LASER PULSE

PREVENTING/COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM SYSTEMATIC MIXED METHODS REVIEW: **CONTAINMENT/INTERDICTION**

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About LASER PULSE

LASER (Long-term Assistance and Services for Research) PULSE (Partners for University-Led Solutions Engine) is a 10-year, $70M program funded by USAID's Innovation, Technology, and Research Hub, that delivers research-driven solutions to field-sourced development challenges in USAID partner countries.

A consortium led by Purdue University, with core partners Catholic Relief Services, Indiana University, Makerere University, and the University of Notre Dame, implements the LASER PULSE program through a growing network of 3,700+ researchers and development practitioners in 86 countries.

LASER PULSE collaborates with USAID missions, bureaus, and independent offices, and other local stakeholders to identify research needs for critical development challenges, and funds and strengthens the capacity of researcher-practitioner teams to co-design solutions that translate into policy and practice.

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ACRONYMS

AfP	Alliance for Peacebuilding
CI	Containment/Interdiction
CSO/s	Civil Society Organization/s
CVE	Countering Violent Extremism
CVP LAIT	Conflict and Violence Prevention Learning Agenda Implementation Team
DDRR	Disengagement, Deradicalization, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration
EWER	Early Warning Early Response
LASER PULSE	Long-term Assistance and Services for Research Partners for University-Led Solutions Engine
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MMAT	Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool
OTI	Office of Transitions Initiatives
P/CVE	Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism
PV	Prevention
PVE	Preventing Violent Extremism
ToC/s	Theory/ies of Change
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VE	Violent Extremism

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Conflict and Violence Prevention Learning Agenda Implementation Team (CVP LAIT) was tasked with co-creating and implementing a bureau-wide learning agenda that:

- **Establishes the evidence base for effective approaches to armed conflict and violence prevention;**
- **Identifies opportunities for CVP investments that would produce new knowledge to fill gaps in the existing literature;**
- **Provides USAID staff with events, tools, resources, and/or guidance to incorporate learning agenda findings into their work; and**
- **Conducts original research into armed conflict and violence prevention.**

Through an intensive, multi-stakeholder consultation process with USAID Washington and mission staff, P/CVE was identified as an effort that, if backed by sound evidence and guidance, could benefit program design, outcomes, policy, and knowledge generation. As part of the CVP LAIT and in support of these goals, the Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP) carried out a systematic mixed methods review to map the evidence base for preventing/countering violent extremism (P/CVE) programming, including what approaches work in which contexts, and identify gaps that require greater investigation.

P/CVE programs that apply some version of containment/interdiction (CI) Theories of Change (ToC/s) are the second most common types of studies documented in this systematic mixed method review. The CI studies analyzed for this work exhibit a growing number of high-quality, strong evidence, with maturing evidence bases. However, while all CI ToC/s offer valuable theoretical insights, there remains a significant need to enhance their empirical robustness and evidence base. Additionally, there is an evident need for methodological refinement to elevate research quality and rigor. Across all CI ToC/s, while there is a promising foundation of strong theory, the consistent message is the need for more rigorous, targeted research to ensure efficacy, long-term impacts, and the avoidance of unintended consequences in P/CVE programming.

Some general conclusions can be drawn about what these programs do well and what they do not. Current research bolsters confidence in a variety of evidence-informed CI ToC/s and approaches. The following summary of findings table below provides information for each ToC and is accompanied by more detailed information in the report section titled *Theories of Change, Evidence Mapping, and Synthesis.*

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

2.1 Capacity Building for Government Actors: IF governmental capacity to identify and analyze the drivers of VE, engage local stakeholders, and/or conduct P/CVE programming is increased, THEN there will be a reduction in violent extremist sympathy and participation.

Maturity of Evidence Base	Included Studies	Programmatic Approaches	Summary of Findings
Developing	N=31 Quantitative: 0 • RCT[1]: 0 • Quasi-experimental: 0 • Descriptive: 0 Qualitative: 10 Multi-Methods: 9 Mixed Methods: 12	Evidence-Informed Approaches: • N/A Promising Approaches: • Government and Local Stakeholder Collaboration • Government Institutions and Actors' Skills-Building Anecdotal Approaches: • Developing Strategic and Legal Frameworks	Rigorous Evidence: • N/A Promising Evidence: • Addressing other forms of violence, such as criminal activity, security personnel abuses, and farmer-herder conflicts, may decrease the allure of VE due to shared drivers. • Ensuring effective application and sustainable integration of capacity building gains—in knowledge and skills—into government processes remains challenging. • There remains general uncertainty in how capacity improvements connect to P/CVE outcomes across whole-of-government approaches, including programs aimed at increasing access to justice, stabilization efforts, and anti-corruption efforts. • Civil society plays a critical role in both the development and implementation of national action plans and legislative strategies given their capacity to operate where government resources do not extend and in environments where there is limited or no trust in the government.

2.2 Reducing politically-rooted marginalization: IF governments reduce the politically-rooted exclusion of marginalized communities and groups, THEN there will be a reduction in violent extremist sympathy and participation.

Maturity of Evidence Base	Included Studies	Programmatic Approaches	Summary of Findings
Immature	N=7 Quantitative: 0	Evidence-Informed Approaches: • N/A	Rigorous Evidence: • N/A

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1 Randomized control trial (RCT)

Maturity of Evidence Base	Included Studies	Programmatic Approaches	Summary of Findings
Immature	• RCT: 0 • Quasi-experimental: 0 • Descriptive: 0 Qualitative: 4 Multi-Methods: 2 Mixed Methods: I	Promising Approaches: • Inclusive Political Processes Anecdotal Approaches: • N/A	Promising Evidence: • While the relevance of integrated approaches (like within governance and stabilization programming) is clearly supported in literature, there is a palpable need for more in-depth research to decipher the causal connections between indirect P/CVE programming objectives, the drivers of VE from other sectoral programming, and the decline in VE sympathy and involvement among marginalized populations. • P/CVE programming should not be seen as an add-on to existing program structures and programming should be explicit about P/CVE goals at their inception.

2.3 Increased community confidence in government: IF community confidence in the responsiveness, performance, accountability, inclusivity, and trustworthiness of government institutions is increased, THEN community/government cooperation and coordination on P/CVE will be increased.

Maturity of Evidence Base	Included Studies	Programmatic Approaches	Summary of Findings
Maturing	N=27 Quantitative: 3 • RCT: 2 • Quasi-experimental: 0 • Descriptive: I Qualitative: 7 Multi-Methods: 5 Mixed Methods: 12	Evidence-Informed Approaches: • Education and Civic Engagement Promising Approaches: • Enhanced Institutional Trust through Resilience Programming • Government-led Infrastructure Development and Service Delivery • Improving Women's Access to Government Services Anecdotal Approaches: • N/A	Rigorous Evidence: • While increased access to education is a critical tool for many countries in their fight against VE, it appears that while it equips youth for brighter futures, it can also spotlight societal injustices and elevate their expectations of the government. If these expectations are unmet, this can lead to increased frustration and anger. • Combining secondary education with civic engagement opportunities can reduce both participation in and support for violence, stressing the importance of blending learning with avenues for practical application. • The quality of governance may influence how education affects support for VE—in places with good governance, education may dampen VE support, but in areas with poor governance, education might unintentionally bolster it. Promising Evidence: • Gains in trust-building between communities and the government often remain localized, with limited transferability to central government perspectives, which are influenced by broader economic and political dynamics. • Addressing key barriers to access to government services can have large implications on participants' perceptions of the government's ability and willingness to meet their basic needs, particularly for marginalized individuals.

Maturity of Evidence Base	Included Studies	Programmatic Approaches	Summary of Findings
			• Increasing government transparency may elevate awareness of its shortcomings, leading to heightened community dissatisfaction. While addressing key barriers to access is crucial, it is equally vital to recognize that merely providing access without ensuring the consistent delivery of quality services may backfire, particularly in contexts of poor governance. In such scenarios, raised expectations without fulfillment can exacerbate resentment and distrust, which could inadvertently fuel support for VE.

2.4 Increased community confidence in police/security forces: IF community confidence in the trustworthiness, responsiveness, and accountability of government police and security forces is increased, THEN community/government cooperation and coordination in P/CVE will be increased.

Maturity of Evidence Base	Included Studies	Programmatic Approaches	Summary of Findings
Developing	N=16 Quantitative: 0 • RCT: 0 • Quasi-experimental: 0 • Descriptive: 0 Qualitative: 4 Multi-Methods: 4 Mixed Methods: 8	Evidence-Informed Approaches: • Community and Security Forces Relationship Building Promising Approaches: Promising Approaches: • N/A Anecdotal Approaches • N/A	Rigorous Evidence: • Women and men perceive levels of community insecurity differently, with women often reporting higher levels of insecurity than men, implying the need for more specific gender strategies, for both program design and security forces implementation, that ensure the unique needs of women are analyzed, prioritized, and integrated during program implementation. • Complementing community and security force coordination and collaboration on security programming with structured dialogue and financial support for joint activities may increase community reporting of potential extremist activities. • Building relationships and increasing trust between the community and security forces may inversely impact community perceptions when increased expectations for protection and improved transparency of security forces lead to greater expectations in quality of these services, which can in turn lead to higher levels of dissatisfaction when they are not met. • Increasing a community's willingness to collaborate with police and security forces on VE-related issues may not change community beliefs and attitudes towards the police, underscoring the uncertain link between trust and ongoing cooperation in P/CVE. • Successful program implementation on issues related to security sector trust requires strong legal frameworks and institutional practices and buy-in from communities, governments, and security forces alike. • Programs aimed exclusively at the community will most likely be ineffective in the long run if additional focus is not aimed at police and security sector reform to address real abuses, wrongdoings, and community grievances about their behavior. Promising Evidence: • N/A

INTRODUCTION

Violent extremism (VE) stands as one of the most significant security threats facing the international community, with the frequency of violent acts and atrocities perpetrated by extremists escalating across the world. Despite the threats and known impacts of VE, universal agreement on how to define, discuss, and respond to it remains difficult to achieve. Over the past 20 years, the peacebuilding field has advanced its understanding of the drivers of VE. It is now understood that radicalization is a fluid, nonlinear, highly individualized process, and the field has developed a series of approaches for P/CVE. While both are pivotal components of a holistic strategy to combat VE, each addresses different stages of the radicalization process.

CVE interventions are an indispensable facet of a national security strategy that reactively addresses challenges and targets individuals or groups that are already radicalized or engaging in extremist activities. As extremist ideologies evolve and manifest in various forms, governments must respond with a combination of legislative and security measures tailored to these challenges. These measures often include containment and interdiction-oriented activities, which focus on increasing governmental capacity to prepare, report, and respond to any form of VE, and often occur alongside efforts to increase police and security forces' capacity to detect, deter, and/or prosecute perpetrators of VE. Legislative efforts establish clear legal parameters that criminalize extremist activities while also safeguarding individual rights and freedoms, which are vital to ensuring that state actions are just and proportionate, thereby preventing potential grievances that might further fuel radicalization. These responses can serve to both prevent and counter VE and are mainly distinguished in this research by the primary target group—governmental and security forces. By embedding P/CVE within broader responses, states can holistically combat extremist threats, integrating prevention in a coordinated and multifaceted approach. P/CVE should create an encompassing approach addressing the entirety of the radicalization spectrum and ensuring that both emerging and existing threats are adequately addressed.

While substantial research has been completed to date on P/CVE, the field is still in its emerging phases, particularly using explicit program logic and Theories of Change (ToCs). As a result, there is ambiguity in documenting and assessing the impact of many interventions against explicit ToCs, making it challenging to assess the effectiveness of various methods in achieving VE objectives. The lack of aggregated evidence of what works and what does not in P/CVE has hindered the field's ability to effectively respond to VE. **It is essential for P/CVE programs to have clear ToCs if the field is to progress in identifying what works and what does not.**

To address these deficiencies, this research aims to better understand the state of the P/CVE evidence base and its underlying ToCs. To assist in making program logic and assumptions more explicit and fill a crucial gap, this research developed and classified programs that share underlying logic and assumptions into distinct, field-wide ToCs. As such, the findings presented are **not at the level of specific programming interventions, but rather at the level of the ToC.** The findings from this research highlight some specific interventions, not as the only activities within an overall ToC, but as examples that exhibit especially strong evidence and high quality, at least in one time or place.

Methods

This research involved a systematic mixed method review of the relevant literature. The objective was to collect and synthesize evidence related to P/CVE ToCs and their supporting rigorous, promising, and anecdotal evidence across three primary programming responses: (1) *prevention* (*PV*); (2) *containment/interdiction* (*CI*); and (3) *disengagement, deradicalization, rehabilitation, and reintegration* (*DDRR*). This report presents the findings from the review of DDRR interventions and identifies what worked, challenges faced, and recommendations to improve practice.

This research applies an innovative ToC process, culminating in the development of four distinct, theoretically anchored and testable ToCs across CI programing responses. These overarching ToCs serve three primary functions: to categorize programs with shared foundational logic and assumptions; to shed light on this logic and its underlying assumptions; and to create the framework for evidence-based mapping. A detailed description of this research's methodology is available in the accompanying *P/CVE Systematic Mixed Methods Review: Methodology* report.

Definitions and Boundaries

Detailed definitions for key terms used for the purposes of this research are available in the accompanying *P/CVE Systematic Mixed Methods Review: Methodology* report.

Included Studies

This research analyzed 50 CI-focused studies pertaining to P/CVE. Kenya (14%) and Kyrgyzstan (14%) emerged as the primary research locations, closely followed by Somalia (12%) and Indonesia (10%). On a broader regional scale, the African subcontinent (East and West), as well as the Asian region (Central and Southeast) led in research frequency. More than half of the studies (64%) were published between 2019 and 2022. Notably, 2019 witnessed the pinnacle of research publications at 24%, succeeded by 2021 and 2022 (14% each). In efforts to ascertain unbiased insights, it was observed that 62% of these studies underwent external evaluations. Conversely, 22% represented internal evaluations, and a notable 16% lacked clarity on their evaluation methodologies.

Analysis of the 50 CI studies revealed diverse beneficiaries targeted by their respective activities. *Youth* were the most targeted group, followed by *government, security, and justice sectors*, the *broader community or general population*, and *civil society organizations* (*CSOs*). While the majority of the studies did not elaborate on their beneficiary selection criteria, 30% of them did, indicating *geographic location* as the primary targeting strategy, succeeded by *self-referral*.

In terms of program activities, *awareness raising and/or narrative creation* stood out as the most common type of intervention. Such activities encompass the sharing of information and resources in various community settings to highlight warning signs, risk factors, and VE recruitment methodologies. *Dialogue* also featured prominently, facilitating safe conversations between government entities, CSOs, and community members. Moreover, there was a noticeable emphasis on *systemic capacity building* activities, entailing the formulation of strategic action plans to enhance service delivery by governments and specialized training for the prison and security sector. The studies also highlighted the significance of *pro-social and cultural activities*, spotlighting community exchanges, debates, sports competitions, and artistic events to foster social cohesion and strengthen community resilience.

Interpretation of Findings

Each ToC was assessed across multiple variables to ascertain the maturity of the evidence base. ToC could be classified as exhibiting an immature, developing, maturing, or mature evidence base. Following a ToC analysis to classify each study within its appropriate ToC/s, the ToC evidence base was assessed based on the number of studies; mean, standard deviation, and variance of its strength of evidence and of its quality of evidence; and their subsequent trends.[2] Within the report, each ToC section is accompanied by a summary interpretation of the state of evidence and trends in quality and strength.

Typically, with a larger, more mature evidence base one can synthesize findings to offer insights into trends of what works and does not work within and across different contexts. While substantial research has been completed to date on P/

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2   A detailed description of these scales and their interpretation is available in the accompanying *P/CVE Systematic Mixed Methods Review: Methodology* report.

CVE, the field is still in its early phases, particularly using explicit program logic and ToCs. Many of the included studies fell across multiple ToCs, and even though all attempts were made by multiple researchers to separate them, the strong overlap of studies across ToCs is a reflection of the field's current programming and funding practice. While in theory there exists strong distinctions between ToCs, this is not reflected in current practice. For studies that follow multiple ToCs, the evidence syntheses reflect the findings relevant to that ToC only, to the fullest extent possible. Given this gap, the current research does not allow for an analysis of stacking or sequencing of programmatic activities either within or across ToCs; however, implementing and researching strategically layered and sequenced multi-disciplinary P/CVE programming is crucial to advance the field.

Some ToCs have substantial studies to examine the evidence base, but many ToCs have extremely limited studies, making it challenging to assess trends. To support the P/CVE field's development, this research includes a greater breadth of mixed methods studies, particularly qualitative and non-randomized studies, in addition to randomized and quantitative studies. To differentiate, this work distinguishes between evidence-informed and promising evidence. Studies that provide stronger evidence and higher quality from at least one time or place are listed in the "evidence-informed" sections for each ToC. Promising approaches are also highlighted that do not necessarily reflect rigorous evidence, but do provide strong rationales for interventions and promising findings that, if further evaluated and researched, could provide encouraging findings to support the growth of the field.

Study exemplars in the evidence synthesis were pulled out at the researchers' discretion to complement the findings, as well as emphasize certain aspects of them. The majority of the study exemplars are selected from studies representing both higher quality and stronger evidence; however, exemplars of promising evidence were selected on the basis of representing innovativeness of the approach, representation of multiple studies exhibiting a theoretical foundation, and/or the strength of evidence.

The researchers recognize that while each study synthesized as part of this research effort has many nuances, for the purpose of brevity and readability of this report, not all nuances are covered. This research effort links individual exemplar studies referenced in the report and readers are encouraged to review the original studies when considering implications for adoption of these specific approaches in their own work.

THEORIES OF CHANGE, EVIDENCE MAPPING, AND SYNTHESIS

The following section provides a synthesis of the current state of evidence and findings per ToC based upon the findings of this research. It presents the ToC, key ToC assumptions, a summary interpretation of the state of evidence and trends in quality and strength, and a presentation on evidence-informed, promising, and anecdotal approaches. The approaches outlined have been developed by the researchers to best categorize the multiple types of interventions occurring within each ToC. Given as there is not an established field-wide ontology of P/CVE approaches, these have been developed based on the findings of this research to provide a foundation upon which a stronger ontology can be developed. Where applicable, this section includes study exemplars to complement the research findings and emphasize key insights.

Theory of Change 2.1: Capacity Building for Government Actors

Theory of Change: IF governmental capacity to identify and analyze the drivers of VE, engage local stakeholders, and/or conduct P/CVE programming is increased, THEN there will be a reduction in violent extremist sympathy and participation.

Key assumptions: These interventions can support both attitude and behavior changes, but there are many competing and overlapping frameworks for providing this support. They share a common set of assumptions about the relationship between trauma, mental health, socio-economic independence, familial/communal support, and VE disengagement/belief shifts. Some of these activities may occur only after disengagement.

There is a medium and diverse body of evidence evaluating the effectiveness of this ToC, encompassing 31 studies that present anecdotal and promising findings. Cumulatively, there is a developing evidence base employing a variety of interventions focused on enhancing the overall capacity of government actors to identify and analyze the drivers of VE, engage with local stakeholders, and conduct P/CVE programming. Most of the studies in this ToC present promising findings on improved CVE knowledge and skills, satisfaction, engagement, and enhancement of government institutions and strategies; yet, they do not measure the effect of these improvements on reductions in VE. The included studies explore various government capacity building approaches, including:

- **Developing Strategic and Legal Frameworks;**
- **Government and Local Stakeholder Collaboration; and**
- **Government Institutions and Actors' Skills-Building.**

On assessing the strength of evidence, the distribution of evidence across studies spans anecdotal findings to strong evidence, with the average in the "strong theory" category. The data indicates a spectrum of quality from very low to medium-high, and the average suggests a tendency toward medium low to medium quality.

The most frequently used measures of success relate to cooperation and collaboration across agencies and with community members, knowledge and skills, and capacity and professionalization. While the studies report successful cases of professionalization, positive impacts on resiliency, prevention/resolution of conflict and violence, improved CVE knowledge and skills, satisfaction, engagement, and enhancement of government institutions and strategies, they do not measure the effect of these improvements on reductions in VE. Further research is needed to understand what specific kinds of capacity building programming are most effective at achieving downstream results. Finally, special care must be taken when using P/CVE terminology with community members in these contexts, as confusion may increase mistrust over government actors' intent and hinder information exchange and collaboration.

Substantial evaluative work has been done in this ToC; however, additional research is necessary to explore and test the association of capacity building activities with actual reductions in sympathy for and engagement in VE, as there is limited evidence demonstrating the direct impact of increased government capacity on P/CVE outcomes.

Evidence-Informed Approaches

There were no evidence-informed approaches found within this ToC.

Promising Approaches

In Capacity Building for Government Actors, current research highlights two promising approaches that demonstrate consistent findings and require further rigorous testing to establish stronger evidence in:

- **Government and Local Stakeholder Collaboration**
- **Government Institutions and Actors' Skills-Building**

The following provides a synthesis of each promising approach with supporting study exemplars to share findings, emphasize key insights, and contextualize these approaches in practice.

Government and Local Stakeholder Collaboration

Studies focused on programming to bolster governmental capacity through multi-stakeholder collaborations generally aimed to enhance cooperation and understanding of extremist threats. These programs sought to build synergies to tackle VE and implement national policies through dialogue, collective fora, and information-sharing platforms.

A promising study (Trujillo 2019) in Nigeria evaluated the continuous collaboration of governmental decisions-makers and community members towards the development of a conflict early warning early response (EWER) system. Though the program acknowledged its inability to independently ascertain its contribution to the decline in insurgency-related violence, there was substantial evidence indicating the project's role in preventing and resolving other types of conflicts and violence. The researchers suggest that **addressing other forms of violence, such as criminal activity, security personnel abuses, and farmer-herder conflicts, might decrease the allure of VE due to shared drivers within these communities.**

A promising study (Botoeva et al. 2021) in Kyrgyzstan assessed the effects of involving young people from conflict-prone communities in local governance roles. The project evaluated participating youth's resiliency to VE, and although their tool does not directly assess the causal relationship between the project and levels of radicalization, the findings indicate the program had a positive impact on participants' resilience compared to non-participants. Community youth mentors corroborated these findings, noting reduced interest in violent groups and less extreme views among participating youth.

Overall, at the community level, these programs helped increase local awareness about national policies, the workings of security forces, and available resources to help address the threat of insurgent violence. They also attempted to create opportunities for communities to engage with and be part of governance structures, raise community concerns to state

attention, and facilitate greater input in decision-making leading to improved government-community relations and an increased sense of connection with authorities. Participating governments viewed these initiatives as improving understanding about the root causes of VE, raising awareness of their work's contribution to P/CVE, and improving their understanding of factors influencing people's decision to embrace radical ideology. Participants reported that the participatory nature of engagements increased interagency collaboration/cooperation, collective effectiveness, and ability to dedicate resources where most needed based on a deeper understanding of community needs. However, challenges—such as delayed responses to community issues and limited resources—emerged.

Findings from these studies suggest that addressing violence more broadly may reduce the appeal of VE, with notable improvements in active community engagement in early warning systems and local governance decision-making. Studies reported general enhancement of local understanding of policies and security efforts, fostering better government-community relations and more effective P/CVE strategies. However, they face challenges like delayed responses and limited resources, and their direct impact on reducing radicalization remains less clearly established, indicating a need for further focused study.

Government Institutions and Actors' Skills-Building

Studies within this ToC approach focused on programs offering skills-building to governmental actors and institutions, including to strengthen the rule of law and justice system, enhance research and data collection, and improve the overall quality of service provision and social support. These programs provided training, mentoring, methodological support, and technical assistance to develop and improve professionalization, interagency cooperation and collaboration, and tools, materials, and training systems to standardize learning. Programs showed consistent results on their ability to strengthen knowledge and skills, but cautioned that trained individuals may not always effectively apply them.

A promising study (Della-Giacomo & Sunny 2021) in Bangladesh provided strong evidence for professionalizing the national statistic and research functionalities. Their efforts resulted in the first national database of violence and insights into online extremism via social media monitoring. The database and its supporting findings contributed to new P/CVE programming and policy discussions and filled critical knowledge gaps for a wide variety of stakeholders. Key challenges to these programs include non-favorable laws and institutional practices and lack of buy-in from participants, often due to personal disinterest, misunderstanding of connection to their work, or lack of skilled staff and resources.

Findings from these studies show **success in strengthening knowledge and skills along with challenges in ensuring effective application and sustainable integration into government processes.** Additionally, difficulty evaluating these efforts is compounded by a **general uncertainty in the research of how capacity improvements clearly connect to P/CVE across whole-of-government approaches that could include increased access to justice, stabilization efforts, or anti-corruption efforts.**

Anecdotal Approaches

In Capacity Building for Government Actors, current research highlights an anecdotal approach that requires further testing to establish stronger evidence in:

- **Developing Strategic and Legal Frameworks**

The following provides a synthesis of this anecdotal approach with supporting study exemplars to share findings, emphasize key insights, and contextualize this approach in practice.

Developing Strategic and Legal Frameworks

Studies focused on developing and implementing national/regional strategies and legal frameworks for P/CVE to consolidate various initiatives and efforts under a unified strategy to ensure that all relevant stakeholders work towards shared objectives. These processes are critical to facilitate stakeholder coordination, raise awareness, develop measurable goals, and to engage with the community to ensure their perspectives and concerns are considered.

Studies included in this ToC approach emphasized the short-term impacts of their development and best practices for their implementation, and underscored the need for multi-professional cooperation, civil society involvement, and a focus on prevention as part of national strategies. Specific attention was called to the **critical role of civil society in both the development and implementation of these strategies given their capacity to operate where government resources do not extend and in environments where there is limited or no trust in the government.** These studies also offered potential best practices for successful development of national/regional strategies and legal frameworks, which included clarifying participant roles; holding in-person meetings to leverage stakeholder knowledge; conducting local context and needs assessments across all relevant stakeholders to inform roles and responsibilities; developing frameworks and definitions in a participatory and cultural-sensitive manner; focusing on prevention; and advancing common legislative approaches. Relevant challenges to the development of regional/interstate frameworks include complexities in defining and understanding key P/CVE concepts across diverse cultures, which potentially hinder information exchange and collaboration, increasing mistrust and/or blame between states. Creating time-bound measures of success also poses difficulties for evaluation, but setting baselines and minimum standards is seen as a necessary first step.

Anecdotal findings from these studies emphasized short-term impacts and best practices and underscored the vital and unique role of civil society due to its reach and trustworthiness in regions skeptical of government. Challenges include cultural differences in understanding P/CVE concepts and setting measurable outcomes but establishing baseline standards is deemed essential.

Theory of Change 2.2: Reducing Politically-Rooted Marginalization

Theory of Change: IF governments reduce the politically-rooted exclusion of marginalized communities and groups, **THEN** there will be a reduction in violent extremist sympathy and participation.

Key assumptions: Socio-political marginalization is a key "push" factor in VE vulnerability.

There is a very small body of evidence evaluating the effectiveness of this ToC, encompassing seven studies that present anecdotal and promising findings, with only one study entering moderate evidence. Cumulatively, there is an immature evidence base employing a variety of approaches focused on reducing politically-rooted exclusion of marginalized communities and groups. Most of the studies in this ToC have an implicit and ambiguous connection, at best, to P/CVE in their program logic. The included studies explore various approaches from good governance, security sector reform, and political stabilization efforts for:

- **Inclusive Political Processes**

On assessing the strength of evidence, the distribution of evidence across studies spans anecdotal findings to moderate evidence, with the average in the "strong theory" category. The data indicates a spectrum of quality from medium-low to medium-high, and the average suggests a tendency toward medium-low to medium quality.

Given that the P/CVE literature highlights the role of socioeconomic and governance grievances as drivers of participation, it makes theoretical sense to address these grievances through P/CVE. However, the fact that P/CVE programs are only one very small part of a much larger ecosystem of programs addressing these same issues makes it difficult to assess their impact. Additionally, most of these programs in the larger ecosystem of programs, such as political stabilization, security sector reform, and governance programs, often have P/CVE goals added to them—a decision that may be political in nature, related to funding, or simply indicative of poor program design. These additions are often without an explicit underlying theory supporting the integration of /PCVE programming with other relevant programs, hampering evaluation efforts at all levels. Cumulatively, this results in an immature evidence base.

Limited evaluative work has been done in this ToC and there is not currently adequate, high-quality evidence to demonstrate that programs in this ToC actually reduce VE. Preliminary findings underscore the complexity of evaluating the programmatic impacts of intertwined P/CVE programing and sectors like governance and stabilization. While the literature underscores the relevance of integrated P/CVE approaches, there is a critical need for in-depth research to unravel causal links between indirect P/CVE objectives, drivers of VE in various sectors, and the reduction of VE tendencies in marginalized groups. The most frequently used measures of success relate to increasing engagement of marginalized individuals, particularly women and youth, within political processes and parties, increasing legal frameworks and policies that include marginalized individuals, increasing community awareness and knowledge of VE, and measures of civic engagement.

Given the limited evaluative work done in this ToC, further evidence-based research is needed to develop a strong evidence base and explore the associations between indirect P/CVE programming objectives, the drivers of VE from other sectoral programming, and the decline in VE sympathy and involvement among marginalized populations.

Evidence-Informed Approaches

There were no evidence-informed approaches found within this ToC.

Promising Approaches

In Reducing Politically-Rooted Marginalization, current research highlights a promising approach that demonstrates consistent findings and requires further rigorous testing to establish stronger evidence in:

- **Inclusive Political Processes**

The following provides a synthesis of this promising approach with supporting study exemplars to share findings, emphasize key insights, and contextualize these approaches in practice.

Inclusive Political Processes

Predominantly, the included studies sought to increase the involvement of women and youth in political processes and parties. The aim was to enhance their capacity, advocacy proficiency, and rapport with governmental and security sector entities through dialogues and organizational growth. Though some studies hinted at the participation of other marginalized groups, specifics beyond women and youth were scarce.

A promising study (USAID 2014) in Tunisia emphasized strengthening civic participation, particularly of women and youth, CSOs, and P/CVE within a democracy initiative to create viable space for political transition. As part of a broad program that incorporated many different activities and objectives, the P/CVE activities were supplemental. While the project grappled with creating outcome metrics and recording them, it yielded promising signs of individual changes, especially among youth. Youth reported developing a stronger sense of societal belonging, self-confidence, communication skills, and a renewed sense of hope in the future. The program also documented an increase in youth participation within moderate organizations and exposure to nonviolent means of expression. Two salient challenges faced were pinpointing at-risk groups and fostering enduring engagement amidst sporadic and transient program activities. While the researchers could not assess the impact of the P/CVE programming's contribution to the overall program outcomes or programming's impact on reduction in VE sympathy or participation, the findings provide promising evidence that P/CVE programming, particularly with youth, can increase visibility of marginalized groups and capacity to participate in democratic and political processes.

A promising study (Mahling et al. 2022) in Cote d'Ivoire that sought to contribute to long-term political stability via inclusive political processes and addressing ingrained grievances across local and national spectrums resulted in commendable strides like the inception of a quota law for female candidates and facilitating easier youth voter registration, but the direct integration of P/CVE activities was not explicit. While P/CVE could be implied in this program as part of an intermediate result focused on increased community dialogue and actions to address grievances with the participation of diverse government and community actors on activities tailored to address local dynamics, the program did not design P/CVE activities per se, but considered a wide range of activities as contributing towards it.

Overall, findings underscore the intricacies of evaluating impacts when intertwining P/CVE programming and sectors like governance and stabilization. While the relevance of these integrated approaches is clearly supported in literature, **a palpable need for more in-depth research exists to decipher the causal connections between indirect P/CVE programming objectives, the drivers of VE from other sectoral programming, and the decline in VE sympathy and involvement among**

marginalized populations. P/CVE programming should not be seen as an add-on to existing program structures and programming should be explicit about P/CVE goals at their inception.

Theory of Change 2.3: Increased Community Confidence in Government

Theory of Change: IF community confidence in the responsiveness, performance, accountability, inclusivity, and trustworthiness of government institutions is increased, **THEN** community/ government cooperation and coordination on P/CVE will be increased.

Key assumptions: Increased trust in a government's ability to respond to and meet local needs will reduce community-level feelings of socio-political marginalization.

There is a medium and diverse body of evidence evaluating the effectiveness of this ToC, encompassing 27 studies that present anecdotal, promising findings, and significant evidence. Cumulatively, there is a maturing evidence base employing a variety of interventions focused on enhancing community confidence in the government to improve community and government cooperation and coordination on P/CVE programming. Most of the research has drawn conclusions on the relationship between specific government activities and changes in community perceptions towards government effectiveness and credibility; yet, they do not measure the effect of these activities on reductions in VE. The included studies explore various approaches to increase community perceptions of government:

- **Education and Civic Engagement**

- **Enhanced Institutional Trust through Resilience Programming**

- **Government-led Infrastructure Development and Service Delivery**

- **Improving Women's Access to Government Services**

On assessing the strength of evidence, the distribution of evidence across studies spans anecdotal findings to moderate evidence, with the average in the "strong theory" category. The data indicates a spectrum of quality from very low to medium-high, and the average suggests a tendency toward medium-low to medium quality.

This ToC proposes that if communities view government with greater trust and confidence, then they will engage more effectively with them on P/CVE. The theoretical evidence is strong that this is a logical proposition, and many studies established increased trust because of program activities. Only a few, however, were able to reach from increased trust to reduced support for VE by way of increased community cooperation and engagement. These efforts were particularly hampered by the short-term nature of many of these interventions, and from the difficulty in separating out trust specifically in political institutions from trust in the complex web of actors in every community that makes up the CVE response.

The most frequently used measures of success relate to increasing access to services, including education, civic engagement, perceptions of security, improved quality of life, and trust in government. While cumulatively this ToC demonstrates a maturing evidence base, programming employing this ToC needs to consider these limitations, and focus on identifying more narrowly what kinds of improved trust and confidence are most central to reducing VE. Evidence suggests that caution must be taken with programing focused on improving government transparency and in areas devoid of formal governance for extended periods. Study findings noted that care should be given to consider the real and perceived state of governance to determine if the context is best placed to achieve positive outcomes. Studies also reported that while addressing key barriers to access is crucial, it is equally vital to recognize that merely providing access without ensuring the consistent

delivery of quality services may backfire, particularly in contexts of poor governance. In such scenarios, raised expectations without fulfillment can exacerbate resentment and distrust, which could inadvertently fuel support for VE.

Substantial evaluative work has been done in this ToC; however, additional research is necessary to explore and test the association of improved confidence and trust in government with increased cooperation and coordination between community and government responses to P/CVE and actual reductions in sympathy for and engagement in VE, as there is limited evidence demonstrating the direct impact of increased trust and coordination on P/CVE outcomes.

Evidence-Informed Approaches

In Increased Community Confidence in Government, current research bolsters confidence in the following evidence-informed approach:

- **Education and Civic Engagement**

The following provides a synthesis of this evidence-informed approach with supporting study exemplars to share findings, emphasize key insights, and contextualize this approach in practice.

Education and Civic Engagement

Studies focused on combining educational opportunities with civic engagement primarily couple improvements in educational access and delivery with opportunities for youth-led civic engagement. These programs theorize that education reduces the likelihood that people engage in political violence directly or support other people and actors engaging in political violence, and that schools play a key role in creating an environment where youth feel less isolated and excluded and are thus less likely to be pulled into VE through promises of community and belonging.

A study (Tesfaye et al. 2018) in Somaliland aimed at improving education and civic engagement opportunities focused on the direct causal impact of such activities on moral and material support for political violence. This program tested the hypothesis that *participation and support in political violence among…youth will decrease as a result of increased access to formal education if youth perceive their government is satisfactorily providing basic services.* Findings significantly showed that by improving access to secondary education, youth participation in political violence decreased, but interestingly support for it increased. Though not significant, the study also found that youth who benefited from increased access to secondary school education were less likely to credit the government for this education. **Increased access to education is a critical tool for many countries in their fight against VE, but it appears that while it equips youth for brighter futures, it can also spotlight societal injustices and elevate their expectations of the government. If these expectations are unmet, this can lead to increased frustration and anger.** The researchers posited that by increasing youths' concern about their futures, and in parallel their dissatisfaction with their government's provision of education, education alone can compound youth's frustrations. However, **when combining secondary education with civic engagement opportunities, both participation in and support for violence dropped significantly, stressing the importance of blending learning with avenues for practical application.**

These significant and robust study findings demonstrate that when community confidence in government institutions is lowered, cooperation decreases and even an increase in support for violent alternatives may emerge. These findings suggest that **the quality of governance may influence how education affects support for VE—in places with good governance, education may dampen VE support, but in areas with poor governance, education might unintentionally bolster it. When integrating education and P/CVE programs, care should be given to consider the real and perceived state of governance to determine if the context is best placed to achieve positive outcomes.**

Promising Approaches

Current research further highlights three promising approaches that demonstrate consistent findings, but require further rigorous testing to establish stronger evidence in:

- **Enhanced Institutional Trust through Resilience Programming**
- **Government-led Infrastructure Development and Service Delivery**
- **Improving Women's Access to Government Services**

The following provides a synthesis of each promising approach with supporting study exemplars to share findings, emphasize key insights, and contextualize these approaches in practice.

Enhanced Institutional Trust through Resilience Programming

Multiple studies explored the relationship between diverse government activities and changes in community perceptions towards government effectiveness and credibility. Many of these activities emphasized creating space to bring together government, community, private sector, and other key local stakeholders for dialogue, town halls, joint activities like early warning efforts, and other collaborative mechanisms.

Studies reported that these engagements strengthened the capacity of, engagement by, and cooperation among participants, and many studies reported improved trust in the government. Programs attempting to bridge the gap between government and marginalized groups, particularly youth, reported increased trust among at-risk youth towards local government officials and collaboration among youth and local authorities. Initiatives improving service delivery, especially through infrastructure development within marginalized communities, were effective in elevating community confidence in the government's response to local needs. However, **trust often remained localized, with limited transferability to central government perspectives, which are influenced by broader economic and political dynamics.**

A promising study (Finkel et al. 2018) from a multi-country program in the Sahel showed significant findings to increase resilience to VE in vulnerable communities through enhanced institutional trust. This program implemented diverse activities, including strengthening local government through a combination of efforts to enhance personnel capacity, transparency and accountability in local decision-making, and participatory local development initiatives, including infrastructure development. Notably, the study presented significant findings between program activities and increases in institutional trust, offsetting the overall decline in trust in two of the three countries. Notably, institutional trust was a composite measure that aggregated respondents' answers to five separate statements: (1) I trust local authorities;

(2) I trust the central government; (3) I trust religious leaders; (4) I trust NGOs; and (5) I trust the police. As such, it is not possible to separate improved trust in government institutions from these other institutions, but the study demonstrates positive evidence on the impact of whole-of-society activities aimed at meeting local needs.

Findings from these studies highlighted the importance of fostering dialogue and collaboration between government, communities, and key local stakeholders, leading to increased trust and cooperation among participants. Particularly, programs addressing the gap between government and marginalized youth and those enhancing service delivery in marginalized areas boosted, community confidence in local government. However, while significant study findings indicated an overall rise in institutional trust, this trust remained more localized and did not necessarily extend to central government perceptions.

Government-led Infrastructure Development and Service Delivery

Some studies explored the connection between government-led infrastructure development and effective service delivery. These were some of only a few studies overall that attempted to evaluate the direct link between increased trust and support for VE.

Findings from these studies included that community members reported government programming led to improvements in their protection against insurgents, perceptions of security, and overall quality of life. Findings also highlighted enhanced confidence in local government, particularly resulting from advances in professionalism, community satisfaction with basic services, and increased collaboration between local government and community members. Studies also reported a reduction in communal conflict with increased access to local services like water, education, and healthcare. Interestingly, one study highlighted the inverse impact where improved government transparency led to greater community awareness of government shortcomings, giving rise to heightened dissatisfaction levels.

A promising study (Khalil & Ipp 2016) in Mali focused on countering VE through inclusion of marginalized communities by strengthening connections within and between communities and building confidence in—and support for—the government by promoting the perception that local authorities are responsive to citizens' basic needs. Program activities often focused on infrastructure development and delivery of basic services. These activities were highly visible and easily remembered by community members, but the researchers were not able to assess explicit reductions in VE due to limitations in project monitoring and evaluation.

Study findings suggest that programming bolstered community protection, perceptions of security, and quality of life, thereby boosting confidence in local governments. However, increased government transparency in some instances elevated awareness of its shortcomings, leading to heightened community dissatisfaction. Further, while some programs focused on including marginalized communities and enhancing perceptions of responsive local authorities, clear reductions in VE were challenging to determine.

Women often face significant barriers to accessing government services, including illiteracy, social stigma and fear of reporting, and limited technology capacity, which greatly inhibit their ability to actively participate in programming.

Improving Women's Access to Government Services

A promising study (UNDP 2022) in Pakistan looked at the unique challenges and behavioral barriers women face reporting grievances to and seeking assistance from government entities, subsequently affecting their confidence in the government. To improve access, the program introduced a "Gender Desk" to address gender-specific issues and facilitate women's access to government entities, services, and information and behavioral intervention designed to increase its use. Women in the treatment group were more likely to utilize the gender desk than those in the control group.

This study's significant findings demonstrate that **addressing key barriers to access to government services can have large implications on participants' perceptions of the government's ability and willingness to meet their basic needs**; however, the study does not connect these behaviors with P/CVE outcomes. It does however underline the essential nature of contextual analysis in crafting any program intent on improving government service provision and community engagement and could have implications towards P/CVE programming, particularly for marginalized populations. **While addressing key barriers to access is crucial, it is equally vital to recognize that merely providing access without ensuring the consistent delivery of quality services may backfire, particularly in contexts of poor governance. In such scenarios, raised expectations without fulfillment can exacerbate resentment and distrust, which could inadvertently fuel support for VE.**

Theory of Change 2.4: Increased Community Confidence in Police/ Security Forces

Theory of Change: IF community confidence in the trustworthiness, responsiveness, and accountability of government police and security forces are increased, **THEN** community/ government cooperation and coordination in P/CVE will be increased.

Key assumptions: Pervasive mistrust in state security authorities is a major barrier to credible and effective P/CVE programming, as well as to the apprehension and prosecution of VE offenders.

There is a small body of evidence evaluating the effectiveness of this ToC, encompassing 16 studies that present anecdotal, promising findings, and significant evidence. Cumulatively, there is a developing evidence base employing a variety of interventions focused on enhancing community confidence in police and security forces to improve community and government cooperation and coordination on P/CVE programming. Most of the research has drawn conclusions on the relationship between specific dialogue, capacity building activities, and accountability initiatives and changes in community perceptions towards security forces and improved security; yet, they do not measure the effect of these activities on reductions in VE. The included studies explore approaches to increase community perceptions of security forces through:

- **Community and Security Forces Relationship Building**

On assessing the strength of evidence, the distribution of evidence across studies spans anecdotal findings to strong evidence, with the average in the "strong theory" category. The data indicates a spectrum of quality from low to medium-high, and the average suggests a tendency toward medium-low to medium quality.

The most frequently used measures of success relate to community perceptions of and collaboration with security forces and the evidence base points to an increase in this type of community engagement. Initiatives focused heavily on fostering trust and communication with security forces, but found that trust does not always lead to lasting cooperation. The findings suggest a need for a holistic approach to police and security sector reforms. Study findings also noted that it is imperative that program designers and security forces implement specific gender strategies given the disparities between women's and men's reported security levels.

Limited evaluative work has been done in this ToC; however, much has provided high quality and strong evidence, situating findings within evidence-informed approaches. Additional research is necessary to examine the uncertain link between trust and ongoing community and security force cooperation in P/CVE and their effects on reductions in VE.

Evidence-Informed Approaches

In Increased Community Confidence in Police/Security Forces, current research bolsters confidence in the following evidence-informed approach:

- **Community and Security Forces Relationship Building**

The following provides a synthesis of this evidence-informed approach with supporting study exemplars to share findings, emphasize key insights, and contextualize this approach in practice.

Community and Security Forces Relationship Building
Several studies across different contexts examined the link between security force activities and changes in community perceptions of trust, responsiveness, and accountability of these forces. Activities ranged from establishing connections through dialogue and community events

to refining police procedures and awareness of VE. These interventions were seen as crucial in bridging the gap between community members, especially marginalized groups like women and youth, and security forces.

The studies reported many positive outcomes, including improved perceptions, increased trust, more robust local security, increased confidence, enhanced community feelings of safety and protection, and better community-official communication. **Several studies reported that improved coordination and collaboration on security can increase community reporting of potential extremist activities. This was particularly highlighted in programs that provided financial support for joint activities between community members and security forces.** Youth reported that social activities helped them to start trusting police and reduced hostilities between vulnerable youth and security forces. Community members reported it helped them know who to contact to raise concerns, improved their knowledge and understanding of security forces' efforts, increased transparency, and helped reduce community stereotypes about these forces. For security forces, these activities led to improved understanding of community concerns about their role. However, **women still reported higher levels of insecurity than men, implying the need for more specific gender strategies, for both program design and for security forces implementation, that ensure the unique needs of women are analyzed, prioritized, and integrated during program implementation.**

Similar to findings in ToC 2.3, a promising study (Finkel et al. 2018) from a multi-country program in the Sahel showed significant findings to increase resilience to VE in vulnerable communities through enhanced institutional trust. It presented significant findings between program activities and increases in institutional trust, offsetting the overall decline in trust in two of the three countries. Notably, institutional trust was a composite measure that aggregated respondents' answers to five separate statements: (1) I trust local authorities; (2) I trust the central government; (3) I trust religious leaders; (4) I trust NGOs; and (5) I trust the police. As such, it is not possible to separate improved trust in the police from these other institutions, but the study demonstrates positive evidence on the impact of whole-of-society activities aimed at meeting local needs.

Some studies further **highlighted the inverse impact these programs can have on community perceptions—increased expectations for protection and improved transparency of security forces can lead to greater expectations in quality of these services, which can in turn lead to higher levels of dissatisfaction when they are not met.**

A study (Bilali 2019) in Burkina Faso aimed to reduce vulnerability to VE through the promotion of people's engagement in behaviors that counter support for VE, specifically, through increasing collaboration with security forces. It found statistically significant evidence that improving interactions between the community and security forces can positively impact a willingness to collaborate with security forces, but it did not influence community beliefs and attitudes towards them. This program utilized a radio drama to reduce vulnerability to VE by promoting dialogue and positive alternative narratives, including promoting increased collaboration with security forces. Community members reported that the most effective way for ordinary people to combat VE is through collaboration with the police and signaling suspicious activities to them,

yet the radio program did not significantly influence trust or accountability perceptions, possibly due to inherent tensions caused by police abuses and corruption.

Successful program implementation on issues related to security sector trust requires strong legal frameworks and institutional practices and buy-in from communities, governments, and security forces alike. Any successful results can be adversely impacted by both the persistent negative perceptions from the community towards security forces and institutional practices that undermine potential benefits of increased collaboration. Common institutional practices, such as frequent rotations of security officers out of communities and governmental rating of forces based on quantitative metrics (e.g., how many arrests they make or how many cases they close), can severely undermine trust-building efforts. Establishing and sustaining partnerships requires ongoing outreach to secure new and maintain existing buy-in, as well as concrete institutional reforms.

Findings from these studies suggest that interventions, ranging from community dialogues to refining police awareness, were essential in bridging gaps, especially with marginalized groups. Positive outcomes included heightened trust, improved local security, better communication, and increased willingness to report potential extremist activities. However, **while studies demonstrated a willingness by community members to collaborate with police and security forces on VE-related issues, there is limited evidence that interventions changed community beliefs and attitudes towards the police. These findings underscore the uncertain link between trust and ongoing cooperation in P/CVE. Programs aimed exclusively at the community will most likely be ineffective in the long run if additional focus is not aimed at police and security sector reform to address real abuses, wrongdoings, and community grievances about their behavior.**

Promising Approaches

There were no promising approaches found within this ToC.

KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following presents a summary of evidence-informed findings and their supporting recommendations. Findings are classified based upon three tiers:

1. *Rigorous Evidence*: Findings that are derived from research questions and hypotheses, backed by strong, methodologically sound research, and demonstrate clear, empirically validated results.

2. *Promising Evidence*: Findings from approaches that, while not yet rigorously tested or of lower research quality, offer strong rationales and initial evidence suggesting effectiveness. These findings may come from innovative practices, pilot studies, or emerging research.

3. *Inferred Evidence Gaps*: Findings inferred from identified gaps in the existing evidence base. These may include unexplored areas, emerging trends, or hypotheses generated from the existing data but not yet empirically tested.

The recommendations were informed by individual study recommendations, challenges, and best practices, as well as broader insights from research to improve practice, evaluation, and policy. Some recommendations have been made by the researchers based on their subject-matter expertise.

Rigorous and Promising Evidence

Theory of Change 2.1: Capacity Building for Government Actors

Type of Finding	Finding	Recommendation
Promising Evidence Findings	Addressing other forms of violence, such as criminal activity, security personnel abuses, and farmer-herder conflicts, may decrease the allure of VE due to shared drivers.	**Broaden P/CVE focus to prevent multiple forms of violence.** There are many recognized push and pull factors influencing radicalization pathways, including exposure to violence. To effectively reduce the allure of VE, P/CVE strategies should also target and address broad-scale violence prevention and mitigation. Recognizing and addressing these shared drivers may diminish the appeal of VE, fostering more comprehensive and sustainable peace and security efforts.
	Ensuring effective application and sustainable integration of capacity building gains—in knowledge and skills—into government processes remains challenging.	**Integrate, amplify, and cultivate national ownership in capacity building.** For initiatives to resonate, capacity building must be embedded within established structures, such as police academies, emphasizing areas like gender sensitivity and human rights. By intertwining these efforts with a sense of national ownership, policymakers and practitioners lay a foundation for sustained impact and program sustainability.
	There remains general uncertainty in how capacity improvements connect to P/CVE outcomes across whole-of-government approaches, including programs aimed at increasing access to justice, stabilization efforts, and anti-corruption efforts.	**Prioritize rigorous evaluations and improve ToCs and measures focused on assessing whole-of-government approaches and P/CVE programming and VE outcomes.** These findings suggest that more research is necessary to identify and test the precise mechanisms that may or may not link whole-of-government P/CVE programming, like access to justice, anti-corruption, and stabilization, with VE outcomes.
	Civil society plays a critical role in both the development and implementation of national action plans and legislative strategies given their capacity to operate where government resources do not extend and in environments where there is limited or no trust in the government.	**Leverage civil society's unique role in national policies.** CSOs are pivotal in developing and implementing national action plans and legislative strategies, especially in areas where governmental reach is limited. Their ability to operate effectively in environments with low trust in government highlights their indispensable role. By harnessing this potential, governments can extend their impact and build trust in communities, ensuring a more inclusive and effective P/CVE framework.

Theory of Change 2.2: Reducing Politically-Rooted Marginalization

Type of Finding	Finding	Recommendation
Promising Evidence Findings	While the relevance of integrated approaches (such as within governance and stabilization programming) is clearly supported in literature, there is a palpable need for more in-depth research to decipher the causal connections between indirect P/CVE programming objectives, the drivers of VE from other sectoral programming, and the decline in VE sympathy and involvement among marginalized populations.	**Prioritize rigorous evaluations and improve ToCs and measures focused on assessing indirect P/CVE programming and VE outcomes.** These findings suggest that more research is necessary to identify and test the precise mechanisms that may or may not link indirect P/CVE programming, such as good governance and stabilization, with VE outcomes.
	P/CVE programming should not be seen as an add-on to existing program structures and programming should be explicit about P/CVE goals at their inception.	**Adopt explicit P/CVE goals and ToC from inception.** P/CVE programming should integrate specific goals and a ToC approach from the start, making its P/CVE objectives clear and assumptions explicit. This foundational clarity will enhance the effectiveness of evaluations, bolster the evidence base, and guide programming towards more precise, evidence-informed outcomes.

Theory of Change 2.3: Increased Community Confidence in Government

Type of Finding	Finding	Recommendation
Rigorous Evidence Findings	While increased access to education is a critical tool for many countries in their fight against VE, it appears that while it equips youth for brighter futures, it can also spotlight societal injustices and elevate their expectations of the government. If these expectations are unmet, this can lead to increased frustration and anger.	**Integrate societal equity and clarify and manage expectations in education-based P/CVE programs.** As expanding access to education in combating VE can highlight societal injustices and elevate youth expectations, it is critical to integrate strategies that address these challenges. Policymakers and practitioners should also focus on clearly communicating and managing expectations regarding P/CVE capabilities to help prevent misunderstandings, diminish grievances, and reduce potential support for VE, ensuring a more balanced and effective educational intervention.
	Combining secondary education with civic engagement opportunities can reduce both participation in and support for violence, stressing the importance of blending learning with avenues for practical application.	**Integrate educational and civic initiatives.** Prioritize the combining of secondary education access with civic engagement activities. This dual approach not only diminishes participation in and endorsement of violence, but also underscores that acquiring knowledge should be paired with avenues to apply these skills purposefully and constructively.
	The quality of governance may influence how education affects support for VE—in places with good governance, education may dampen VE support, but in areas with poor governance, education might unintentionally bolster it.	**Incorporate governance quality assessment in educational P/CVE programs.** When integrating education and P/CVE programs, care should be given to consider the real and perceived state of governance to determine if the context is best placed to achieve positive outcomes. In areas with effective governance, education can be a standalone tool in diminishing VE support. However, in regions with poor governance, educational initiatives should be coupled with measures to improve governance quality, ensuring that education does not inadvertently fuel VE tendencies.
Promising Evidence Findings	Gains in trust-building between communities and the government often remain localized, with limited transferability to central government perspectives, which are influenced by broader economic and political dynamics.	**Enhance localized trust-building for broader government impact.** Recognize that while trust-building initiatives between local communities and government authorities are vital, their impacts often remain localized. To extend these trust gains to national levels, it is essential to strategically connect local successes with broader economic and political dynamics. This approach can help bridge the gap between local perceptions and central government perspectives, fostering a more cohesive and effective trust-building framework across different government strata. **Promote public participation in government-engagement opportunities.** Bridging national government entities with local stakeholders is essential. This collaboration ensures that strategies are rooted in local realities and insights, fostering trust and elevating the effectiveness of interventions. Practitioners working in coordination with government actors should also intensify efforts to heighten public awareness about available dialogue opportunities. Ensuring local concerns are addressed requires offering diverse incentives for active participation and involving civil society in dialogue design. Such community-involved approaches result in more contextually tailored and impactful policies, with stronger potential to translate localized results towards the national level.

Type of Finding	Finding	Recommendation
Promising Evidence Findings	Addressing key barriers to access to government services can have large implications on participants' perceptions of the government's ability and willingness to meet their basic needs, particularly for marginalized individuals.	**Explore and integrate solutions to address barriers to access.** Conducting targeted research to identify key barriers to government service access, particularly for marginalized communities, is critical. Integrating these findings to prioritize and improve access within P/CVE programs is essential for making them accessible and effective. This approach ensures tangible results in overcoming access challenges, thereby enhancing the overall impact of such programs on marginalized populations.
	Increasing government transparency may elevate awareness of its shortcomings, leading to heightened community dissatisfaction. While addressing key barriers to access is crucial, it is equally vital to recognize that merely providing access without ensuring the consistent delivery of quality services may backfire, particularly in contexts of poor governance. In such scenarios, raised expectations without fulfillment can exacerbate resentment and distrust, which could inadvertently fuel support for VE.	**Enhance visibility and manage community expectations in governmental P/CVE roles.** Elevating the profile of government involvement in P/CVE initiatives is essential, but it must be paired with clear communication and management of community expectations regarding organizational and institutional capabilities. This approach not only demonstrates government commitment, but also mitigates the risk of increased dissatisfaction due to unmet expectations. Policymakers and practitioners need to ensure that enhanced visibility is coupled with consistent delivery of quality services, especially in contexts of poor governance, to prevent exacerbating resentment and distrust that could inadvertently fuel support for VE.

Theory of Change 2.4: Increased Community Confidence in Police/Security Forces

Type of Finding	Finding	Recommendation
Rigorous Evidence Findings	Women and men perceive levels of community insecurity differently, with women often reporting higher levels of insecurity than men. This implies the need for more specific gender strategies, for both program design and security forces, that ensure the unique needs of women are analyzed, prioritized, and integrated during program implementation and activities.	**Prioritize a comprehensive gender strategy.** It is vital to analyze, prioritize, and integrate the unique needs of women, ensuring that gender-specific strategies are effectively incorporated to address the different security experiences and expectations of men and women in communities. Such an approach is essential for creating more inclusive and responsive P/CVE programs.
	Complementing community and security force coordination and collaboration on security programming with structured dialogue and financial support for joint activities may increase community reporting of potential extremist activities.	**Strengthen structured dialogues and funding for community and security forces.** To mitigate potential tensions and build trust, routine and sequenced interactions between communities and security personnel are paramount. Starting with single-stakeholder discussions aids in laying the groundwork for mutual understanding, and as trust deepens, programs should then move towards inclusive, collaborative dialogues. Supplementing these engagements with joint projects, funded by programs, can ensure sustained involvement and maximize their impact in curbing VE tendencies.
	Building relationships and increasing trust between the community and security forces may inversely impact community perceptions when increased expectations for protection and improved transparency of security forces lead to greater expectations in quality of these services, which can in turn lead to higher levels of dissatisfaction when they are not met.	**Enhance quality of services in trust-building efforts between communities and security forces.** To effectively build relationships and trust between communities and security forces, it is crucial to simultaneously improve the quality of security services. Increased transparency and expectations for protection should be met with tangible improvements in service delivery. Failing to meet heightened expectations can lead to greater dissatisfaction. Therefore, parallel efforts in enhancing service quality and fostering trust are essential to prevent exacerbating community grievances and to ensure positive outcomes from trust-building initiatives.
	Increasing a community's willingness to collaborate with police and security forces on VE-related issues may not change community beliefs and attitudes towards the police, underscoring the uncertain link between trust and ongoing cooperation in P/CVE.	**Strengthen the link between collaboration and trust in P/CVE efforts.** While increasing a community's willingness to collaborate with police and security forces on VE-related issues is vital, it may not necessarily alter their underlying beliefs and attitudes towards these institutions. It is important to address this uncertain link by fostering deeper, more meaningful interactions and trust-building initiatives. Efforts should go beyond mere cooperation to actively engage in dialogue and joint actions that reshape perceptions, enhance mutual understanding, and solidify a lasting partnership in P/CVE endeavors.

Type of Finding	Finding	Recommendation
Rigorous Evidence Findings	Successful program implementation on issues related to security sector trust requires strong legal frameworks and institutional practices and buy-in from communities, governments, and security forces alike.	**Promote police and security sector reform through strong legal frameworks.** Effective program implementation on security sector trust necessitates robust legal frameworks and institutional practices. It is essential to secure buy-in from communities, governments, and security forces alike. Additionally, focusing exclusively on community-level programs is insufficient for long-term effectiveness. There must be an equal emphasis on police and security sector reform, specifically addressing issues of abuse, misconduct, and community grievances regarding security force behavior. Implementing such reforms will establish a more accountable, transparent, and responsive security environment, which is crucial for building sustainable trust and addressing the root causes of conflict and violence.
	Programs aimed exclusively at the community will most likely be ineffective in the long run if additional focus is not aimed at police and security sector reform to address real abuses, wrongdoing, and community grievances about their behavior.	

Inferred Evidence Gaps

Strength and Quality of Evidence

Inferred Evidence Gap	Recommendations
The average strength of evidence across all studies and ToCs remain in the "Strong Theory" categorization, suggesting that while studies provide compelling theoretical insights, there is room for improvement in empirically robust evidence and refining studies that currently offer more anecdotal findings.	**Research efforts should focus on refining and validating moderate findings with higher quality research to bolster credibility and generate stronger evidence.** Validated findings ensure that P/CVE strategies are grounded in empirical evidence, increasing their efficacy and reducing unintended negative consequence. As the field evolves, rigorous research serves as a foundation, building trust among stakeholders and ensuring that resources are directed towards the most impactful interventions.
Despite many studies offering valuable theoretical perspectives, there is an evident need for methodological refinement to elevate research quality and rigor.	**Integrate researcher/MEL experts from the beginning of project conception and design** to support the development of ToCs, P/CVE approaches and activities, indicators and measures, and strong monitoring and evaluation plans to produce more empirical evidence.

Maturity of the Field

Inferred Evidence Gap	Recommendations
The field is still in its emerging phases, particularly in using explicit program logic and ToCs. Consequently, the actual impact of many interventions remains poorly documented, leaving the effectiveness of different approaches largely unassessed, especially in relation to VE goals.	**P/CVE programs must systematically adopt a ToC approach to make assumptions explicit.** Adopting clear ToCs with explicit assumptions during program design will enable more effective evaluations, strengthen evidence, and guide more focused, evidence-based P/CVE programming.

P/CVE Monitoring and Evaluation

Inferred Evidence Gap	Recommendations
Many studies still focus exclusively on process and accountability rather than generating rigorous evidence to determine what works and what does not.	**Move beyond only emphasizing process and accountability in evaluations and produce more empirical evidence.** There is a need to transform theoretical insights into empirical evidence and strengthen empirical validations by employing robust research designs that assess varied P/CVE approaches from a research perspective rather than a simple accountability or process perspective.
P/CVE research often has an over-reliance on collecting data from easily accessible groups, like government elites, English-speakers, or urban populations.	**Prioritize diverse participant inclusion in research.** A deliberate effort should be made to incorporate diverse identities across all communities. This enriched approach not only amplifies understanding of unique challenges faced by various sub-populations, but also equips policymakers with the insights needed to make informed investments in P/CVE programs.

Inclusion

Inferred Evidence Gap	Recommendations
P/CVE interventions often lack grounding in local contexts and perspectives, resulting in reduced effectiveness and sustainability. Programs designed and implemented without substantial input from the target communities further tend to have limited resonance with those communities' real needs and circumstances. This disconnect not only hampers the legitimacy of the interventions, but also impedes the development of sustainable resilience against extremist narratives.	**Prioritize the active involvement of local communities in P/CVE program design, implementation, evaluation, and policy development.** Grounding interventions in local knowledge and needs can increase their legitimacy and effectiveness, building more sustainable resilience against extremist narratives. Collaboration with local communities guarantees that funding and programming decisions are locally relevant and also effectively address genuine community priorities. Responsive allocation of resources, tailored to these insights, will ensure interventions are more effective and contextually relevant and promote more effective multisectoral approaches that address the intersecting drivers of VE.
Current research has predominantly focused on women and youth, thereby overlooking other crucial populations that may have distinct experiences and roles in the context of VE.	**Expand the scope of inclusivity in research, moving beyond primarily focusing on women and youth to encompass other marginalized communities.** Inclusive processes are essential for holistic and effective P/CVE strategies. Future research must continue to include women and youth alongside other historically and consistently marginalized groups—such as faith actors, ethnic minorities, LGBTQ populations—as well as explore the intersection of identities and communities.
Many studies list as a major challenge addressing the inequalities related to women and girls and found their inclusion in P/CVE programming to be hindered by patriarchal norms and cultural expectations on women's role in society.	**Prioritize a comprehensive gender strategy that boosts women's and girls' participation and moves beyond focusing solely on balanced representation.** This includes facilitating women-focused and women-only activities; training women in marketable skills and business-development; and actively collaborating with female thought leaders. A comprehensive gender strategy further includes the inclusion of men and boys and addressing their gender-specific needs and VE drivers, promoting "peaceful masculinities," and enhancing their role as allies to promote gender equality and women's leadership, which can serve as important pulls away from VE in the community. These strategies must integrate gender-sensitive, trauma-informed, and conflict-sensitive approaches.

P/CVE Measures and Outcomes

Inferred Evidence Gap	Recommendations
Most P/CVE studies report on findings that do not directly link to actual changes in VE outcomes. While positive changes in attitudes, behaviors, and other areas are occurring and current metrics like target audience engagement, awareness-raising, and knowledge and skill gains offer insights into programming, there is insufficient evidence to prove that these changes are translating into tangible VE prevention or reduction. There is a pressing need for empirical evidence that innovate and test measures that directly link program activities and establish the connection between them and desired outcomes.	**Connect changes in attitudes, behaviors, social networks, and capacity building to VE outcomes.** It is essential to bridge the gap between observed changes in attitudes, behaviors, social networks, and capacity building and actual impacts in VE outcomes. By establishing clear correlations between these intermediate changes and tangible VE results, programs can better identify which interventions lead to meaningful reductions in VE. This approach ensures a more precise allocation of resources and enables more targeted and effective interventions in future strategies. **Integrate capacity building for local research.** Invest in training local researchers and institutions to develop, test, and collect P/CVE measurements. This investment not only builds local expertise, but also ensures that measurements are grounded in local realities and improves the long-term sustainability of the research field.

Inferred Evidence Gap	Recommendations
	Co-design contextually and locally relevant MEL frameworks. Collaboration between researchers and practitioners ensures that measures are both academically rigorous and grounded in the realities of the field. Practitioners should help researchers develop and implement meaningful feedback loops with program beneficiaries and communities to enhance evaluation and program implementation. Context-specific measures, co-developed in this manner, capture nuanced local dynamics, leading to more accurate assessments and effective interventions.

Layered/Integrated Approach to P/CVE

Inferred Evidence Gap	Recommendations
An integrated approach for P/CVE is paramount due to the multifaceted nature of VE, which is driven by myriad interconnected push and pull factors, such as social, economic, political, and psychological dynamics. While a synergistic and encompassing approach to P/CVE is theoretically sound, the evidence is limited on how best to layer and sequence P/CVE programming, both across multiple activities and within comprehensive, broad programming.	**Strategically layer and sequence multi-disciplinary, P/CVE programming to address the various drivers of VE spanning the entire radicalization spectrum.** Layering and sequencing P/CVE interventions acknowledges the multifaceted nature of VE drivers and ensures a holistic response. Relying on established logic and evidence ensures that interventions are effective, targeted, and do not inadvertently exacerbate the issues they seek to address.

Capacity Building

Inferred Evidence Gap	Recommendations
Capacity building is one of the most common P/CVE program activities; yet, much of the research primarily deduces generalized knowledge or skills enhancement and positive changes in PVE awareness and engagement.	**Prioritize evaluations of capacity building efforts across diverse communities.** Focused evaluations are critical to identify the causal links between capacity building and skills attainment to VE outcomes.
Capacity building trainings and skills-building are often one-off and/or non-responsive to changing and emerging needs.	**Invest in sustained training, rather than short or intermittent sessions in P/CVE capacity building programs.** Continual engagement consolidates learning, strengthens and updates existing knowledge, and is also proactive in adjusting to local, emergent needs, while capitalizing on initial progress.

Partnership Selection and Skills-Building

Inferred Evidence Gap	Recommendations
In the realm of P/CVE programming, no single entity operates in isolation, and collective action is paramount. However, as there is often limited presence and capacity of actors focusing on VE in many contexts, it is vital to prioritize strategic stakeholder selection and provide them with the necessary training to actively partner on these issues.	**Build strategic, strong, and diverse partnerships.** Establishing strong and diverse partnerships with civil society, NGOs, local government, and the private sector bridges the gap between different stakeholders and facilitates a harmonized approach to P/CVE. These partnerships can foster innovation, share best practices, pool resources, and ensure subsequent sessions to strengthen previous teachings, leading to more effective, sustainable, and adaptive P/CVE efforts.

Trauma and Conflict Sensitivity of Programming

Inferred Evidence Gap	Recommendations
P/CVE programming is sensitive in nature, for both program facilitators and participants. There are also many intricate links between trauma and radicalization. It is paramount to develop risk assessment plans and appropriate protective strategies for all P/CVE programming.	**Emphasize safety, mental wellness, and trauma-informed practices.** All plans and strategies should prioritize trauma-informed practices that safeguard the mental well-being and security of both program facilitators and participants. Such an approach not only bolsters program credibility, but also ensures the effective addressing of VE drivers, fostering an environment of trust and enhancing overall programmatic outcomes.

CI INCLUDED STUDIES

Theory of Change 2.1

IF governmental capacity to identify and analyze the drivers of VE, engage local stakeholders, and/or conduct P/CVE programming is increased, THEN there will be a reduction in violent extremist sympathy and participation.

Citation	Research Design	Location
Amadou, Moussa A., Alliou Traoré, and Nina Taka. *Lafia (People at Peace): Endline Report*. United State Agency for International Development, 2021. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00Z621.pdf.	Multi-methods	Mali
Bala, Artur. *Bottom-Up Approach to Countering Violent Extremism in Tunisia*. Search for Common Ground, 2017. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Final_External_Evaluation_Report_on_Bottom-Up_Approaches_to_CVE_Project_-_SFCG_Tunisia.pdf.	Qualitative	Tunisia
BFRP Est Region Cluster. United States Agency for International Development, 2021. https://dec.usaid.gov/dec/content/Detail.aspx?vID=47&ctID=ODVhZjk4NWQtM2YyMi00YjRmLTkxNjktZTcxMjM2NDBmY2Uy&rID=NTk2Mjk1.	Multi-methods	Burkina Faso
BFRP Nord and Sahel Regions Cluster Evaluation. United States Agency for International Development, 2020. https://dec.usaid.gov/dec/content/Detail.aspx?vID=47&ctID=ODVhZjk4NWQtM2YyMi00YjRmLTkxNjktZTcxMjM2NDBmY2Uy&rID=NTk2Mjk3.	Qualitative	Burkina Faso
Botoeva, Aisalkyn, Omar Salem, and Shiva K. Dhungana. *#JashStan: Supporting the Next Wave of Youth Peace Leaders in Kyrgyzstan*. Search for Common Ground, 2021. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Jashstan_Final_Report_Aug-31_2021.pdf.	Mixed Methods	Kyrgyzstan
Brett, Julian, and André Kahlmeyer. *Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism - STRIVE (Horn of Africa)*. Royal United Services Institute/European Commission, 2017. https://ct-morse.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/170124-STRIVE-evaluation-Report-Final.pdf.	Qualitative	Kenya, Somalia
Countering and Preventing Radicalization in Indonesian Prisons. Search for Common Ground, 2011. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/INA_EV_Feb11_Countering-and-Preventing-Radicalization-in-Indonesian-Prisons.pdf.	Multi-methods	Indonesia
Della-Giacoma, Jim, and Shikhty Sunny. *Final Evaluation of Partnership for a Tolerant, Inclusive Bangladesh (PTIB) Project*. UNDP Independent Evaluation Office, 2021. https://erc.undp.org/evaluation/evaluations/detail/12625.	Qualitative	Bangladesh
Ekesa, Obando, Bob Kanyi, and Japheth Ogola. *Inuka! Supporting Vulnerable Youth to Participate in Community Peace and Security Efforts in Coastal Kenya—End of Project Evaluation*. Search for Common Ground, 2021. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/SFCG_Kenya_FinalEvaluationReport_v1.pdf.	Mixed Methods	Kenya
Emenogu, Augustus. *Final External Evaluation of the Deepening Peace in the Niger-Delta Program (Final Report)*. Search for Common Ground, 2020. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Final_External_Evaluation_of_The_Deepening_Peace_in_the_Niger-Delta_Program_Final-Report_ACEv3_28122020.pdf.	Qualitative	Nigeria

Citation	Research Design	Location
Finkel, Steven E., Chris A. Belasco, Christian Gineste, Michael Neureiter, and John McCauley. *Peace Through Development II: Burkina Faso, Chad, and Niger*. United States Agency for International Development, 2018. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00SWPK.pdf.	Mixed Methods	Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger
Gandhi, Valentine J. *Final Evaluation Report: Final Performance Evaluation of USAID CEGAH*. United States Agency of International Development, 2020. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00X3R1.pdf.	Mixed Methods	Indonesia
Gjoni, Roland, Nazgul Yergali, and Alfira Senkina. *Final Performance Evaluation of Kazakhstan Judicial Program (KJP)*. United States Agency for International Development, 2020. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00WGCV.pdf.	Multi-methods	Kazakhstan
Hiariej, Eric, Ayu Diasti Rachmawati, Agustinus Moruk Taek, Mutiara Kurniasari, and Rizky Alif Alvian. *Reducing the Recruitment and Recidivism of Violent Extremists in Indonesia*. Search for Common Ground, 2017. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/INA029_DOS_BC_external_Evaluation_Report_FINAL_2017.pdf.	Multi-methods	Indonesia
Jailobaev, Temirlan, Kanykey Jailobaeva, Gulsaadat Baialieva, Gulnara Asilbekova, and Zeinep Eshmuratova. *Final Evaluation for the "Prevention of Violent Extremism in Central Asian Countries Through Strengthening Social Cohesion Among Labour Migrants, Returnees, and Their Families" Project*. Search for Common Ground, 2022. https://www.sfcg.org/tag/kyrgyzstan-evaluations.	Mixed Methods	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan
Jailobaeva, Kanykev, and Gulnara Asilbekova. *Social Media for Deradicalization in Kyrgyzstan: A Model for Central Asia*. Search for Common Ground, 2017. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/KGZ007_Evaluation_Report_Final_Nov_2017.pdf.	Qualitative	Kyrgyzstan
Kinnunen, Samuli, and Elli Partanen. *Assessment of the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Violent Radicalisation and Extremism by the Ministry of the Interior*. Ministry of the Interior Finland, 2019. https://intermin.fi/en/publication?pubid=URN:ISBN:978-952-324-260-9.	Qualitative	Finland
Kollmorgen, Jean-Camille, Mikewa Ogada, Selline Korir, and Elizabeth Dena. *Strengthening Community Resilience Against Extremism (SCORE) Mid-Term Performance Evaluation*. United States Agency for International Development, 2019. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00TRDD.pdf.	Mixed Methods	Kenya
Kozhobekova, Aizharkyn. *Protect to Prevent: Enabling Central Asians to Protect Religious Freedom as a Preventative Approach to Addressing Violent Extremism*. Search for Common Ground, 2022. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Final-Evaluation-Report-Protect-To-Prevent-STD060.pdf.	Multi-methods	Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan
Lumbantoruan, Christina. *Building Resilience through Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration to Prevent Violent Extremism in Indonesia*. Search for Common Ground, 2022. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Final-Evaluation-Report_STD070.pdf.	Multi-methods	Indonesia
Mahling, Kimberly, Jose Carlos, Assi Kimou, Youssouf Touré, and Isabelle Becho. *Cote D'Ivoire Political Transition and Inclusion Program Final Performance Evaluation: An Evaluation for Learning, Evaluation, and Research Activity II*. United States Agency for International Development, 2022. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00Z3ZW.pdf.	Qualitative	Côte D'Ivoire

Citation	Research Design	Location
McCormack, Meghan, Azamat Bakiev, Baktygul Kapalova, and Kyzzhybek Nurbekova. *End of Project Evaluation Report: Women and Girls as Drivers of Peace and the Prevention of Radicalization*. UNFPA, 2019. https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/kyrgyzstan_2018_project_evaluation_2_english_0.pdf.	Multi-methods	Kyrgyzstan
Monzani, Bernardo, Anthony Sarota, and Sarota Venturi. *Inuka! Community-Led Security Approaches to Violent Extremism in Coastal Kenya*. Search for Common Ground, 2018. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Final-Evaluation-Inuka-Community-Led-Security-Approaches-to-Violent-Extremism-in-Coastal-Kenya-October-2018.pdf.	Multi-methods	Kenya
NIWETU Endline Evaluation Final Report August 2020. United States Agency for International Development. Accessed 2023. https://dec.usaid.gov/dec/content/Detail.aspx?vID=47&ctID=ODVhZjk4NWQtM2YyMi00YjRmLTkxNjktZTcxMjM2NDBmY2Uy&rID=NTc4MDE3.	Mixed Methods	Kenya
Peirce, Philip. *EU-UNDP: "Preventing Violent Extremism through Promoting Tolerance and Respect for Diversity in Maldives and Sri Lanka*." United Nations Development Program, 2022. https://erc.undp.org/evaluation/documents/download/20002.	Qualitative	Sri Lanka
Pipe, Roger, Jama Egal, Jane Meme, Lucas Malla, Zamzam Billow, and Aden Abdi. *Somalia Program Support Services: Final Performance Evaluation Of The Transition Initiatives for Stabilization Project*. United States Agency for International Development, 2016. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5db70e83fc0a966cf4cc42ea/t/5f491ed3020a2654cb8d19b7/1598627541959/1344.pdf.	Mixed Methods	Somalia
Retzlaff, Nina, Chinara Esengul, and Paul English. *Support to the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons and Probation Settings in the Kyrgyz Republic*. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2021. https://www.unodc.org/documents/evaluation/Independent_Project_Evaluations/2021/Final_Evaluation_Report_XACZ61.pdf.	Mixed Methods	Kyrgyzstan
Robertson, Lawrence, and Philippe Assale. *Final Evaluation of the Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in Africa: A Development Approach Project*. United Nations Development Programme/Regional Service Centre for Africa, 2022. https://erc.undp.org/evaluation/documents/download/20094.	Qualitative	Somalia, Cameroon, Chad, Sudan, Tanzania, Ghana
Trujillo, Horacio R. *Early Warning/Early Response Mechanisms in Northern Nigeria*. Search for Common Ground, 2019. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Final_Evaluation_Early_Warning_Early_Response_Mechanisms_in_Northern_Nigeria_October_2019.pdf.	Mixed Methods	Nigeria
Wood, Sarah, Lucas Malla, Patrick Okwarah, Suleiman Omar, and Mathias Kjaer. *Somalia Program Support Services Transition Initiatives For Stabilization Plus (Tis+)*. United States Agency for International Development, 2019. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00TW4W.pdf.	Mixed Methods	Somalia

Theory of Change 2.2

IF governments reduce the politically-rooted exclusion of marginalized communities and groups, THEN there will be a reduction in violent extremist sympathy and participation.

Citation	Research Design	Location
Cook, Gayla, and Abdi Younis. *Somalia Youth Livelihoods Program Final Evaluation.* United States Agency for International Development, 2012. https://www.careevaluations.org/wp-content/uploads/evaluations/somali-youth-livelihoods-program.pdf.	Mixed Methods	Somalia
Jrad, Eya. *Promoting Civilian Engagement in Security Sector Reform Processes in Tunisia.* Search for Common Ground/Al-Kawakibi Democracy Transition Center, 2018. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Midterm_Eval_SSR_29_08.pdf.	Multi-methods	Tunisia
Khalil, James, and Oren Ipp. *Mali Transition Initiative: Final Evaluation. United States Agency for International Development*, 2016. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pa00m34d.pdf.	Qualitative	Mali
Mahling, Kimberly, Jose Carlos, Assi Kimou, Youssouf Touré, and Isabelle Becho. *Cote D'Ivoire Political Transition and Inclusion Program Final Performance Evaluation: An Evaluation for Learning, Evaluation, and Research Activity II.* United States Agency for International Development, 2022. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00Z3ZW.pdf.	Qualitative	Côte D'Ivoire
Masenus Arus, Yohanes da. *Mid-Term Project Evaluation Report Enhancing the Role of Religious Education in Countering Violent Extremism (CONVEY 1 & 2).* United Nations Development Program, 2019. https://erc.undp.org/evaluation/documents/download/14997.	Multi-methods	Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Philippines
Nuwakora, Cliff Bernard, and Lucie Luguga. *Mid-Term Evaluation of the Inclusive Democratic Governance Pillar.* United Nations Development Programme, 2019. https://erc.undp.org/evaluation/documents/download/12512.	Qualitative	Tanzania
Tunisia Transition Initiative. United States Agency for International Development, 2014. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00K16C.pdf.	Qualitative	Tunisia

Theory of Change 2.3

IF community confidence in the responsiveness, performance, accountability, inclusivity, and trustworthiness of government institutions is increased, THEN community/government cooperation and coordination on P/CVE will be increased.

Citation	Research Design	Location
Bean, Sharon, Patty Hill, Joseph Sany, and Susanne Riveles. *USAID/West Africa Peace through Development (PDEV).* United States Agency for International Development, 2011. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDACR829.pdf.	Qualitative	Niger, Chad, Mauritania
BFRP Est Region Cluster. United States Agency for International Development, 2021. https://dec.usaid.gov/dec/content/Detail.aspx?vID=47&ctID=ODVhZjk4NWQtM2YyMi00YjRmLTkxNjktZTcxMjM2NDBmY2Uy&rID=NTk2MjkI.	Multi-methods	Burkina Faso

Citation	Research Design	Location
BFRP Nord and Sahel Regions Cluster Evaluation. United States Agency for International Development, 2020. https://dec.usaid.gov/dec/content/Detail.aspx?vID=47&ctID=ODVhZjk4NWQtM2YyMi00YjRmLTkxNjktZTcxMjM2NDBmY2Uy&rID=NTk2Mjk3.	Qualitative	Burkina Faso
Botoeva, Aisalkyn, Omar Salem, and Shiva K. Dhungana. *#JashStan: Supporting the Next Wave of Youth Peace Leaders in Kyrgyzstan*. Search for Common Ground, 2021. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Jashstan_Final_Report_Aug-31_2021.pdf.	Mixed Methods	Kyrgyzstan
Cook, Gayla, and Abdi Younis. *Somalia Youth Livelihoods Program Final Evaluation*. United States Agency for International Development, 2012. https://www.careevaluations.org/wp-content/uploads/evaluations/somali-youth-livelihoods-program.pdf.	Mixed Methods	Somalia
Emenogu, Augustus. *Final External Evaluation of the Deepening Peace in the Niger-Delta Program (Final Report)*. Search for Common Ground, 2020. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Final_External_Evaluation_of_The_Deepening_Peace_in_the_Niger-Delta_Program_Final-Report_ACEv3_28122020.pdf.	Qualitative	Nigeria
Enhancing Efforts to Prevent Violent Extremism by Leveraging Behavioural Insights: Lessons Learned from Practical Experiments. United Nations Development Programme, 2022. https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-03/UNDP-Enhancing-Efforts-to-Prevent-Violent-Extremism-by-Leveraging-Behavioural-Insights.pdf.	Quantitative randomized controlled trials	Tajikistan
Finkel, Steven E., Chris A. Belasco, Christian Gineste, Michael Neureiter, and John McCauley. *Peace Through Development II: Burkina Faso, Chad, and Niger*. United States Agency for International Development, 2018. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00SWPK.pdf.	Mixed Methods	Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger
Gjoni, Roland, Nazgul Yergali, and Alfira Senkina. *Final Performance Evaluation of Kazakhstan Judicial Program (KJP)*. United States Agency for International Development, 2020. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00WGCV.pdf.	Multi-methods	Kazakhstan
Khalil, James, and Oren Ipp. *Mali Transition Initiative: Final Evaluation*. United States Agency for International Development, 2016. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pa00m34d.pdf.	Qualitative	Mali
Kollmorgen, Jean-Camille, Mikewa Ogada, Selline Korir, and Elizabeth Dena. *Strengthening Community Resilience Against Extremism (SCORE) Mid-Term Performance Evaluation*. United States Agency for International Development, 2019. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00TRDD.pdf.	Mixed Methods	Kenya
Kozhobekova, Aizharkyn. *Protect to Prevent: Enabling Central Asians to Protect Religious Freedom as a Preventative Approach to Addressing Violent Extremism*. Search for Common Ground, 2022. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Final-Evaluation-Report-Protect-To-Prevent-STD060.pdf.	Multi-methods	Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan
Limange, Joseph, Inna Bagayoko, and Moussa Bagayoko. *Rapid Appraisal Report: Effectiveness Of The Theory Of Change Of Appui À La Cohésion Communautaire Et Les Opportunités De Réconciliation Et Développement (ACCORD) Project*. United States Agency for International Development, 2018. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00T8IP.pdf.	Qualitative	Mali

Citation	Research Design	Location
McCallum, Judith. *Rift Valley Local Empowerment for Peace II (LEAP II) Final Evaluation Report*. United States Agency for International Development, 2013. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pdacy449.pdf.	Mixed Methods	Kenya
McCormack, Meghan, Azamat Bakiev, Baktygul Kapalova, and Kyzzhybek Nurbekova. *End of Project Evaluation Report: Women and Girls as Drivers of Peace and the Prevention of Radicalization*. UNFPA, 2019. https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/kyrgyzstan_2018_project_evaluation_2_english_0.pdf.	Multi-methods	Kyrgyzstan
McCormack, Meghan, Baktygul Kapalova, Azamat Bakiev, and Kyzzhybek Nurbekova. *Post Project Evaluation Report: Women and Girls as Drivers of Peace and the Prevention of Radicalization*. UNFPA, 2019. https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/kyrgyzstan_2018_project_evaluation_2_english_0.pdf.	Mixed Methods	Kyrgyzstan
Pipe, Roger, Jama Egal, Jane Meme, Lucas Malla, Zamzam Billow, and Aden Abdi. *Somalia Program Support Services: Final Performance Evaluation Of The Transition Initiatives for Stabilization Project*. United States Agency for International Development, 2016. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5db70e83fc0a966cf4cc42ea/t/5f491ed3020a2654cb8d19b7/1598627541959/1344.pdf.	Mixed Methods	Somalia
Robertson, Lawrence, and Philippe Assale. *Final Evaluation of the Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in Africa: A Development Approach Project*. United Nations Development Programme/Regional Service Centre for Africa, 2022. https://erc.undp.org/evaluation/documents/download/20094.	Qualitative	Somalia, Cameroon, Chad, Sudan, Tanzania, Ghana
Swedberg, Jeffrey, and Steven Smith. *Mid-Term Evaluation Of USAID's Counter-Extremism Programming In Africa*. United States Agency for International Development, 2011. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/Pdacr583.pdf.	Mixed Methods	Niger, Chad, Mali
Tesfaye, Beza. *Critical Choices: Assessing the Effects of Education and Civic Engagement on Somali Youths' Propensity Towards Violence*. Mercy Corps, 2016. https://www.mercycorps.org/sites/default/files/2020-01/CRITICAL_CHOICES_REPORT_FINAL_DIGITAL.pdf.	Mixed Methods	Somaliland
Tesfaye, Beza, T. McDougal, B. Maclin, and A. Blum. *If Youth Are Given The Chance: Effects Of Education And Civic Engagement On Somali Youth Support Of Political Violence*. Mercy Corps, 2018. https://www.mercycorps.org/sites/default/files/2019-11/If%20Youth%20Are%20Given%20the%20Chance_LR_FINAL.pdf.	Mixed Methods	Somalia
Trujillo, Horacio R. *Early Warning/Early Response Mechanisms in Northern Nigeria*. Search for Common Ground, 2019. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Final_Evaluation_Early_Warning_Early_Response_Mechanisms_in_Northern_Nigeria_October_2019.pdf.	Mixed Methods	Nigeria
USAID'S MYDev Program Final Report 2013-2019. United States Agency for International Development/Education Development Center, 2019. https://www.edc.org/usaids-mydev-program-final-report.	Multi-methods	Philippines
USAID'S MYDev Program Final Report 2013-2019. United States Agency for International Development/Education Development Center, 2019. https://www.edc.org/usaids-mydev-program-final-report.	Quantitative descriptive	Philippines

Citation	Research Design	Location
USAID'S MYDev Program Final Report 2013-2019. United States Agency for International Development/Education Development Center, 2019. https://www.edc.org/usaids-mydev-program-final-report.	Quantitative randomized controlled trials	Philippines
Vittum, Katherine, Otieno Ombok, Kenneth Odary, and Gloria Mmoji. *Kenya Tuna Uwezo: Final Performance Evaluation*. United States Agency for International Development, 2016. https://issuu.com/odary_ken/docs/kenya_tuna_uwezo_final_performance_evaluation/101.	Qualitative	Kenya
Wood, Sarah, Lucas Malla, Patrick Okwarah, Suleiman Omar, and Mathias Kjaer. *Somalia Program Support Services Transition Initiatives For Stabilization Plus (Tis+)*. United States Agency for International Development, 2019. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00TW4W.pdf.	Mixed Methods	Somalia

Theory of Change 2.4

IF community confidence in the trustworthiness, responsiveness, and accountability of government police and security forces are increased, THEN community/government cooperation and coordination in P/CVE will be increased.

Citation	Research Design	Location
BFRP Est Region Cluster. United States Agency for International Development, 2021. https://dec.usaid.gov/dec/content/Detail.aspx?vID=47&ctID=ODVhZjk4NWQtM2YyMi00YjRmLTkxNjktZTcxMjM2NDBmY2Uy&rID=NTk2Mjk1.	Multi-methods	Burkina Faso
BFRP Nord and Sahel Regions Cluster Evaluation. United States Agency for International Development, 2020. https://dec.usaid.gov/dec/content/Detail.aspx?vID=47&ctID=ODVhZjk4NWQtM2YyMi00YjRmLTkxNjktZTcxMjM2NDBmY2Uy&rID=NTk2Mjk3.	Qualitative	Burkina Faso
Bilali, Rezarta. *'Voices For Peace' Impact Evaluation Of A Radio Drama To Counteract Violent Extremism In The Sahel Region In Burkina Faso*. 2019. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pa00w4g3.pdf.	Mixed Methods	Burkina Faso
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