

**Brcko, Bosnia Case Study***Period of Performance: SEP - OCT 2016***Practice Area:** Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE)**Partner:** 92nd Civil Affairs BN**Location:** Brcko, Bosnia**Enumerators:** 3**Surveys:** 218**Project Objectives**

- **Project Objective 1:** Determine the cause(s) for the shift to Wahhabism and subsequent radicalization of Islamic Bosniaks in Brcko.
- **Project Objective 2:** Discern potential implementable recommendations to address the root causes of instability in the region.

**Key Findings**

Initial findings from the survey results indicated two main grievances in the community: lack of livelihoods and perceived corruption in local and regional government. Furthermore, nearly half of respondents claimed that they had zero faith in the governance and economic system in Brcko. The question remained: were these grievances enough to drive citizens down the path to radicalization? This question was answered after gaining an audience with a returned ISIS fighter turned Wahhabist community leader. What we had previously labeled as “corruption” in our surveying was actually a feeling of systematic injustice, and that the current system of governance was irredeemable and required a complete overhaul. The radicalizing dynamic was whether you believe the system to be fundamentally unjust and irreparable, requiring a new system. This is where key actors leverage the vulnerabilities created by corruption and the lack of livelihoods to support radical causes.

## **Methodology**

- ***Community Perception Surveys***

A team of three enumerators collected data from residents of Brcko using QuickTapSurvey on phones or tablets. Questions included demographics, as well as questions regarding respondent's perceived issues and level trust in their local governance apparatus. This data was then collated and assessed using state-of-the-art analytical tools.

- ***Vet Systematic Causes***

Manipulation of the collected data allowed for researchers to determine the main grievances plaguing the citizens of Brcko, namely perceived corruption in government and lack of viable livelihoods. These grievances coalesced into an overall lack of faith in the government or other governing authorities.

- ***Establish Baselines***

With a sufficient number of surveys completed, the team was able to establish a baseline, or starting point, from which all future interventions and potential solutions could be measured against.

## **Programming Recommendations**

To become radicalized is to also become isolated and marginalized from the majority of civil society. The local government of Brcko needed to create inclusive pathways back into society and then assist in creating livelihood opportunities, simultaneously addressing both key grievances of the radicalized minority.