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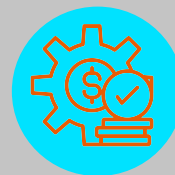
# NEWSLETTER



## National Action Plans:

# A Whole of Society Approach or Solely Government Effort?

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# Introduction

Throughout the month of November, SEAN-CSO focused on the topic “National Action Plans: A Whole of Society Approach or Solely Government Effort?”. There are many expectations towards NAPs to include the whole society since it’s called National Action Plans, not Government Action Plans. However, this topic raised many questions. Why do we need NAPs for P/CVE? What’s the reality behind the construction of NAPs for countries in ASEAN?

This month, we invited three notable speakers to discuss this topic in a webinar and interviewed an expert for his in-depth views.



# Why Do We Need NAPs for P/CVE?

NAPs for Preventing or Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) is a growing subject discussed between CSOs and state apparatus in Southeast Asia. NAPs' agenda has been promoted since 2015 by the UN. An NAP is a document containing a set of coordination and operational clauses for stakeholders to address a specific issue. In the context of P/CVE, NAPs would help navigate and unify public policy to CVE nationally, which separate government departments previously did. Furthermore, NAPs could also help track and evaluate stakeholders' work in PCVE (Abdul Aziz et al., 2021). Should Southeast Asian countries have NAPs? The answer depends on the country's needs itself. If the country has an urgency in P/CVE and there has not been any national coordination involving stakeholders, then it should create NAPs.

In its inception, NAPs in the region can be inexplicable as different countries use different terms referring to their levels of urgency. For example, Australia uses the national strategy for CVE and Singapore uses its existing law called Internal Security Act. According to our previous webinar speaker Shashi Jayakumar, Singapore does not want to create an NAP because they already have a working system that lays its foundation on the willingness of upstream elements, including a concerted push to instill tolerance, pluralism, and understanding. Furthermore, changes are constant in violent extremism, which means NAPs need to be a living document that can adapt to new forms

of extremism. Based on Singapore's experience, it is essential to consider contextual factors, political will, and the changing nature of extremism itself.

In addition, the direction of NAPs for P/CVE is debatable on whether it should focus solely on governmental effort or include a whole-of-society approach. The debate exists because the P/CVE topic is integral to national security, a sensitive issue often limited to government work only. On the other hand, whole-of-society NAPs would rely on a good working relationship between governments and CSOs, which is still a challenge in the region as trust issues persist (Goodhardt et al., 2021). Currently, only two countries in Southeast Asia have created NAPs for P/CVE. They are Indonesia through Presidential Act No.7 (2021) and the Philippines through Anti Terrorism Council Resolution No. 38 (2019). Both of these plans are backed by different urgency.

The leading backgrounds were also different to one another. For example, based on the event of the Surabaya church bombings in 2018, Indonesian governments and CSOs aim to have a comprehensive mechanism to prevent violent extremism. At the same time, the Philippines aim to have comprehensive programs related to the reintegration of former combatants to have better living inside communities. However, both need better coordination between departments and collaboration with CSOs in CVE programs such as tracking and evaluation. This means that the answer to why the society itself should answer the need for NAPs accounts for the local background, values, and shared goals of P/CVE.

***In Touch with Libasut Taqwa  
(Wahid Foundation)***

## **Capturing Indonesia's Journey in Creating National Action Plan (NAP) for P/CVE**

Libasut Taqwa is the Research Associate at Wahid Foundation (WF), one of the leading Indonesian CSO in peace dialogue between state and civil cooperation in P/CVE. This month, SEAN-CSO sat down with Libas to talk about the journey leading to Indonesia's NAP for PCVE, explicitly discussing the goals and challenges Wahid Foundation and fellow CSOs faced during the process. Libas and WF, alongside other Indonesian CSOs, began talks with the government in 2017 to create a national strategy on PCVE, culminating in Indonesia NAP for P/CVE in 2020.

WF, alongside 40 stakeholders, participate in formulating the NAP, which focuses not on prosecution or crimes but on mitigating and preventing violent extremism through coordination, the structure of responsibility, and cooperation. Each one has its spectrums of priorities, from the involvement of civil society and educational support to the mainstreaming of gender in P/CVE has helped to enrich the action plan. However, a variety of priorities does not mean that some actors have more involvement. Instead, it enriches the plan.

However, Libas believes that the key towards Indonesia's NAP for P/CVE lies in the two expectations that are met and welcomed by both the central government (top-down) and civil society organisations (bottom-up)

agenda. In addition, the call for NAP for P/CVE from the UN and other related international organisations also helped ease the process as the government gradually gave it the green light. Moreover, it is necessary to know that the government and CSOs have equal involvement in making an action plan, with each department working in its spectrum of priorities.

A push from high-level departments, such as the Coordinating Ministry of Politics, Law, and Security in Indonesia, is essential to bring presidential recommendations for NAP to go ahead. However, challenges are also to be found after the NAP, such as legal aspects from the Ministry of Law, international cooperation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to budgeting set by the Ministry of



Finance. WF's role is to ensure that CSOs are always involved in the P/CVE action plan. Hence it is crucial for CSOs to know the nature of bureaucracy and exploit flexibility supported by national and international campaigns through various mediums.

Libas added that in the context of Southeast Asia. It is essential to discuss NAP PCVE but not limited to closed discussions which tend to be rigid and do not involve multiple elements. The urgency of NAP PCVE must be adapted to each country's needs and strengthen joint supervision at the regional level.

In terms of secondary and tertiary interventions of CVE on Indonesia NAP, Libas views that it brings a pathway towards unified work done by the government and CSOs previously unavailable as they work individually. NAP helps to create a knowledge hub open for the stakeholders to monitor the work progress. Libas closes by stating that for other Southeast Asian countries, NAP should not be considered a panacea for P/CVE problems, collaboration is a key, context is essential, policies must involve CSOs and include marginal issues, and be adaptive.



# Content Contributor

*Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed below are those of the authors.*

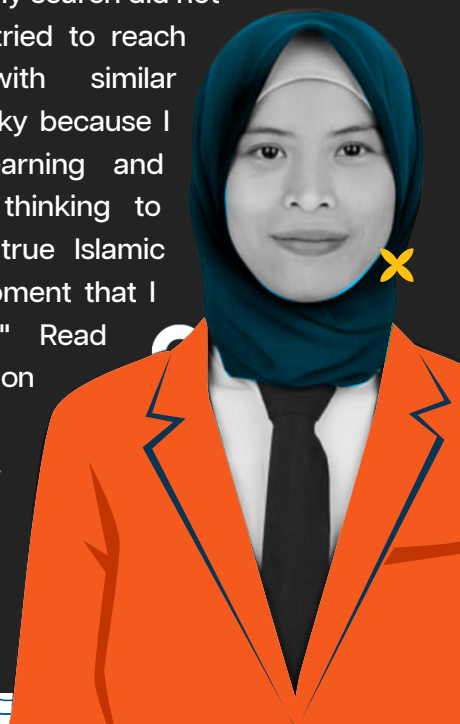


## Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE): whose responsibility?

**Author: Erni Kurniati (DASPR, Indonesia)**

Since I was a child, I have already learned about Islamic teaching in my village. I learned how to implement Islamic teaching in daily life, such as praying (salat), reciting Al-Qur'an, and caring for myself during the period (haid). Unfortunately, the teaching made me more intolerant towards other groups with different ways of practicing jurisprudence and thought. The intolerant thoughts were strengthened by the role of the family that did

not understand the danger the thoughts were in my future. My search did not stop there, and I tried to reach more friends with similar thoughts. I was lucky because I never stopped learning and used my critical thinking to question, "is that true Islamic teaching at the moment that I should fight for?" Read more of this article on our website [www.sean-cso.org](http://www.sean-cso.org).



## Lessons Learnt: Sustained Collaboration among State and Non-State Actors in the Implementation of the P/CVE NAP at the Local Level

**Author: Irine Hiraswari Gayatri (Monash Gender, Peace and Security Centre, Indonesia)**

### About the P/CVE NAP

The Indonesian government is making enormous efforts to stop and combat extremism in the nation. The endeavour is described in Presidential Decree (Perpres) Number 7 of 2021 concerning the National Action Plan for the Prevention and Countering Violent-Based Extremism Leading to Terrorism.

On January 7, 2021, the Presidential Decree was formally promulgated after being signed by President Joko Widodo. The P/CVE NAP is a set of initiatives put in place by several relevant ministries and organisations to lessen extremism motivated by violence, according to Chapter 1 of the Presidential Decree.

Several planned and systematic actions are taken as part of the P/CVE NAP to combat and prevent the extremism that gives rise to terrorism. In addition, the National Counter-terrorism Agency (BNPT) collaborates with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in implementing P/CVE NAP. Read more of this article on our website [www.sean-cso.org](http://www.sean-cso.org).



## Indonesia National Action Plans: Including Women in Addressing Radicalization

**Author: Fitriani (CSIS, Indonesia)**

In addressing the issues of radicalization, which include countering terrorism as well as preventing violent extremism, Indonesia has opted the rule of law approach. This is done through categorizing terrorism acts as criminal acts that is punishable by law. Although such top-down approach may be useful to repress the acts of terrorism and violent extremism, it is unable to address the root cause of such belief, nor stop the political ideology to gain support. This realization come late through the 2018 amendment of Indonesia Anti- Terrorism Law that allow a more wholistic and whole society approach, as the government realised that society plays a bigger role in preventing radicalization. This article will focus more on the involvement of women in such efforts.

Read more of this article on our website [www.sean-cso.org](http://www.sean-cso.org).



# National Action Plans: Expectations vs. Reality

National Action Plans (NAP), is it a whole society approach or solely a government effort? On Wednesday, October 26th, 2022, SEAN-CSO held a webinar discussing this issue. We invited our notable speakers: Mimi Fabe (National Police College, Philippines), Badrul Hisham Ismail (IMAN Research, Malaysia), and Shashi Jayakumar (RSIS, Singapore), to share their insights regarding the topic.

## ***Why should it be a whole-society approach?***

In Shashi's experience, Singapore doesn't have a NAP. But Shashi believes that there are a lot of new forms of extremism. Shashi mentioned that many countries, including Singapore, may still perceive the word "extremism" as a jihad or Islamic type of VE. However, in real cases, there's no guarantee of what's about to happen to the nation or society. That's why NAP is made for the whole society's safety. As Badrul said in the webinar, "National Action Plan, is it a whole society or solely government approach? It needs to be a whole society approach. If it's a sole government, then it should be called the Government Action Plan." Since the NAP targets the whole nation, society has the right to participate in the processing and implementation of the NAP with the government.

## ***Ideally...***

We need to learn from the Philippines' success story. Mimi shared her story that the

Philippines have succeeded because the government showed their clarity, courage, and commitment. Civil Society Organizations are included in making the P/CVE framework for NAP. Not only engaged with the CSOs, but also the whole process is gender-inclusive since many females are participating in crafting the NAP.

## ***However...***

Not all countries in ASEAN could be as lucky as the case above. However, including the Philippines itself still faces many challenges. For example, from Badrul's experience, several NGOs and CSOs have been invited to a closed-door meeting in Malaysia. However, they were not allowed to talk publicly outside the session and had to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA). Somehow, the entire process was intransparent, which reduced the NAP from being a whole society approach into a sole government effort.

In conclusion, many countries in ASEAN still have homework to work on in their NAP framework. However, those countries with a NAP should still be careful since many challenges are still ahead. This issue is like a box of chocolate, full of surprises. It needs the whole nation to work together to feel safe.





## Member Highlights

### Pilumbayan

#### *The Philippines*

Established in 2016, Pilumbayan is an organization committed to empowering young women in Bangsamoro through awareness-raising and knowledge-sharing. This organization was established when young women leaders attended a “Bae Pilumbayan” convention in Lanao del Sur. The purpose of this convention was to gather these young women and provide a safe space for them to tackle the issues they were facing.

Since then, Pilumbayan has had a vision for young women of Bangsamoro to realize their full potential and thrive in their advocacies so they can contribute to addressing the realities of their fellow young women. Pilumbayan also conducted activities and provided opportunities for young women to participate in development undertakings in Bangsamoro.



### Thuma Ko Kapagingud Service Organization, Inc.

#### *The Philippines*

Thuma Ko Kapagingud Service Organization Inc., is an NGO based in the province of Lanao del Sur. It was formed in 2017 when its founders served as local mobilizers for organizations outside of Lanao that wished to provide assistance to the families affected by the Marawi Siege. In 2019, the organization sought legal identity and focused primarily on fulfilling its mission of making socially-excluded youth and families valuable development players.





## Are you the one that SEAN-CSO are looking for?

If you are an academic, NGO officer, or Human rights activist that has knowledge and/or experience in the field of secondary and tertiary interventions, and would love to spread positive messages to prevent and oppose violent extremism in Southeast Asia through creative ideas, then, you are eligible to apply to our new program SEAN-CSO Content Contributors.

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