Overview:
National governments and international bodies consistently highlight a lack of evidence of what works in preventing violent extremism (PVE) as a challenge to building support for PVE policies, programmes, and resources. RUSI-led work in phase 1 of the Prevention Project identified over 1,000 civil society organisations (CSOs) working in the field of PVE in approximately 100 countries. Yet, few PVE interventions have been evaluated publicly, and empirical research on the impact of PVE is limited.

This evidence gap will not be filled by a single project. However, with support from the Royal Norwegian Government, and building on research conducted during phase I of the Prevention Project and as a contribution to the Global Solutions Exchange, RUSI will help address it through the development of a global PVE impact database that will seek to capture information on all known PVE civil society-led interventions as a basis for a global meta-evaluation of the impact of PVE intervention.

Object:
The object is to evaluate the impact of PVE programmes and project and create knowledge and evidence on what works (and what doesn’t) and how this has been achieved. This knowledge and evidence will inform national governments, multilateral bodies and civil society organizations so that the latter, in particular, are enabled to make a stronger contribution to successful PVE outcomes and impacts.

RUSI will also conduct country-specific evaluations to develop a richer picture of PVE impact in regions particularly affected by violent extremism. This will involve more detailed, field evaluations of particular interventions, working, as appropriate, with donors and their implementing partners, as well as host governments.

Outputs:
These will include 1) the global PVE impact database; 2) concrete PVE impact assessments and evaluation; 3) and reports on the ‘state of PVE’ globally and policy reports on specified subjects. The analysis will include a presentation of the impact violent extremism globally and the various levels of country resilience, including a country-by-country assessment of the contribution of PVE initiatives.

This research will complement existing initiatives by adding capacity and capability to the global PVE research effort rather than duplicating existing work or competing with established institutions. The project will be undertaken in close cooperation with existing bodies and networks, including Hedayah and RESOLVE, to avoid overlap and contribute to strengthen the coordination of research and M&E activities in the PVE area.