem
Diffa	The Palais	Violent Extremism	Insecurity within public places	Youth unemployment	Social injustice
Maine Soroa	Insecurity	Violent Extremism	Lack of understanding between communities	Youth unemployment	Poverty
Nguigmi	Insecurity	Violent Extremism	Violence between ethnic groups	Cattle theft	Social injustice
Bosso	Violent Extremism	Insecurity within public places	Violence between ethnic groups	Poverty	Cattle theft

Kallewa Manio has addressed the issue of ‘the Palais’ by including them in the community youth led activities and in so doing, better communication was created between the security forces, the community leaders and “the Palais” members, which reduced the frictions them. The sensitization component of the Kallewa Manio project has developed programming around these issues which were also addressed through the radio round table programs and magazines, the ‘tribune d’Expression Populaire”, Town Hall Meetings; participatory theatres and during community mobilization. The project’s community outreach activities, its media programming activities and capacity building and support activities contributed to identifying solutions for these issues through peaceful preventive measures. Kallewa Manio focused on training moderate youth and community leaders on identifying the sources of conflict in order to able them to initiate joint community engaging initiatives and efforts for the resilience of their communities.

When asked to prioritize the main concerns in their communities, all the participants to the SWOT analysis in Nguigmi, none of the respondents talked about education or food security and when the consultant reminded them that these are also major problems in the region, to one of the community leaders stated: “Our region used to be the breadbasket for Niger and we used to supply food to the Borno state in Nigeria, all this is over now, we do face problems with access to water and with the education of our children. However, all these issues are the direct consequence of the conflicts and the insecurity prevailing in the region. Once security comes back, there will not be any unemployment problems or any problems with water because now we are forced to share our water and land with refugees and people who are displaced from their villages. When the problems of security will be resolved, anyone who wants to work can go to

the lake and find work, which is why I say that conflicts and security are the main problems and everything else is secondary.”

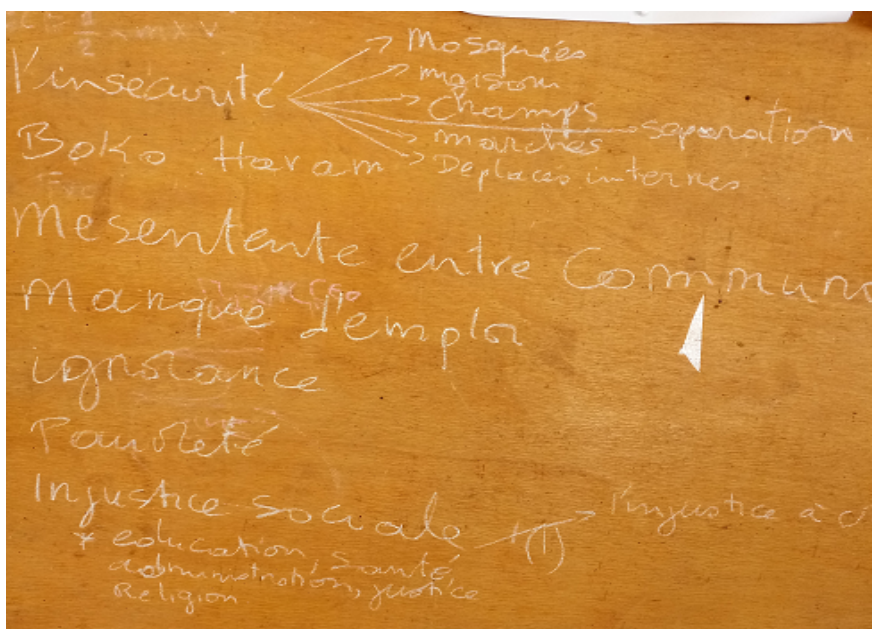
Violence between the different ethnic groups has also been decried as a main source of conflict. According to one of the youth leaders participating to the SWOT analysis in Diffa, that issue is very much likely to surpass the problems caused by Boko Haram in the near future. Conflicts between the different ethnic groups in the region have been prevailing in the region for a long time, but they have always been sporadic and quickly resolve through traditional mechanisms, however, now they are becoming more violent and difficult to resolve. The complexity stems from the fact that conflicts between farmers and cattle herders are turning more and more into a conflict between Fullahs whose livelihood is mainly based on cattle rearing and the members of the other ethnic groups who live mainly on farming. All the participants to the discussion agreed that if preventive measures are not taken to address that problem, more violent extremism will spread quickly across the region.

The positive engagement promoted by the Kallewa Manio project promotes collaboration between community members and decision-makers in order to find relevant community initiated responses to all forms of violent extremism. The stakeholders who are participants to the project’s implementation are invited to reflect together on finding local solutions to the sources of violent extremism. Therefore, the project is relevant in the context of the region because it addresses sources of conflict which the populations in the region of Diffa currently consider to be their main problems.

“As an Imam, I preside over religious events and on weddings and baptisms, I always preach against violence and for dialog: What my participation to the project Kellewa Manio did is make me see the link between the problems of education and justice and Violent Extremism and above all think about ways to address the issues in ways that can be preventive instead of waiting until problems start before I try to reconcile people.”

A religious leader who participated to the SWOT Analysis in Maine Soroa

Figure 5: Main problems faced by the communities



Sources: SWOT in Maine Soroa

**ii. Relevance with regards to the targeted stakeholders**

The beneficiaries of the project are all the community members who reside in the areas where it was implemented. These communities have key actors who are influential and are considered as leaders among their peers. These are youth associations' leaders, community religious and traditional leaders and elected leaders. In the framework of the project's implementation, these key youth and community leaders were invited to take part in the training and community engagement activities and serve as relays for the mobilization and sensitization of their peers in order to provide effective means to reach out to all the community members and ensure that the project's activities' results are sustained beyond its lifespan.

The youth leaders and the community leaders who can identify and engage at risk youth, and positively influence those youths were selected in a participatory process. A "Youth identification methodology" which focused on identifying youth groups and leaders to participate in the programming was used in order to ensure that the right youth leaders were selected. At the same time the process enabled to identify the main concerns of the community with regards to VE. Through formal and informal discussion groups with youth, local authorities, traditional and spiritual leaders, civil society groups, and others allowed to gain an informed understanding of the youth targeted in the action and how they are organized. The process of youth identification in Diffa enabled Search to identify key young people who have the most influence over their peers and, thus, their generation, focusing particularly on female and male youth between the ages of 15 and 29. The youths identified come from a range of groups and organizations, including formal and informal youth-led associations.

The selection of the community leaders who became stakeholders in the project led to the identification of leaders who were already democratically elected such as neighborhood chiefs and mayors in addition to other community leaders who were identified by their peers such as religious leaders and men and women in civil society who the community members respect and trust to represent them. Moreover, during the training for the stakeholders, other actors such as the Gendarmes who are responsible for the communities' security were also invited to participate.

**iii. Stakeholders' appreciation of the project's activities' relevance**

Among the main activities undertaken in the framework of the project there were the training of the stakeholders on identifying the main sources of VE in their communities; on how to initiate joint community engaging initiatives and efforts for the resilience of their communities; community mediation and sensitization of peaceful conflict resolution. The sensitization activities were adapted to the communities' cultural contexts, thus cultural and sportive activities such as traditional wrestling, dance and soccer tournaments. Because these events gather big crowds, they become an opportunity for the project's implementer to sensitize the public on CVE. Besides strengthening the links between youth and their communities these cultural events offers young people a positive activity that builds self-esteem and confidence as well as sportsmanship.

Moreover, community members are invited to engage in young people in positive community actions that promote culture and community cohesion within the neighborhoods, as such, young leaders in collaboration with community leaders carried out sanitary actions in their neighborhoods.

These activities were initiated by community leaders, especially the youth for the benefit of their own communities. The leaders mobilized people around these activities in order to create a greater common engagement for their communities. That is why, during the group discussions with the project's stakeholders in the four Communes, all the participants showed their appreciation about how these activities were undertaken. One of the representatives of the neighborhood chiefs in Diffa stated: *"One of the positive results of the project has been to instill in the young people's minds that they have to take responsibility for the good of their communities and be willing to help improve their neighborhoods"*

*without expecting any payment in return. Since these activities people have made a commitment that they will continue to make the neighborhood a clean place.”*

#### Partial conclusion

Problems of security and Violent Extremism have been decried as being the most serious concern throughout the region. The project thought to develop resilience in order to better manage the consequences of violent extremism in the region. Kallewa Manio is therefore relevant in terms of the context in which it was implemented because it addressed issues that the populations of the Diffa region perceive as being the most serious ones to which they are confronted.

The project selected the most influential community stakeholders to participate in its activities implementation. The involvement of the youth and moderate community leaders who are elected by their communities to be neighborhood chiefs, religious and traditional leaders as well as members of the security forces have proved to be relevant also because these groups of actors from different professions and backgrounds are not only representative of the members of the communities in their diversity but also, by getting them to work together on the activities implementation, they get to know and learn from and understand each other. The gendarmes for instance would get the opportunity to better explain to the other project's stakeholders their role in the exceptional security context.

#### **c. Effectiveness of the project**

The effectiveness of the project was analyzed during the SWOT and Force Field analyses which were conducted in the four Communes. During the SWOT and Force Field sessions, representatives of the elected, the traditional and religious leaders, the youth and women leaders who participated to the project's implementation were invited. They all gathered in the same setting to evaluate the activities which were undertaken and assess the effectiveness with which they were conducted. In each session facilitated by the consultant, the participants thought to identify the enabling factors which made it possible to realize some of the activities and the retraining factors the constituted constraints. Moreover, the participants also sought to identify the strengths of the project, its weaknesses, the opportunities that it afforded and the threats to its achievements.

The Sessions started with discussions around the context of Diffa region that could lead to VE. The participants listed all the factors which currently constitute threats to public safety and each one of those factors was thoroughly discussed by all the participants. After the discussions of the region's situation, the context in which the project was undertaken was then analyzed in order to determine its relevance with regards to the current situation and a listing of the stakeholders was dressed along with the activities that were initially proposed, targeted beneficiaries and the planning of the activities. The SWOT tables that were obtained in the four Communes are very similar.

#### **i. Capacity building for the youth and community leaders**

For the sake of ensuring the sustainability of the project's activities, in every one of the communities where it was being implemented, the youth leaders and the traditional and religious leaders participated in capacity building sessions aimed at reinforcing their abilities to address violence and issues related to the rise of violent extremism.

Leadership and conflict transformation training sessions were organized with Youth Council as well as police representatives with the aim to develop their positive and constructive engagement within their communities and empower them as moderate non-violent voices. The following topics were discussed during the capacity building sessions:

- Definitions and theories of leadership and conflict;
- Common Ground principles;
- Techniques of conflict transformation and rumor management.

Internet penetration remains among the lowest in the world with an estimated 4% of the population having access.<sup>9</sup> Moreover, Bluetooth training sessions were organized for youth leaders on the use of social media tools for the purpose to learn how to disseminate messages but also to discuss the content of the messages and to be able to draw key issues and lessons from them. The workshop introduced a range of social media networking tools to participants. The confidence and skills base of youth leader in using social networking platforms were strengthened. The training aims were to:

- Introduce participants to a range of social media tools and consider how they're sharing modern information;
- Explore how social media tools such Bluetooth, WhatsApp, and Twitter can support the Social transformation process and counter the violent extremism through sharing films and other related messages to youth to stop them from embracing violent extremism.

According to the participants to the FGD in Maine and Diffa, every one of the activities undertaken in the framework of the project was an opportunity for the participants to learn new ways of peacefully resolving conflicts.

“We have participated to many activities such as participatory theatre, public debates, radio programs and even the wrestling and langa<sup>10</sup> contests were opportunities to discuss issues related to non-violence. We all know the importance of peacefully resolving conflicts; however, it is not always easy to put it into practice. By participating to the preparations for the events leading to the sensitization sessions, we learn how to approach the people targeted for the sensitization, we learn how to mobilize people and how to talk to them in an effective manner. A wrestling contest is normally not made for talking about peaceful conflict resolution; however, with the project we learn how to make it so”.

A participant to a FGD in Maine Soroa

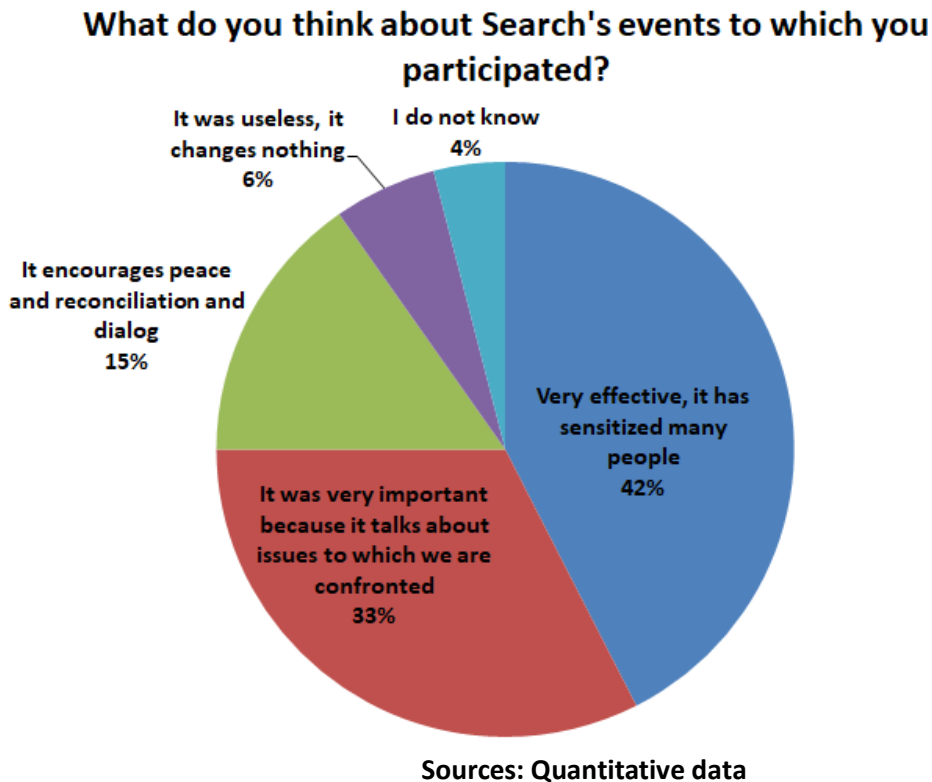
The quantitative data show that the respondents have the same perception about the project's activities. Among those who have participated to at least one event organized in the framework of Kallewa Manio, only 6% thought that the activities were not useful and more than 90% think that they were very effective at sensitizing the public or that they were very important because they address issues to which they are confronted as shown on Figure 5.

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<sup>9</sup> International Telecommunication Union, World Telecommunication/ICT Development Report and database: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IT.NET.USER.ZS>

<sup>10</sup> A popular in game among the youth in Niger

Figure 5: Perceptions about the project's activities



**ii. How the participants used their new skills**

The participants to the capacity building sessions used the newly acquired skills to sensitize their peers on issues related to VE. The religious leaders integrated preaching against violence in their sermons and there were debates organized with the neighborhood youth to identify together the main sources of violence and discuss on ways to counter it. During the discussions, the communities’ youths get the opportunity to express their feelings about their situation and on how much the measures taken by the Government to counter violent extremism has negatively impacted on their livelihood and how this has led to more frustration and anger.

Among the youths who participated to the Bluetooth training, some also trained their peers on how to share content. Search Niger produces short videos that are shared among the youth. Although file sharing is becoming more and more popular in Niger, there is still ground to cover among the youth. Through the file sharing they are using faster channels to communicate with each other and getting and sending information that they find useful. All the short clips produced by Search have thus been widely shared among the youths in the region. During the group discussions, 100% of the young participants have stated they use Whatsapp to exchange files on the Internet and that every one of the clips produced by Search Niger that was sent to them has been shares with their friends individually and in the groups to which they belong.

The project has been an opportunity to develop leadership skills among the youths and women. One woman participant to the Nguigmi FGD stated that what she learned the best about the project was the ability to talk publicly about issues that relate to the problems of her community that can lead to violence.

“I knew that ignorance, the lack of education and unemployment were part of the reasons why people resort to violence to make their concerns heard, however, I did not know how to articulate it. With the

training that I got and my involvement with the project I learned a lot and I am now able to address these issues very comfortably.”

A woman participant to the FGD in Nguigmi

The neighborhood chiefs and local council members have also participated to the preparation and the implementation of all the sensitization activities in their communities. They participated the round table debates and on partner radios on issues such as “Youth groups abiding by the on-going Curfew”, “Roles of women in the education of children” and “Roles of leaders in countering violent extremism in Bosso”.

### iii. Sources of conflict and conflict management

The identification of the main issues pertaining to Violent Extremism was among the first initiatives undertaken in the framework of the project. The main sources of VE were identified during the baseline study and when the project’s activities’ planning were being developed the findings from the baseline informed the decisions. The youth and moderate community traditional, political and religious leaders were trained on strengthening collaboration between community members and decision-makers on community-based violent extremism response. The training aimed to empower them to be able to initiate joint community engaging initiatives and efforts for the resilience of their communities. It sought to enable them to identify the sources of VE and take preventive actions with the mains decision makers within their communities. According to the Youth Leaders, the Women leaders as well as the representatives of the mayors and the Imams who participated to the SWOT Analyses sessions, the training and the subsequent learning that they got from it has enabled them to work together in ways that they had never done before.

Collaborative initiatives have already started to be developed between the mains stakeholders who benefitted from the project’s capacity building. Within the neighborhoods, they coordinate actions such as community cleaning, wrestling contests, Soccer tournaments, Youth-led community mediation, Youth Outreach and participative theatres. These activities are not only opportunities for entertainment, but because they gather large crowds, they are occasions for sensitizing the participants on CVE and they engage young people in positive community actions that promote culture and community cohesion. They strengthen the bonds between youth and their communities, reducing risks for participation in VE.

#### **A Neighborhood deputy Chief (Chef de quartier) on the collaborative initiatives to address violence in the community**

“One of the most serious issues that I see is likely to get out of hands if it is not addressed effectively is the problem posed by the “Palais”. We are having more and more youths who are neither going to school, nor working who loiter at the corners of our streets smoking cannabis and drinking alcohol all day long and waiting for opportunities to start trouble. They aggress women, they steal and engage in drug trafficking. I have always perceived them as a threat to our communities.

However I have never found a way to address that problem. Now, with the project, I started collaborating with the Youth leaders and the Imams and we found ways to go and talk to the young people in the “Palais” and discuss with them about their concern and how they can contribute to the good of the community. They were very receptive and when we organize Community clean up. I was surprised that they were the first to come and they spend the day working for free. Now when I see them, I am not scared, I stop and talk to them. They used to flaunt their alcohol or the marihuana that they smoke every time they see me coming,

just to let me know that I can't do anything against them, but now they hide it when they see me coming and they politely greet me. I am starting to see that I can work with them."

#### **iv. Community dialog on Countering Violent Extremism**

The programming of every activity such as media programs, participatory theatres and town hall meetings targeted specific topics and was animated by stakeholders of the project who were trained on the subject. Community dialog has been central to the project's activities, through the media's radio magazines and radio round table discussions produced in local languages (Kanuri, Peul and Hausa), Bluetooth video sharing, mobile cinema screenings and participatory theatres.

The project has supported the organization of community coordination meetings with the aim to discuss key issues and challenges faced by the communities, the new and relevant risks and bring their contribution to bring back peace and social cohesion in Diffa region. During the discussions, the following issues were identified:

- The hardship situations that the internal displaced people are facing as majority of them have lost their properties and their livelihoods;
- The lack of sufficient humanitarian assistance as it is not enough to cover their needs for they are many for example that are related to unemployment, the lack of inadequate health and education, and waters facilities. Access to the Lake Chad still prohibited and as matter of fact, people can't farm nor fish. Consequently, their livelihoods are eroded.

In terms of solutions, the participants at the meeting decided to implement the following actions:

- Meeting with local authorities such as the traditional ruler to discuss these issues with a view to get sustainable solutions;
- Organize public prayers to beg for God's support so that peace and prosperity will come.

Thanks to the skills acquired from the training received, the youth have participated to awareness raising campaigns to create consciousness about delinquency, radicalization, and violent extremism. In response to the employment problems that the young people are facing, the young leaders who participated to Kallewa Manio have initiated youth profile identification for the purpose of lobbying the decision makers and other private sectors. After every session of mobile cinema viewing or participatory theatre, discussions on how to counter violent extremism are initiated with the participants in order to measure the participants' understanding of the objectives of the events and also better sensitize them of the issues of VE.

#### **v. Trust between the different stakeholders**

The project's stakeholders are members of the same communities and in most of them actually knew each other well before the project was started; however, their levels of interactions were very low. Kallewa Manio created the opportunity for those key community actors to gather and collaborate in the same project.

According to the participants to the SWOT analyses, it enabled them to identify areas of complementarity between them and know how to exploit it. Religious, traditional and elected leaders happen to be elderly male people who do not always communicate effectively with organized youths. Subsequently, they often have views about the young people's and women's behaviors that are not conducive to the promotion of

effective dialogue between generations. Through the activities undertaken in the framework of the project, Kallewa Manio has gathered young people, the traditional and religious leaders with young women and men in order to find solutions to important problems affecting the whole communities.

The decisions pertaining to the activities to undertake in the framework of the project were decided between all the stakeholders and Search team and the implementation was done together. According to a Youth leader, *“the mere fact that we had to sit together to decide on what to do and exchange on issues that are dear to us and on which we do not necessarily have the same opinions was a very positive thing because we learned to know each other and even once the project is over, I know what I can expect from every one of those who participated to it. If there is any community problem to resolve, I have a good network of acquaintances to call on to.”*

#### **vi. Collaboration between decision makers and community members**

Among the projects stakeholders who actively participated in their implementation, there were decision makers at local level who were involved in the planning and the implementations of the activities. In the Diffa region of Niger, traditional and religious leaders play an important role in regulating and taking decisions on social issues. Moreover, the Neighborhood chiefs are locally elected officials who report directly to the Sous-prefet and the Communes mayors.

Before the beginning of the project, Search had reached out to the local government in Diffa, including the office of the governor, the Mayor of Diffa and of the target communes, as well as the regional council, and the President of Diffa regional Youth Council as well as the Ministries of Interior, Defense, and the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Defense provided support in terms of outreach and security where needed while the Interior Ministry sent police officers to participate in the training sessions initiated by the project. In the incipient phases of the project’s planning, the Search staff conducted consultations on the security context of the region with the Commander of the Gendarmerie in Diffa who advised on the project’s implementation.

Among the issues noted during the preparation phase of the project, there is a continued lack of communication between community members and the security forces based in the region, along with a lack of mechanisms to speak openly about key problems faced in the community and how to express these problems to community leadership, but also to the armed forces. Along the same lines, there is fear that the members of the security forces are able to effectively address the public’s complaints. Because of restriction on movement and curfew, there are economic and social problems that persist. Before the curfew, there were lots of income generating activities that took place at night such as restaurants and bars and motorbike taxis that used to operate all night long and employ thousands of people. Since the curfew was imposed, all these activities have been halted causing too many people to lose their livelihood. The youth complained about the fact that they cannot ride motor-cycles because they are forbidden.

The police officers were perceived by the youths as people who are in the communities to seek excuses to arrest and abuse young people. The members of the “Palais” above all were always in conflicting relations with the representatives of the security forces who are accused of using excessive forces against them. Subsequently, many young people are abusively arrested under the context of State of emergency and held without trial for long periods of time and then released without any form of compensation.

The interactions between the different stakeholders of the project and the fact that police officers were invited to attend training sessions and participated to outreach gatherings has contributed to abate the climate of suspicion between them and the community youths and at the same time, it has help the police officers better explain to the public their role under the exceptional security situation that the region is facing.

According to a youth leader who participated to the SWOT Analysis in Diffa, *“The presence of police officers among us raised some fear and suspicion at first but as we went ahead, the suspicions dissipated and we are now starting to see them as people with whom we can collaborate and in our sensitization campaign we emphasize to the youth that the police is here to protect us and that in the current exceptional situation, we have to rely and cooperate with them in order to counter the violent extremism that we are facing.”*

Table 7 shows how the participants responded to the question “Do you think that collaboration with the decision makers about ways to counter VE has increased since the beginning of the project?”

**Table 7: Community and authority collaboration on VE**

	Community leaders			Youth leaders		
	Yes	No	Don't know	Yes	No	Don't know
<b>Bosso</b>	37%	38%	25%	27%	21%	52%
<b>Diffa</b>	61%	21%	18%	19%	19%	62%
<b>Maine Soroa</b>	54%	32%	14%	15%	30%	55%
<b>Nguigmi</b>	45%	28%	27%	20%	18%	62%
<b>Averages</b>	49,25%	29,75%	21,00%	20,25%	22,00%	57,75%

Sources: Qualitative data

The data show that the Community leaders are more informed about the level of collaboration between the communities and the authorities, this is due to the fact that to a certain extent, they represent the authority as well as the community members, as such the public’s complaints are brought directly to their attention for them to address. While on average 57.75% of the youth leaders said that they do not know about the level of collaboration, only 21% of the community leaders ignore it and more than 49% of them declared that community and authority collaboration has improved. The neighborhood chiefs for instance receive daily information on the level of VE in their communities from the security forces, they are made aware of all the violence that occurs in their communities and they are expected to act upon the information that they receive; That is why they are more informed than the youth leaders about the changes that occurred with regards to the level of collaboration with the decision makers since the beginning of the project.

**vii. Access to trustworthy and accurate information**

One of the key findings from the preliminary discussions with the project stakeholders was the lack of trustworthy information in the region. Access to information is either not available or can be restricted in the exceptional security context. It was also noted that in some areas the radio infrastructures were lacking, in some cases due to attacks from BH. This was the case in Bosso where the violent extremists ransacked and pillaged the village of Bosso and in doing so, stole the community radio’s emitter Search had installed the year before. Because of the security situation characterized by the fear of BH attacks at public gatherings, radio broadcasting remains among the safest ways to reach a large population with fewer expenses.

In order to reduce the deficit in reliable and trustworthy information, Search initiated the development of radio programs under a format that would be accessible to the listeners. These include:

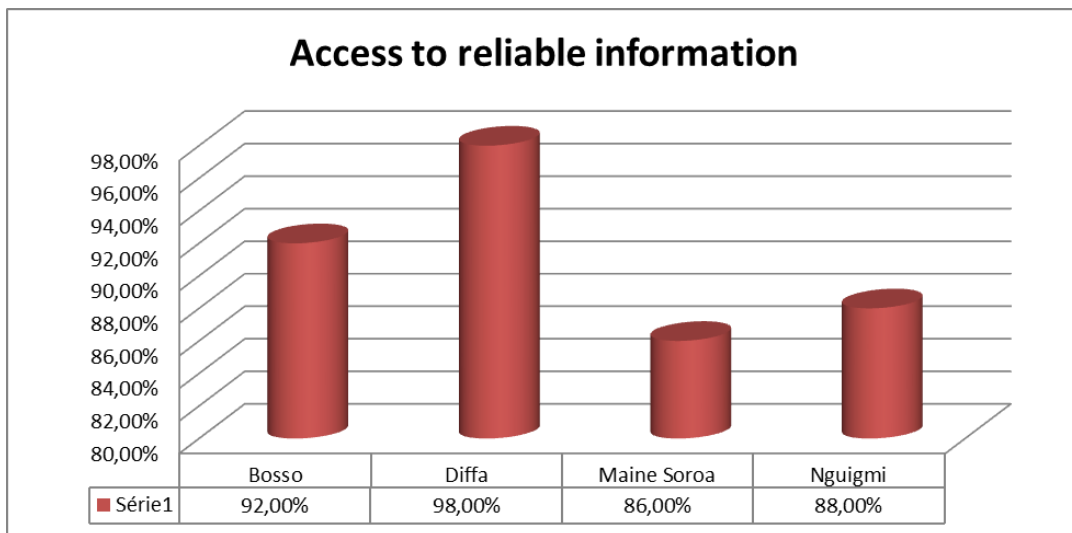
- *My Neighbor is My Brother* is a 15-minute radio magazine produced in Hausa and Kanuri languages. The magazine is produced weekly and broadcast on 8 different radio stations throughout the region of Diffa. It addresses issues such as conflict transformation and roles and responsibilities of community members. The choice of these topics was based on periodic analysis of the context and the changing security dynamic in Diffa region.
- Round Table Discussions: Trained community leaders, youth, refugees and returnees and other key stakeholders such as military officials were invited to take part in roundtable discussions that will be broadcasted via partner radio stations in all target communes. These 30 minutes programs were organized by Search media teams. The programs include various social and security related issues which affected youth and the community alike. The table below presented the types of topics discussed and gives list of resource persons or guests. The guests include religious leaders, local and traditional authorities and other CSO representatives.

**Table 7: A sample of media programs identifying and addressing VE in the Diffa Region**

Title of the program	Topics	Key People
Karfin Mu Zama Tare (Together we're strong)	Youth engagement: roles and responsibilities	President of youth council Masu Niya Women association
	Recruitment of students by NGO	Alternative Espace Citoyens, president of regional peace committee Kamuwa Kassadkazayé women association
	Night evacuation to the health centers	Regional President MOJEN (CSO), Public affairs officer department of health, Fire brigade commander Diffa.
Karfin Mu Zama Tare (Together we're strong)	Youth groups abiding by the on-going Curfew	Bosso Traditional ruler, leader Women leader Local peace association, Bosso Branch, Religious leader
	Roles of leaders in countering violent extremism in Bosso	Tijania religious brotherhood President of the Community Actions committee Traditional ruler Representative
	Roles played by youth to stop Boko haram recruitment in Bosso	Women Affairs officer at the Youth council, Bosso branch Representative from women association "fatala allah tzuzo", GS youth council Bosso branch
	Roles of women in the education of children	Head of district, Representative of traditional ruler, Women association, CSO representative

Kallewa Manio relied heavily on radio programming to reach audiences beyond the Communes where it was being implemented. Figure 6 shows how trustworthy the respondents perceive the information that they get. While the baseline did focus on radio listenership, it did not analyze the respondents’ perceptions about the reliability of the information that they get, which makes it difficult to determine changes within the past 18 months and attribute them to the project.

**Figure 6: Access to trustworthy information**



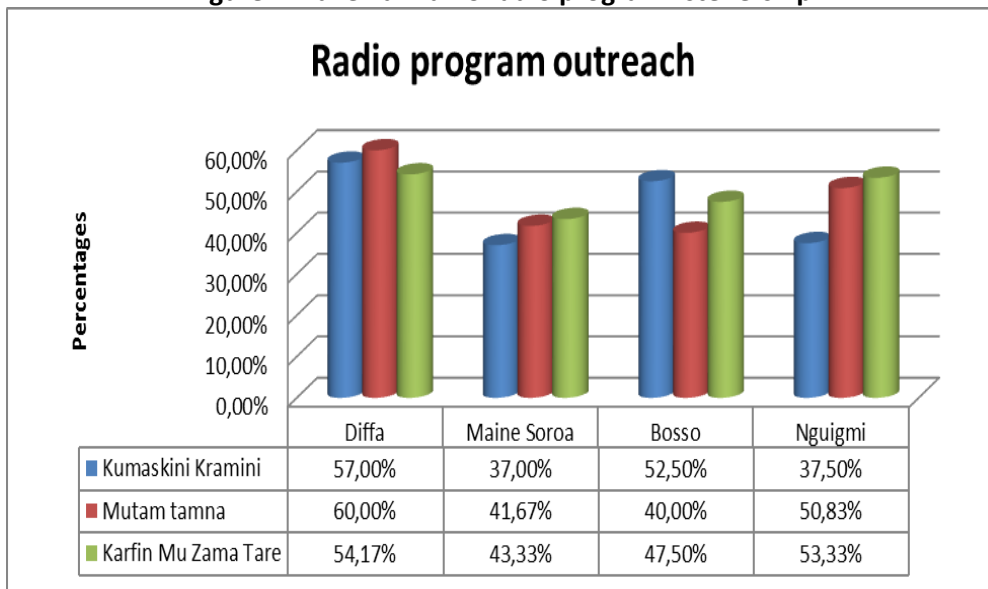
Sources: Collected quantitative data

**viii. Kallewa Manio radio program’s listenership**

The radio programs have been one of the main tools used to sensitize the public about CVE issues. Although the evaluation criteria did not include a full media perception study, part of the quantitative data collection involved questions pertaining to the public’s appreciation of the project’s radio programs.

When asked if they listen to the radio, 45% of the respondents said that they do listen to radio every day. During the baseline study, it was found that 35% of respondents listened to the radio. In order to test the respondents’ knowledge about the radio programs, the jingles of the radio program “Kumaskini Kramini” (“My neighbor is my brother”), and “Karfin Mu Zama Tare” (Together we’re strong) were downloaded on the enumerators smartphones so that they would make the respondent listen to them before asking him/her if s/he has ever her them. Figure 4 shows the Search listenership among the respondents who said that they do listen to the radio often.

**Figure 7: Kallewa Manio radio program listenership**



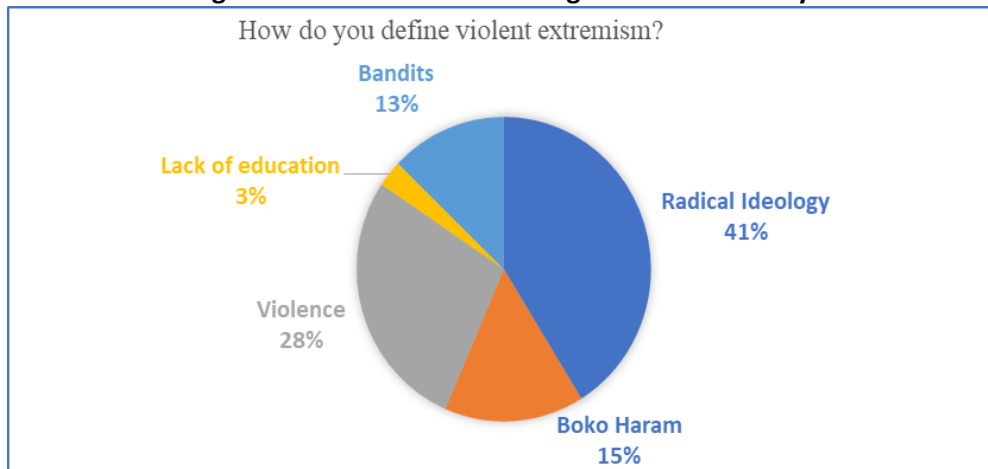
Sources: Quantitative data

These percentages are an improvement when compared to the statistics from the baseline study when only 35% of respondents indicated that they were aware of Search’s programs. Among those who listen to the Search programs, 87.5% think that they are effective at reaching the public on peaceful cohabitation.

**ix. Stakeholders’ understanding of the CVE problematic**

The sources of violence in the Diffa region are many and very different. Being able to distinguish the sources of VE and knowing the level of prevalence of each of VE is important in the fight against the problem this would enable the communities’ members to anticipate the consequences of actions that are likely to lead to violence so that preventive actions can be taken. Although the inhabitants of the Diffa region are confronted daily with the effects of VE, they do not necessarily see the connection between some behavior and violent extremist actions. The baseline report showed that the respondents confused Violent Extremism with its causes, when asked to define VE. Figure 5 shows the responses given during the baseline study.

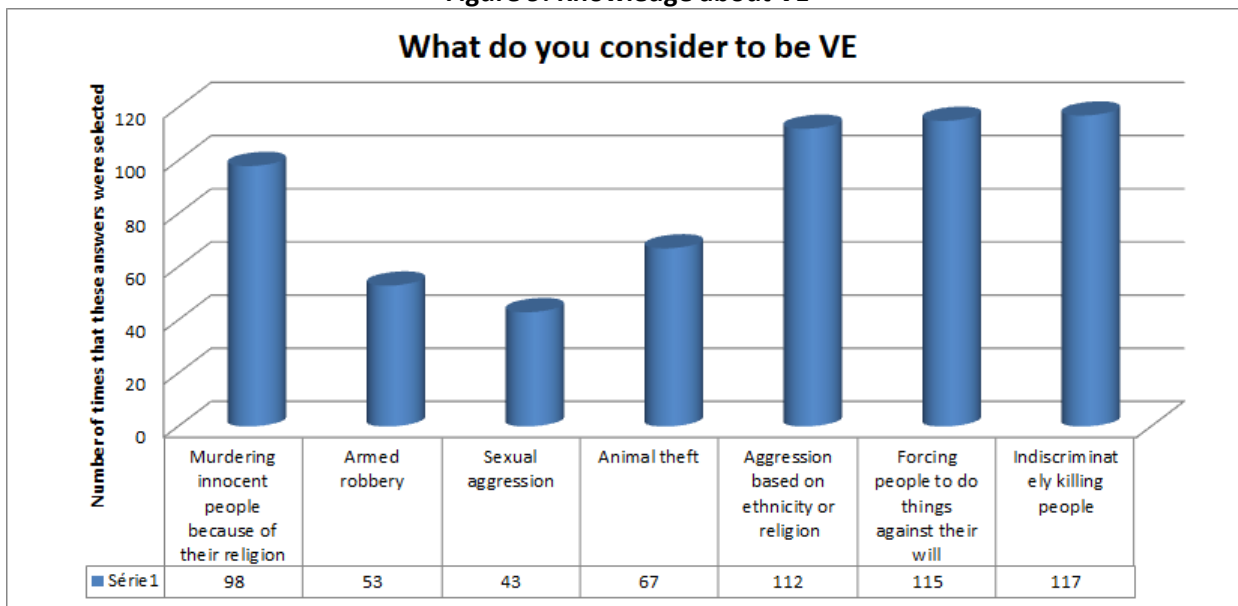
**Figure 8: Definition of VE during the baseline study**



Source: Baseline report

However, during the final evaluation of the project, the respondents were given the options to choose multiple responses. Figure 6 summarizes their choices.

Figure 9: Knowledge about VE



Source: Quantitative data

“Forcing people” to do things against their will has been cited by all the respondents aside from five and out of the 120 respondents, 117 named “indiscriminately killing” as forms of VE. During the FGD, the same forms of VE were also named by the participants who insisted on the fact that cattle theft is also a form of VE in the region. According to them, the phenomenon of cattle theft is not isolated and it is always done with extreme violence. The ease with which people have access to guns is such that all the cattle herdsmen are well armed and they are the main perpetrator of the violence. According to one of the participants in Nguigmi, *“if this situation is not addressed, it will degenerate and cause more problems than Boko Haram. Right now we are facing conflicts between livestock owners and farmers and the livestock owners are aggressively looking for land for pastures. We have less and less land available and more and more herdsmen are coming causing water shortages and violence. I fear that we might end up with inter-ethnic violence with no end in sight”*.

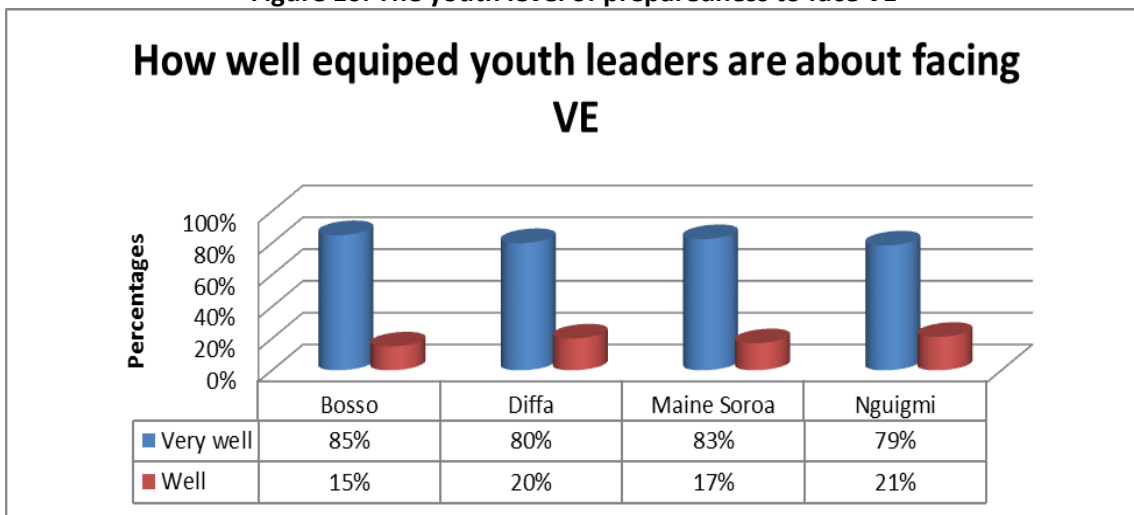
All the participants to the FGD and the SWOT analysis sessions saw Boko Haram as the main source of VE in their communities. That organization is considered as the source and the expression of VE throughout the region. During the group discussions, the participants were able to make the link between factors such as the lack of education, high unemployment, social injustice, the fact that some mosques are led by religious leaders who preach hatred and intolerance to VE.

**x. Community members’ attitudes towards discussing CVE**

Discussions about Violent Extremism have not been a contentious issue, the respondents are generally open to express their feelings about the ongoing violence and how it has impacted on their livelihood, and 100% of the respondents were comfortable answering all the questions pertaining to VE. During the group discussions, 100% of the participants, both the youth leaders and the community leaders stated that they feel comfortable to discuss about ways to counter violent extremism with the deciders.

The data also show that the youth leaders feel more comfortable and better equipped to address issues pertaining to VE as 100% feel either very well equipped or just well-equipped to face it.

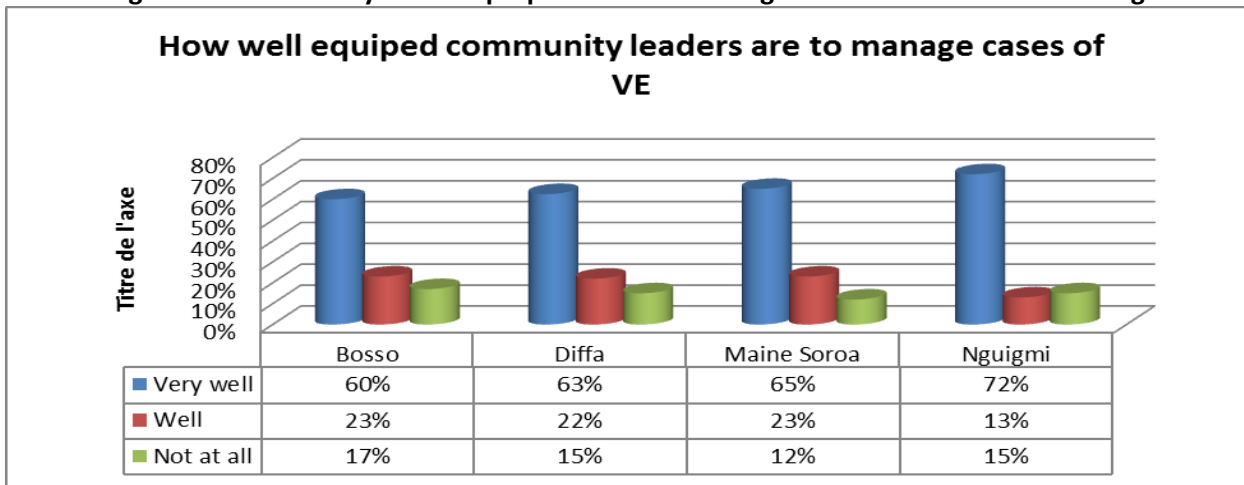
**Figure 10: The youth level of preparedness to face VE**



Sources: Qualitative data

The neighborhood chiefs are the closest to their members and as such, they are likely to have to face cases of violence since they receive complaints about cases that do not require police intervention and because they are members of the neighborhood, they observe and are aware of what happens within the communities. When minor cases happen, they are generally taken to the neighborhood chiefs, the imams or the traditional leaders for arbitration, they are only transferred to the police when the local leaders are not able to solve them. When asked about their level of preparedness to manage the cases of VE, more than 73% of the community leaders said that they are at least well prepared.

**Figure 11: Community leaders' preparedness to manage cases of VE after the training**



Sources: Quantitative data

The participants in the project's implementation were asked about their level of information about VE during the group discussions and the SWOT analysis sessions. Table 5 shows their answers. On average, 98.5% of the respondents feel that they are well informed about VE. They attribute their ability of having access to accurate information to the critical thinking that they acquired from the project and to their participation to the debates about the sources of conflict in their communities and from the quality of the

radio programs produced by the project. One of the youth leaders who participated to the SWOT analysis in Diffa stated: *“before we started participating to the project’s activities, we were concerned about the security situation in our community and were wondering what needs to be done, however, we were having limited and not always reliable information about the sources of conflicts within our communities was limiting our efforts. Now we get better information from multiple sources, through the collaboration that we have among the main actors involved in all aspects of our communities development in the framework of the project and from information from the media programs: not only has the project funded more radio programs which focus on peaceful conflict resolution, but we also have been trained on how to provide good information to our peers.”*

**Table 8: Stakeholders information level**

	How well informed are you about VE			
	Very well	Well	Not at all	I do not know
<b>Bosso</b>	73%	27%	0%	0,00%
<b>Diffa</b>	83%	15%	2%	0,00%
<b>Maine Soroa</b>	78%	21%	1%	0,00%
<b>Nguigmi</b>	82%	12%	3%	3,00%
<b>Averages</b>	78,75%	18,75%	1,50%	0,75%

Sources: Qualitative data

#### xi. Community Stakeholders appreciation of the project’s activities

During the SWOT Analysis sessions organized with the different stakeholders to the project, the participants were asked to list the different activities undertaken in the framework of the project’s implementation. According to the participants to the SWOT sessions, the activities were selected in a participative manner in order to ensure that they fit local needs and can gather big crowds for the sensitization campaigns.

- Training of youth leaders
- Debates between Imams and the community youths
- Bluetooth sharing training sessions
- Community Outreach Activities
- Participatory Theatre
- Media Activities
- Roundtables
- Community Coordination Meetings
- Traditional wrestling/ sports competitions
- Langa (traditional game)
- Neighborhoods cleaning

#### 1. Strengths of the project

As far as the Strengths of the project are concerned, the participants praised the ways in which the stakeholders were selected, the process was deemed fair and the people who were chosen are well known in their communities and have the potential to positively influence their peers. Most of them were already involved in community-based organizations before Kallewa Manio, they were therefore already involved

in helping their communities face issues that may not necessarily pertain to CVE, but have a positive impact on their neighbors.

Table 9 below was done in Maine Soroa typifies all the ones that were encountered:

**Table 9: SWOT Analysis**

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The youth leaders were selected in a participatory manner</li> <li>● The inclusion of women in the training and their participation in the implementation of all the activities of the project</li> <li>● The issues raised in the framework of the project were agreed upon with the representatives of the communities' members</li> <li>● The tools used to sensitize the public were accessible to them</li> <li>● The radio programs were produced in local languages</li> <li>● The involvement of the security forces</li> <li>● The organization of debates between religious leaders and the youths</li> <li>● The involvement of youths from the "Palais" who are becoming more and more marginalized</li> <li>● The opportunity afforded to the average people to express themselves freely during the Community Consultations</li> <li>● The fact that the youth and community leaders' opinions were asked before any activity is undertaken</li> <li>● The use of WhatsApp clips</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The project's life cycle is too short</li> <li>● Some serious problems such as the "Palais" were identified however, however, long term solutions were not provided</li> <li>● The project did not expand to rural areas where very serious VE prone problems are starting to incubate</li> <li>● The Islamic teachers were not associated to the program to the level where they could effectively promote change</li> <li>● The number of outreach sessions were not enough to reach bigger audiences</li> <li>● Radio programs are good but not everyone listens to radios</li> <li>● The project does not involve the creation of Income Generating Activities</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The current security context makes people more willing to listen and participate to activities geared towards CVE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The security measures taken by the government are worsening unemployment and increasing frustration among the youths</li> </ul>

The fact that the activities were discussed with all the stakeholders before they were implemented was seen as very positive because the approaches which fit the realities in each Commune were considered. In Nguigmi for instance, the problems posed by the massive presence of refugees has been taken into consideration during the Community Dialog sessions and the refugees were invited to take part in the discussions and express their concern and give their opinions about how they believe the fight to CVE has to be conducted. By localizing the approaches to the outreach, more people have been willing to come and listen and give their insight. The use of local traditional games such as Langa, wrestling and soccer games to attract the public who are sensitized about CVE before the games are started was deemed an effective way to get the attention of larger crowds.

The organization of Town Hall Meetings between the youths and the religious leaders was perceived as part of the strengths of the project. According to one of the youth leaders in Maine, "what gives Boko

*Haram the influence it has over a lot of young people is the fact that those youths do not know much about the religion although they are Muslims, they do not learn the Koran and take whatever the violent extremists tell them as true and they blindly follow them. By engaging the youths to exchange with genuine Islamic scholars, Kallewa Manio has enabled the youths to learn and be better prepared to sensitize and warn their peers about falsehood."*

The gang members who are involved in the "Palais" are becoming more and more marginalized by their communities at a time when they need to be listened to and their concerns which are generally about employment taken into consideration by the decision makers and law enforcement agents. With Kallewa Manio, they were invited to participate to community service and they came and showed that they are as concerned about the good for the communities as anyone else. Their relationship with the community leaders has improved as a consequence of the project.

## **2. Weaknesses of the project**

The shortness of the project's lifecycle has been decried as its greatest weakness. The participants to the SWOT Analysis session in all the four Communes have stated that they felt that there are a lot more issues to resolve and more sensitization to conduct in CVE.

Although the project has touched a lot of people, there are still more people to talk to: For the gang members in the "Palais" for instance, they have been sensitized about the problems related to drugs and violence. There has not been any item in the sensitization programs specifically dedicated to the "Palais". Considering that they are the most serious threats in the urban settings after BH, the participants to the SWOT Analysis in Diffa expressed the feeling that there should have been more involvement from the "Palais" in the project. Their participation to the activities was limited to them being sensitized, however there has not been much listening done to harness their concern.

Most of the threats posed by VE come from the rural areas where inter-ethnic violence which results from the fighting over more and more scarce resources is likely to spill over in the urban areas and cause more violence. The Mohandas and the Fullahs are already having violent clashes that result in lives being lost every year. They fight over access to water points for their animals and over pastures. At the same time there are clashes between the Fullahs who are livestock owners and the Kanuris and Toubous who are farmers. The participants to the SWOT Analysis thought that the project should be extended to the rural areas so that more sensitization is conducted to appease the propensity to resort to violence to solve problems related to pastures.

In all the four Communes where the SWOT Analysis were organized, the participants stated that more should have been done to have more religious leaders involved above all in order to counter violent preaching from extremists who advocate for violent means to regulate morality in society.

In order to give an alternative and better counter VE, ways to initiate income generating activities should have been integrated in the program.

## **3. Opportunities**

People in the targeted communities have been so much victimized by the prevailing violence that they are willing to listen and give heed to the advice that they are given. This is one of the reasons why the Kallewa Manio was able to attract so many people.

According to the participants to the SWOT analyses, the collaboration which was started in the framework of the project between people who have vested interest in promoting peace within their communities but did not know each other and had never have the occasion to collaborate has created an opportunity that

will enable them to work together for the betterment of the communities even after the project is completed.

The skills that the project provided through the different capacity building sessions have equipped the participants to face challenges that they could not before the project was started. The youth leaders have learned positive engagement to address violence and issues related to the rise of violent extremism on the basis of the “Common Ground approach”.

#### **4. Threats**

In Nguigmi and Bosso, the security measures taken by the government to counter the threat posed by BH have been deemed too drastic and likely to grow people’s frustration and become counterproductive because it will push people to resort to violence if solutions to improve their livelihood are not found.

#### **Partial Conclusion**

The SWOT analyses conducted with the project’s implementing partners, the FGDs with the communities’ members and the quantitative data have shown that the youth and moderate communities’ leaders and the decision makers have collaborated in order to find solutions to the problems related to Violent Extremism within the communities. The communities’ members are at ease to discuss openly about the ways to counter violent extremism with the decision maker. The project Kellewa Manio has conducted capacity building sessions for the youths and the moderate community leaders in order to enable them to better manage conflicts and improve communication with the public. The data has shown that the confidence level with the information received from the media has also increased.

Through the discussions and activities undertaken in the framework of the project, the main sources of violent extremism within the communities have been identified with the participation of the community members who are directly affected by them and specific solutions that are adapted to the communities were proposed. In Diffa for instance, one of the main problems leading to VE is related to the “the Palais” and the project has managed to include members of those Palais in its activities, therefore improving communication between them and the community leaders.

The community members who participated to the project’s activities such as the participative theaters and the Tribune d’Expression have agreed that the presentations have helped them better understand the causes of conflicts within their communities and how to counter them.

#### **d. Sustainability of the project’s accomplishment**

The sustainability of the project refers to the durability of its gains and to how long they will last and the possibility for the communities which have witnessed changes to revert back to the situation prior to the beginning of the project. It also refers to how the capacities built into the community and youth leaders as well as the media professionals will empower them to operate more effectively and in a collaborative manner’ after the project has been completed.

In other words, the analysis of the sustainability of the project seeks to determine how the project allowed for greater collaboration and the creation of synergies in the long term between different actors active in promoting the fight to CVE through dialogue and if the project enabled to sustainably transform target beneficiaries’ attitudes towards an increased the rejection of VE.

**i. Stakeholders’ ability to retain what they learned and replicate it**

The participants to the group discussions and SWOT analyses were asked what they thought would happen to what they learned from the project and to the collaboration that they have started between the religious leaders the community traditional and elected leaders and the youth leaders.

They responded that the lack of means may hinder the possibility to carry on conducting sensitization as they had been doing it in the framework of the project, however, thanks to what they learned in the project, they know where to get relevant information and they will be able to continue to rely on each other for support when needed. The Imams have offered to participate to any event aimed at preaching against violence and sensitizing for peace on the basis of the teachings of the Koran. The youth leaders have promised to integrate CVE in their activities within their communities.

**ii. Has there been any attempt to replicate the results of the project**

The town hall meetings (Tribune d'Expression Populaire) have been replicated by the beneficiaries and the youth activities have been replicated by the project’s stakeholders. After the training and the youth activities, those youth went and replicated those activities and even used the skills they learned in project development to propose micro projects to other donors.

The youths who participated to the training have learned new skills that they replicated during the youth led activities. The community leaders and youth leaders were trained and possess the skills to positively engage in their community. They used the newly acquired skills to take initiatives which address issues of community interest such as sports and cultural activities, sanitary/health activities, community mediation, youth outreach on the consequences of juvenile delinquency, youth outreach on violent extremism and recruitment by extremist groups including Boko. In creating a space for fruitful exchange between the community members, these community bonds are also bound to build resilience. As such activities also aim to bring people closer in tackling common problems therefore creating and enhancing positive relations within communities.

**e. Project Indicators**

The following table summarizes the project’s outcome indicators that were measured and recorded throughout the life of the project.

**Table 10: Synthesis of the indicators**

	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
% community members who feel comfortable discussing openly how to counter violent extremism with decision makers (disaggregated by youth and community leaders)	% of youth leaders	20%	<b>100%</b>
% community members who say that collaboration with decision-makers on the response to violent extremism has increased since the beginning of the project (disaggregated by youth and community leaders)	% of youth and community leaders	20%	<b>49.25%</b> Community leaders <b>20.75%</b> Youth leaders
Performance Indicator 1.1	# of youth trained	60	<b>60</b>
Performance Indicator 1.2	# of community leaders trained	45	<b>45</b>

Performance Indicator 1.3	# of community-led events or projects with primary objective of building resilience among communities most at risk of recruitment and radicalization to violence	24	<b>25</b>
Performance Indicator 2.1	# of 'Town Hall Meetings'	18	<b>26</b> This information was gathered from the last quarterly report
Performance Indicator 2.2	# of bi-monthly radio programs produced and diffused providing security information and advice for communities	25	<b>34</b> This information was gathered from the last quarterly report
Performance Indicator 2.3	# of produced CVE short movies	45	<b>45</b>
Performance Indicator 2.4	# of roundtable discussions recorded and broadcasted	19	<b>30</b>
Performance Indicator 2.5	# of trained youth/ community leaders/security leaders taking part in radio roundtable discussions	40	<b>160</b>
Performance Indicator 2.6	# of youth trained in Bluetooth sharing and facilitation of this content	30	<b>63</b>
Performance Indicator 2.7	% change in population who say that they have access to credible information related to peace and security in their communities	35%*	<b>91.5%</b>
Performance Indicator 2.8	% change of population who see their community and law enforcement leadership as effective focal points for issues related to peace and security in their communities	18%*	<b>52.5%</b>

\* At the time of the baseline, serious issues existed related to sharing of information with law enforcement, security forces community leaders as well as inter personal trust. As such, it was recommended that field interviewers should avoid questions directly including sensitive phrasing. Specifically, this included indicator 2.7 and indicator 2.8. However, during the baseline data collection, qualitative information collected suggested that both indicators were quite low. Alternative questions were formulated at the baseline study for these two indicators to capture similar data while not employing sensitive phrasing/ content. These include % of people whom are aware of Search's radio programming and % of people whom are aware and collaborate with peace committees in their localities. However, at the end line survey, the contextual environment was less tense, and the original wording for indicators 2.7 and 2.8 were able to be measured (as written above).

## 4. Conclusion

Overall, the project has achieved its objectives with regards to developing community resilience to manage the consequences of Violent Extremism in Niger's Diffa region. The partners and the communities' women's and youth leaders and other stakeholders trained in awareness raising and their intervention has led to positive changes among the beneficiary communities in terms of their awareness of the factors leading to VE and their ability to face it. In all the target Communes, the project's stakeholders who were involved in the project agreed that the project's implementation has been an opportunity for them learn more about VE and it has equipped them to better face the context of violence imposed on their communities. Both the youth and community leaders have agreed that the project provided them enough capacity building to better engage their peers on issues related to VE.

The project Kallewa Manio initiated community dialogue about peaceful conflict resolution through its media programs, participative theatre and town hall meetings. Consequently, more community members have access to credible information the consequences of violent extremism. Youth are engaging themselves and each other to actively participate and engage with their communities. Conflict sensitive and credible information on violent extremism related issues is shared through the past and current radio shows and short movies produced by Search Niger. The activities do not only passively share the information about such topics but invites participants, communities, and youth to discuss them, find possible solutions and engage in implementing in their communities. All of this clearly builds the resilience of the targeted communities to violent extremism. The community and youth leaders are discussing openly about the consequences that the crisis caused by Boko Haram is having on their communities.

There was suspicion between the youth and the security forces in all the communes where the project was implemented due to the current restrictions on movement and the curfew imposed throughout the region and to the fact that young people are no longer allowed to practice Moto taxi, which was among their main sources of income. However, thanks to the involvement of the security forces in the project and the training that they received from Kallewa Manio and their interactions with the youth during the project's implementation and the exchanges that they have with the youths, they helped clarify their role in the exceptional security context and more understanding prevailing between the youths and the security forces.

The community members feel more comfortable to discuss with the decision makers about issues pertaining to how to counter violent extremism thanks to the fact that the community leaders have been communicating more openly and directly with their constituents about those issues. The capacity building provided to the moderate community and youth leaders has enhanced their ability to manage conflicts between their community members and prevent violence and involve marginalized youth at risk such as the young people who are in "the Palais" in participating to the betterment of the neighborhoods through volunteer community work.

## 5. Recommendations

### To the media

- Thanks to the training that the media professionals have received from Kallewa Manio, they should be able with the support from Search's programs to create a Media Platform which involves all Search's supported radio stations and make the Platform a permanent Dialogue Table dedicated to informing the public with accurate and relevant information about all the issues pertaining to security and the sources of conflict in the region, as a Watchdog for the media to identify and expose the main factors that contribute to jeopardize the social cohesion throughout the region. Create Media Platforms at regional as well as Commune levels throughout the Diffa region. The Media Platform should also be a forum for the media professional to also improve their capacities to deliver accurate information throughout the country.

### To Search for Common Ground

- **With regards to the media**
  - Search should assist in the creation and the capacity building of the Media Table of Exchange for the next two years in order to help them give content to their mission and in order to identify obstacles and help remove them.
  - The programs provided by Search to the media have so far made a great deal of a difference not only on the citizens but also on the capacities of the radio stations. Search's Studio should diversify more the programs in order to produce more programs aimed at communities in the rural areas where the education level is still low and where people are more vulnerable to VE.  
While programs geared towards health and food security are important, based on the findings of the evaluation, issues related to security and peaceful cohabitation are more relevant and important in the current context. Themes pertaining to peaceful resolution of land related issues for instance should be developed and broadcast in the rural areas where farmers and cattle herders have already started to fight against each other for scarce land. In the urban areas, programs should be developed to address youth unemployment and issues related to gangs and drugs.
  - The social media needs to be more leveraged in the context of changing technologies. Internet on Mobile devices is becoming more accessible in Niger and more and more young people are using their mobile telephones as a way to get informed. Search needs to anticipate on the changes and leverage the new technologies to reach out to the maximum of young people in the country. Youtube and Facebook are currently being used by Search, but there is still a need to connect more to the youths so that they are informed about those Search channels along with other social media such as Whatsapp which is used to exchange videos faster.
- **With regards to the Youths and Community Leaders**
  - A permanent platform of the Youth and Community Leaders aimed at identifying and monitoring of VE and the citizens' propensity to resort to violence should be set up. It will monitor and report all the excess of language noticed at public gatherings and on the radios and report it periodically. The monitoring platforms must be established from regional to Commune local levels with the involvement of all the participants to Kallewa Manio.

- Let the community members always find local solutions to their problems. One of the main strength of the project has been to train the stakeholders into identifying the main problems for themselves instead of having the Search's staff indicated to them what the issues were. This approach must be maintained so that local solutions are found for the local problems although Search's approach for conflict resolution is privileged.

➤ **Develop and propose a new project to address the sources of VE** that were identified during Kallewa Manio implementation. The threats posed by inter-ethnic violence which results from the fighting over more and more scarce resources is likely to spill over in the urban areas and cause more violence. This is likely to have devastating effects on the region if it is not addressed soon. A new project specifically designed to appease the existing tensions in the rural parts of the region where farmers and cattle herders have started fighting should be designed to specifically address that form of conflict.

➤ **Income Generating Activities**

IGA activities promotion has not been an important item in Search's activities in the region of Diffa. However, in poverty ridden communities, the lack of jobs, idleness and poverty can be the root causes of people's vulnerability to VE. When people are busy working and are mindful of the consequences of violence on their property, they often refrain from igniting hatred towards others. For the projects implemented in the rural areas, it would be advisable to dedicate some resources to helping divided communities engage in IGAs together, contributing to long-term peacebuilding. The security context of the Diffa region has attracted many NGOs operating in the field of food security and developmental projects aimed at promoting economic resilience. Search could initiate project in partnership with those local and International NGOs in order to develop programs aimed at creating Income Generating Activities within the communities in the region.

## 6. Annexes<sup>11</sup>

**Annex 1** Bibliography

**Annex 2** Terms of Reference

**Annex 3** Data Collection Tools

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<sup>11</sup> The annexes are available upon request

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