

## **FINAL REPORT ON TRAIN THE TRAINER (ToT) SEMINAR ON**

### **“PARENTS AGAINST TERRORISM”**

**KULYAB, 3-5 DECEMBER 2014**

The training was co-organized by OSCE Office in Tajikistan VERLT and Ministry of labour, migration and social employment Republic of Tajikistan. It brought together 27 participants from representatives of Ministry of labour, migration and social employment of RT, Women affairs committee, Religious affairs committee RT, Civil society and representatives of international NGOs.

#### **Background information briefly:**

During the year 2014, the OSCE VERLT project received suggestion from the Government to address the issue of growing threats of VERLT among migrants, travelling to Russia and other countries from Tajikistan. The project idea was well accepted by the Government, Security Council and VERLT Working Group and financially supported by United Kingdom and Denmark Governments. Jointly with the Government, namely Ministry of Labor, migration and social employment the OSCE VERLT staff arranged ToT training on countering VERLT and trained over thirty five trainers for sub-project activity “Parents against VERLT” in Dushanbe on 3-5 November, 2015 in Serena Hotel. Participants of that training were invited from different civil society organizations, independent experts, different Government Agencies from Dushanbe, Khatlon, Rasht, Badakhshan and Sughd regions.

#### ***The Aim of the Workshop:***

- Raising awareness and building capacity at national and local levels to mobilize members of diverse community to address violent extremism radicalization that lead to terrorism.
- Deepen and share understanding of VERLT in country, as well as to develop and deliver effective preventive measures.
- To raise awareness of parents, especially mothers to recognize early warning signs of violent radicalization in their children through improved political and parenting skills trainings.
- To mobilize the pool of trained trainers to become facilitators in organizing and conducting one days educational trainings/seminars on safeguarding communities against the treat of VERLT.
- The targeted communities will be vulnerable youth and women from families of men who left Tajikistan as labour migrants.

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- Identify a challenges for potential follow-up activities on the above issue as well as suggest a way forward.

***National experts:***

Ms.Marifat Abdullaeva- OSCE VERLT Expert;

Ms.Mariam Davlatova –OSCE VERLT Expert;

Mr.Mirzoakhmedov Shahobiddin- Ministry of Labour, migration and social employment;

Mr.Azizov Izatullo-Committee of Religious Affairs RT

***General overview of the training.***

The training was based on teaching methodology for the adult audience through learning experience by methods on interactive teaching, confidence building as well as specific parenting teachings that adopted into local context. The Train the Trainers (ToT) Training was conducted in accordance with teaching methods. Upon necessity, the agenda was slightly amended means consistency of the sessions. The main aim of these training is to deepen and share understanding of VERLT in the country as well as to develop and deliver effective preventive measured .

Practical using of the module enabled to participants to make correction in some of sessions taking into consideration of perception and understanding some sessions of the trainings. Thus, it's important to note that ToT not only raised awareness of the participants on VERLT but also made correction and adaptation for one day educational training on “Parents against terrorism” that will be conducted by identified trainers.

Detailed report of the training.

***FIRST DAY***

The opening speech was done by OSCE Field Officer in Kulyab, Ms. Erica Masera. In her speech, she highlighted the importance of the workshop on prevention of the growth of violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, in particular youth. В своем выступлении она отметила важность и актуальность данного семинара для подготовки тренеров по предотвращению роста радикализма среди населения, особенно молодежи.

The next welcome speech was done by OSCE VERLT National Program Officer Zebuniso Sharifzoda. In her speech she briefed the participant on how VERLT poses a serious concern to Tajikistan. She briefed the participants about activities under the Project “Parents against terrorism”. OiT VERLT aims to mitigate the vulnerabilities due to known patterns of radicalization and recruitment of the most vulnerable target group women and youth from migrant families to VERLT. She stressed the importance and relevance of the organized event in the current condition and emphasized the role of public in prevention of radicalization of the society. The more aware communities are of potential threats to their security the more empowered they are to be resilient against it and the better prepared they can be to counter the threat themselves.

The risk of radicalization must be addressed within family as well by society, which is why, parents need to be able to answer their children's questions about their religious, cultural identity.

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Such ability is essential since most processes of radicalization take place between the ages of 12 and 20, when personalities are shaped. In this context, inability to openly discussed and address critical questions, due to being unaware and inexperience, could leave a vacuum that risks to be filled with violent extremism narratives.

Upon completion of all ToTs the project will use the pool of trainers on safeguarding communities against the treat of VERLT

After introduction of the participants the participants received self-assessment questionnaire in order to enable national expert to evaluate their knowledge on VERLT.

The next session was devoted on general information on VERLT Definition of “Violent Extremism”, “Radicalization” and “Terrorism”. The current session was a key one since there is no general definition of the above mentioned word. The national expert’s paid careful attention of the generally accepted international words and definitions and their translation into tajik language. Such clarifications were relevant due to fact that legal provisions using international terms while local mass media using the above mentioned definitions translating them in to Tajik language.

The next session covered introduction of audience with types of VERLT Groups, main causes of radicalization and violent extremism. The session also reflected background, possible radicalization indicators such as identity, ideology, behavior. In a brainstorming session the participants start to discuss conditions conducive to VERLT: such as unemployment, migration, unhappy people in the society, frustrated, members of radical groups, looking for justice, further radicalization. For example, preference to wear khijab is not indicator of radicalization but mass style changes can be a sign of radicalization in society. Detail presentation conducive to violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism is mentioned below.

The other session was focused on legal provisional pacts on countering VERLT in Republic of Tajikistan, responsible institutions on national and local level. The accent was made on migration of population, reasons and consequence. It was mentioned, that around 2000 citizens of RT are considered as “prohibits” persons who are either deported from Russia or prohibited to travel. This could enhance social tension in the society.

The national trainer also accented on an importance of knowledge on legal provisions of the country of origins. All participants were got acquainted with law on extremism and terrorism adopted in Tajikistan and extremists groups/movements that are banned in Tajikistan.

At the end brainstorming session was done to make conclusion of the first day.

## ***SECOND DAY***

### **Interactive methods and tools of working with adult. Understanding of ToT**

The session aimed to provide

- appropriate skills and knowledge on how to deliver message to community about treat of VERLT;
- Methodology in providing training, facilitation, tools, skills that necessary to work with

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adults

- practice skills in small working group via delivering presentations, group discussions and brainstorming;

Using interactive methods the participants were involved for the discussion of the reasons conducive to radicalization. Thus, situational task have been provided to discuss the spreading of radicalization. Such as:

### **Part 1**

The family has two sons. And they are living in big city, parents has higher education. The family had healthy environment. The elder son entered to university and mother started to noticed that the son visiting very often the mosque and started to make comments to mother with regards to her wearing style, reading of suras during praying. She also notices that he attending strange meetings in the mosque out of praying times.

The question to participants was:

Why mother started to worry? Does she have reasons for concern? If yes, shy?

Answers of participants: Yes, she has reason to be worry. The main signs that have been mentioned by participants were changing of his behaviour, relations towards his parents (making remarks for changing wearing style), visiting strange meetings in mosque.

### **Part 2**

Indeed, mother noticed this signs. Further, she could links this signs with members of extremist groups Hizb-ut-Tahrir, that start to widespread in town. She was concern with gathering of young people every evening. She was able delicately convince the son about following of all religious devotions at home, gave some information about banned extremist groups/movements, informed about the treats they might bring. At the beginning, the son did not want to believe to mother but later when in one of the gatherings they started to choose leader of the movement in order to set up structure of the group, the son started to understand that it's doesn't have anything with real Islam.

**Conclusion:** The treat to involve to extremist group was imminent. Mother was able to notice the first signs of radicalization and influence on her son. Currently, he is following all Islamic rules, employed by one organization and very secular person.

Further, in a guest session the representative of Committee on Religious Affair highlighted that 4000 (four thousand) mosques are operating in the country. Many of Imam-Khatibs in their Friday preaching condemn perpetration of terrorist acts under the guise of Islam, thus discredit the Islamic religion. He highlighted that, Islamic religion in one of the peaceful religion in the world, it condemn the murder, suicide and killing of innocent peoples.

The representative of Religious Committee answered on all questions of participants by explaining the ideology of active religious extremist group/movements.

The representative of Ministry of labour, migration and social employment informed that as of January 2015, new rules and regulations will be in place in Russia so the citizens of Republic of Tajikistan have to travel to Russia with foreign passport(before they could use local one). Due to this problem (it's time consuming procedure and due to large queries many migrant who do not possess international passport will be either deported or limited to travel for labour migration. It could bring to escalation of socio-economic situation in the country. Emissary-agitators can easily penetrate to migration community and can use youth into extremist groups/movements thus

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recruiting these vulnerable group of people (having in mind that they jobless and facing dire economic situation) as foreign terrorist fighters. On top of this, majority of the population do not possess religious knowledge. Another tool for recruitment of youth is earning money in order to solve their own material problems.

The quest session was very useful

The next session focused on delivering effective preventive measures to counter VERLT. The trainers made first brainstorming session on all institutions and agencies working on countering VERLT and identify among those agencies that could mitigate the radicalization of the society. The trainers split the participants into small groups and they presented their view on responsibilities of the different governmental institutions/agencies, communities and family/school. Each of the group made presentation of their work in front of all. The result of the works can be found below.

The next session, one of the key one, was covering the role of parents in countering VERLT-responsibilities of the parents and family in reducing the risk of radicalization of children. General discussion was followed on definition of the meaning of “family”. The participants individually wrote definition of the word. Further, the trainers gave general definition of the different type of families and the role of parents. Then the group discussed the duties of the parents. Accordingly, the participants made presentation of their group in which they drafted a strategy of the work with families.

Strategies of the work with families drafted by groups		
Group 1		
Event	Cooperation	Resources
Seminar in “Jamoat Healthy Family – healthy society”	Public organizations, Women's committee, youth committee, committee on religious affairs.	Venue to event Hand out materials
Assessment of the needs of the society on prevention of VERLT	Relevant committees, local executive Hukumats, community leaders and involve experts	Search for grants, use own material-intellectual resources
Group 2		
1.To conduct assessment on scope of radicalization tendencies, in particular recruitment to extremist/terrorist groups	Relevant state structures, law enforcement agencies, public organizations	Financial and human resources
2.Conducting training/seminar among youth to counter VERLT	State structures, including Ministry of Labour, migration and social employment Law enforcement structures, public organizations	Financial and human resources
3.Trainings/ seminars among parents/school teachers	State structures including school, public organizations	Financial and human resources
4. Distribution of the print out materials(leaflets, brochures and magazines) on VERLT	State structures and public organizations	Financial and human resources

### THIRD DAY

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The review of the previous days of the trainings has been done. Question and queries session covered all issues with regards to VERLT. Participants brought the samples from their communities and expressed their concern about spreading of recruitment of youth in extremist groups in particular highlighted the phenomenon of individuals (specifically migrants) leaving their home country not for labour work but to take part in violent hostilities as “foreign fighter”, who may pose a threat to society. The participants noted that this phenomenon is raising serious security concern not only for the authorities but for the communities, because they may have been trained in the use of firearms, explosives and other skills useful in the planning and execution of terrorist attacks or other crime.

Throughout the discussion, the participants expressed appreciation for conducting this training and assured that they can be actively engaged in future educational seminars that OSCE will conduct in order to safeguard communities against the threat of VERLT.

At the end post assessment test have been distributed to participants to evaluate their knowledge on VERLT in Tajikistan

**Conclusion of the trainings by participants:**

- In general, ToT conducted on high professional level. The participants enhance their knowledge on violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism and improved their skills on how to deliver message to community about threat on VERLT;
- Conducting on training was very relevant due to challenges and threats that our society is facing;
- High level of flexibility during discussions and sessions that allowed enhancing the efficiency of the training.
- Engaging women as a positive change in the communities as they carry authority within their families (they are like gatekeepers to their families) and as such, can be involved in creating and maintaining against violent extremism.
- Interactive method allowed better understanding of the mechanism of recruitments to terroristic/extremist groups
- Bringing the samples in situational cases allowed better understanding of how the youth are recruiting
- Logistic arrangements were well planned.
- Involving the representative from Religious Committee allowed the participants to receive all information regarding traditional Islamic values and traditions and those held by extremist groups.
- The capacity of Imams also needs to be strengthened through the same specialized educational training courses.
- Drafting module (simple one) for one day educational seminars on Parents Against terrorism families of migrant workers;
- On-line consultation with key persons

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- There is a need to increase VERLT awareness training. A nation wide information campaign should be launched that highlight the differences between beliefs and objectives between traditional Islamic values and traditions in Tajikistan with those held by extremism
- Education can be crucial in countering VERLT. School based curricular may include subject on history of religions in order to provide the students with capacity to discern between black and white argumentation. The ministry of Education have to keep track of those who studies in an unregistered Madrasahs, where they can become exposed to incitement to religious hatred and violence.
- Committee on Religious Affairs need to regulate informal activities, religious teaching that are often carried out underground by Imams and bibiotuns (female preachers) which in some cases lacks education in traditional Islam and sometimes spread ideas that incite to hatred. Imams need to be trained to spread the values of tolerance embodied in Islam instead of violent interpretation.
- There is a need to conduct educational training in Russia for migrant in order to assess the scope of radicalization tendencies.
- Effective coordination among government and non governmental stakeholders is crucial to the successful implementation of the activities.
- The capacity of Imams also needs to be straighten through the same specialized educational training courses, enhanced regional and national institutions, centers and exchanges with other countries so that they can help educate believers in distinguishing between traditional Islamic teaching and values and radical and extremist misinformation.
- There is a need for awareness raising campaign about local cultural and religious traditions that can serve as a source of resilience against VERLT;
- There is a need to train Imams Khatibs to conduct raising awareness campaign on safeguarding communities against threat of VERLT

## **MAIN FINDING FROM PRE-TEST AND POST TEST ASSESSMENTS**

**The Pre-test and Post-test questioners divided into different topical segments. Firstly, some background information of the respondent's age, gender. Secondly, questions about respondent knowledge on radicalization issues and extremist group. Thirdly, questions on vulnerable groups for extremist and terrorist recruitment, and lastly, a set of questions pertaining to the role of family.**

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**Pre-Test Assessment**

- 80 Percent of respondent are lacking the knowledge on VERLT, they heard about some definition but can't clearly differentiate their meanings;
- The socio-economic situation of the country in particular "unemployment" is perceived as a driver of VERLT terrorism networks and other extremist groups;

**Post- Test Assessment**

- Post-test assessment showed that participants improved their knowledge on VERLT and expressed that there is a need for continues raising awareness and capacity building activities across a wide range of different stakeholders (including children in school and school teachers);
- Post-test assessment showed that peoples more concern about religious radicalization of the society.

**NOTE**

Pre and post assessment shows that very limited knowledge's and perception with regards to VERLT. This alone provides a sufficient justification to conduct activities to understand, prevent and counter VERLT. There is widespread lack of knowledge and information about extremist/terrorist groups banned in Tajikistan.

Trainers:

Marifat Abdullaeva  
Mariam Davlatova  
Shahobiddin Mirzoakhmedov

Attachment : Summary of Group Work				
No No	Discussing issues	Method	Answers	
1	What are the symptoms of radicalization in the society	Brainstorming	Changing of views, thinking -changing of behaviour -changing of wearing style (preference to wear khijabs for female and salafia wearing style for men-long bear short trousers) - unacceptability of other point of view -changing of character - enhancing radical counter-narrative -increasing religious movements/groups not common for this society -imitation to different traditions and cultures	-online radical comments - alienation from society -increasing anti-governmental expressions Increased interests about topics on radicalization, extremism and terrorism



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2.	Reasons conducive to radicalization	Brainstorming	Low living standard Unemployment; Labour migration; Indifference; Lack of information; family quarrels; lack of resources to counter VERLT;	- social injustice; -lack of wills; -limited religious knowledge; -limited control from government; -corruption; -weak control in schools.
3.	Place where individuals are lured and recruited	Brainstorming	-mosques -during traditional rituals and events -internet -study abroad -migration -prisons	-institutions, universities, schools; -through mobile network -hostels; -markets
4.	Influence and role of state structures, communities, families, schools in the formation of radical views	Brainstorming sessions	State/government - lack of information among ideology department staff; Lack of interaction among ideological staff of the institutions/committees, ministries lack of works with migrants unhealthy society labour migration mentality of the population family quarrels indifference of the society; low religious knowledge; schools/families; low level of awareness; Community: -activities of the community in an preventive measures Counter narrative Limited awareness of VERLT in community	- family violence -increased number of divorces Left behind families due to labour migration; Lack of interaction of parents with school; Insufficient use of educational hours - deficit of teachers on specific subjects
5.	Responsibilities of the family/school	Summaries of the group work	-respect of parents -observance of law on responsibilities of parents for their children's; Strengthening interaction between school and parents	- Activation of the "Association of parents and teachers" Increasing of the educational hours in schools in which includes the VERLT infor; Conducting competitions and other attractive events out of school hours
6.	Type of families	Brainstorming	- healthy and not healthy -full and not full ones (with parents and with one of parents)	- poor and rich ones; -simple and complex ones
8.	Responsibilities of the families	Brainstorming	- reproduction of the generation -parenting - provision of family -contribution of the family to the society	- leave a mark in life - provision of education to children -strengthening of family traditions

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