

Before we do so, however, I want to briefly own analysis of the impacts of the pandemic on terrorism, counter-terrorism and CVE.

We have published three reports on this vital topic over the past year, based on our engagement with all our partners (particularly Member States).

Our latest report was published just last week.

I would like to begin by looking at the impact on terrorist and violent-extremist activity.

Stringent border-control measures and restrictions have curtailed terrorist movements and activities, reducing the number of terror attacks carried out in non-conflict areas.

However, we have also seen evidence of terrorists and violent extremists seeking to exploit the social restrictions and political instability resulting from the pandemic.

Terrorist groups have integrated COVID-19 into their propaganda and promoted disinformation and conspiracy theories, both online and offline.

And, in several regions, violent anti-lockdown protests have been held, including by vocal, organized groups advocating anti-Government and anti-establishment ideologies.

The protestors have included extreme right-wing (or racially and ethnically motivated) terrorists and violent extremists.

In conflict-affected States, pre-existing trends of significant terrorist violence have continued.

the impacts of COVID-19 restrictions on humanitarian access and outreach in several regions.

Some of the affected communities include camps for refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as the detention camps in Iraq and Syria housing ISIL-associated women and children.

The already unsustainable conditions in those camps are worsening, leaving these populations vulnerable to a growing risk of disease, violence (including sexual and gender-based violence), and radicalization to violence.

It is vital that humanitarian action be unimpeded and safeguarded.

Pandemic-related restrictions should contain provisions to ensure that humanitarian and health care workers are able to reach populations in need.

Human rights also featured heavily in our latest report, which was based in part

Seventy-eight per cent of respondents stated that COVID-19 restrictions had created human rights challenges in their region.

Many States have also implemented policies and emergency measures that have been criticized for potential human rights abuses.

Securitized responses, including arrests or detentions using COVID-19 measures, can create fear among vulnerable populations, as well as among human rights defenders and civil society representatives.

These measures have also contributed to a further shrinking of civic space and curtailed freedoms of movement, assembly and speech, often impacting the work of civil society organizations.

They have also impeded the vital work of CVE programmes that involve engagement with communities, youth, women and marginalized groups.

notes the gendered impacts of the pandemic, which threaten the hard-won progress of previous years.

Globally, women are facing a greater care burden and greater economic insecurity.

Violence against women has also increased at an alarming rate during the pandemic, both online and offline.

And in some conflict areas, the security situation and disruptions to the delivery of humanitarian aid have had a disproportionately high impact on women and girls.

It is vital that Member States integrate gender considerations into all current policies against COVID-19, as well as into all post-pandemic recovery efforts.

Our latest report also considers the potential long-term impacts of the pandemic.

Of course, one critical challenge will be and already has proven to be the detrimental impacts on the global economy.

Economic downturns exacerbate poverty and inequalities and can potentially increase grievances that may fuel radicalization to violence.

Many

The only way to overcome those obstacles is through strong cooperation at the local, national, regional and international levels.

As we all move towards normal , it is essential that this cooperation continue to include close engagement with a b7D.36h