

LASER PULSE

PREVENTING/COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM SYSTEMATIC MIXED METHODS REVIEW: **DISENGAGEMENT, DERADICALIZATION, REHABILITATION, AND REINTEGRATION**

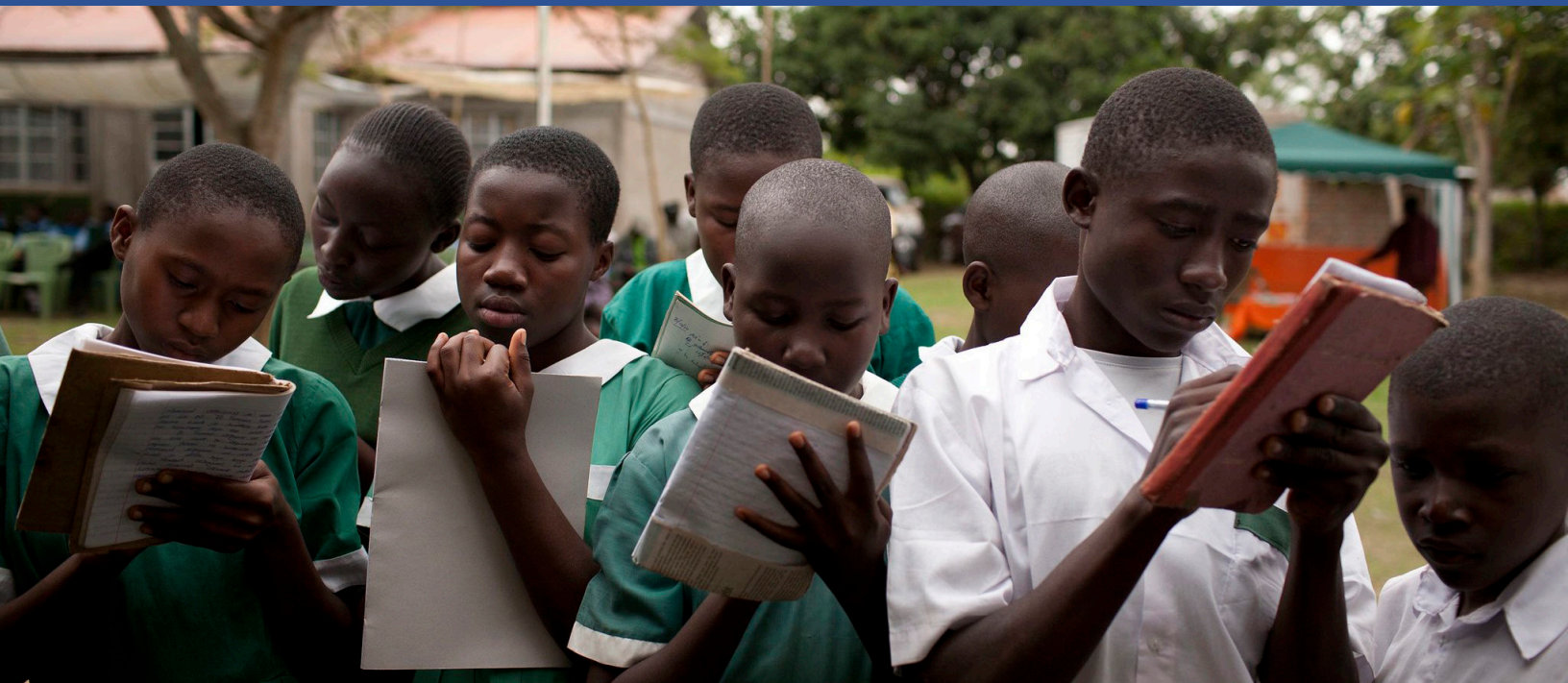
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About LASER PULSE

LASER (Long-term Assistance and Services for Research) PULSE (Partners for University-Led Solutions Engine) is a 10-year, \$70 million 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
DD	Disengagement and Deradicalization
DDR	Disengagement, Deradicalization, and Rehabilitation
DDRR	Disengagement, Deradicalization, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration
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
NGO/s	Non-governmental organization/s
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, preventing/countering violent extremism (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 disengagement, deradicalization, rehabilitation, and reintegration (DDRR) Theories of Change (ToCs) are the least common types of studies documented in this research. The DDRR studies analyzed for this work exhibit a limited number of high-quality, strong evidence, with limited and developing evidence bases. However, while all DDRR ToCs 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 DDRR ToCs, 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 DDRR ToCs 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

3.1 Curriculum-Based DD and Case Management: IF individuals with prior VE involvement are provided with tailored interventions that improve their socio-economic prospects, receive psychological support to process trauma and develop skills for managing mental and physical health, and provide opportunities to build healthier relationships, THEN they will disengage from VE involvement and/or resist future VE appeals.

Maturity of Evidence Base	Included Studies	Programmatic Approaches	Summary of Findings
Maturing	N=6 Quantitative: 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCT¹: 0 • Quasi-experimental: 1 • Descriptive: 0 Qualitative: 5 Multi-Methods: 0 Mixed Methods: 0	Evidence-Informed Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum-Based Approach • Case Management Promising Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A Anecdotal Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	Rigorous evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer VE offender involvement in interventions increases the likelihood for demonstrating behaviors and attitudes of VE disengagement and participation in prosocial activities—such as distancing oneself from radicalized networks and peers, participation in work and education opportunities, and in some cases even repudiation of extremist views. • The frequency of engagement may be associated with positive change, suggesting that the more contact between VE offenders and intervention staff/service providers with a smaller number of days between engagement, may positively improve client progress. Promising Evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious mentoring was observed to be beneficial, as it made inmates feel that the staff genuinely cared about their well-being, thereby reducing feelings of neglect by the “system.”

¹ Randomized control trial (RCT)

3.2 Education, Counseling, and Training for Value Complexity: IF individuals with prior VE involvement are provided with programming led by trusted, credible actors that supports a more complex, pluralist worldview and/or credibly challenges the validity of extremist beliefs and values, THEN they will reject further participation in or support for VE.

Maturity of Evidence Base	Included Studies	Programmatic Approaches	Summary of Findings
Developing	N=8 Quantitative: 0 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCT: 0 • Quasi-experimental: 0 • Descriptive: 0 Qualitative: 7 Multi-Methods: 20 Mixed Methods: 1	Evidence-Informed Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value Complexity Promising Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious and Peer Education Anecdotal Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	Rigorous evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying value complexity approaches—increasing an individual’s ability to think in more complex ways about issues—to former extremists can lead to greater appreciation for different perspectives and diverse worldviews; however, this process takes substantial time and may require more resources to implement effectively to address entrenched narratives. • Recruiting a diverse group of participants may elicit more intense discussions and participant involvement to support the presentation of different perspectives and diverse worldviews as part of value complexity programming. Promising Evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rather than trying to detach individuals from their religious identity, which might be deeply ingrained and central to their sense of self, DD programs should help participants rediscover and strengthen their faith in a positive and nonviolent manner. • Gains from religious education may be challenged due to illiteracy and language capacities, both of which can be highly gendered. Female VE offenders, in particular, struggle with high rates of illiteracy, particularly in reading Arabic, limiting their ability to engage with the Quran.

3.3 Custodial/Prison Programs: IF individuals with prior VE involvement transform their identity away from affiliation with extremist groups and develop an alternative identity, THEN they will reject further participation in or support for VE.

Maturity of Evidence Base	Included Studies	Programmatic Approaches	Summary of Findings
Developing	N=7 Quantitative: 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCT: 0 • Quasi-experimental: 1 • Descriptive: 0 Qualitative: 5 Multi-Methods: 0 Mixed Methods: 1	Evidence-Informed Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custodial/Prison Programs Promising Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narratives–Mass Media Anecdotal Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	Rigorous evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining social connections with former violent extremist networks, including family and diaspora friends, can lead to higher levels of extremism by participants in custodial/prison programs compared to those without such ties. Promising Evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass media can be a powerful tool for combating extremist ideologies due to its vast reach, ability to present counter-narratives, and potential to influence societal norms and values. • Parole, social workers, and other MHPSS providers can have a pivotal influence on VE offenders and can act as intermediaries post-incarceration to help individuals settle into their new environments and avoid former social networks.

3.4 MHPSS: IF individuals with prior VE involvement are provided with psychosocial, mental health, and/or behavioral support to process trauma and develop skills for managing mental and physical health, THEN they will be more likely to disengage from VE involvement, be more prepared to rejoin the wider community, and/or resist future VE appeals.

Maturity of Evidence Base	Included Studies	Programmatic Approaches	Summary of Findings
Immature	N=7 Quantitative: 0 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCT: 0 • Quasi-experimental: 0 • Descriptive: 0 Qualitative: 4 Multi-Methods: 1 Mixed Methods: 2	Evidence-Informed Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A Promising Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A Anecdotal Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MHPSS • MHPSS + Family/Community Support • MHPSS + Pro-Social Support and Services 	Rigorous evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A Promising Evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

3.5 Family and Community-Based DDDR: IF individuals who have disengaged from VE participate in programs to help them build healthier relationships with their families and community, AND these relationships encourage the rejection of violence and/or extremist worldviews, THEN they will be more prepared to rejoin the wider community and/or resist future VE appeals.

Maturity of Evidence Base	Included Studies	Programmatic Approaches	Summary of Findings
Immature	N=8 Quantitative: 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCT: 0 • Quasi-experimental: 1 • Descriptive: 0 Qualitative: 4 Multi-Methods: 2 Mixed Methods: 1	Evidence-Informed Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A Promising Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with Families, Religious Actors, and Community Leaders Anecdotal Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family and Community Inclusion 	Rigorous evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A Promising Evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement between prison and probation officers and VE offenders can help curb the dissemination of extremist ideologies and offer alternatives to VE offenders' previous former extremist networks. More involvement, especially with probation post-custody, is deemed essential to sustain the gains from DDDR and to facilitate the VE offenders' transition back into the community. • Enhancing the skills of prison staff, probation officers, and counselors to engage with VE offenders and their families is vital to counter extremist ideologies and sustain these benefits. • Care is needed when engaging with VE offenders' families, as some VE offenders have extremist affiliations within their family and close connections, where unrestricted communication with extremist-linked affiliates has demonstrated heightened extremist views.

3.6 Capacity Building, Mentorship, and Financial Incentives: IF individuals who have disengaged from VE are provided with supervision and ongoing support through training, skills, and/or material resources that improve their socio-economic prospects, THEN they will be more prepared to rejoin the wider community, more likely to be accepted, and more able to resist recidivism.

Maturity of Evidence Base	Included Studies	Programmatic Approaches	Summary of Findings
Immature	N=14 Quantitative: 0 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCT: 0 • Quasi-experimental: 0 • Descriptive: 0 Qualitative: 8 Multi-Methods: 2 Mixed Methods: 4	Evidence-Informed Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A Promising Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity Building + Mentorship + Cash Transfers/Capital Inputs Anecdotal Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity Building + Mentorship 	Rigorous evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A Promising Evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporating cash transfers and capital inputs into DDDR programs can provide participants with an immediate safety net to address basic needs, reducing potential economic drivers toward VE re-engagement. • Providing sustainable access to financial resources and incentives can act as a preventative measure against reverting to extremist or illicit activities

3.7 Community-Based Reintegration: IF families and communities intended to receive former VE participants are provided programming that addresses their fears, reduces the stigmas associated with former VE participants, and prepares them to address re-entry challenges, THEN they will be more likely to accept and support reintegration.

Maturity of Evidence Base	Included Studies	Programmatic Approaches	Summary of Findings
Developing	N=11 Quantitative: 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCT: 1 • Quasi-experimental: 1 • Descriptive: 0 Qualitative: 3 Multi-Methods: 4 Mixed Methods: 2	Evidence-Informed Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counter-/Alternative Narratives Promising Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A Anecdotal Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing Community Understanding of and Empathy for Reintegration • Economic Support 	Rigorous evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of radio as edutainment requires further research on mass media campaigns for reintegration efforts, compared to more localized methods for dispelling fears and stigmas Promising Evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

DDRR interventions play a pivotal role in P/CVE. Unlike in prevention and containment/indictment programming, these ToCs and approaches are directed at former VE offenders and current participators/sympathizers of VE. This unique target group greatly influences the kinds of activities proposed and how and where programs occur, particularly within custodial/prison settings. DDDR processes address the immediate challenges posed by radicalized individuals but also tackle the underlying factors contributing to their extremist inclinations. Disengagement focuses on severing an individual's active ties to extremist groups, while deradicalization aims to change their extremist beliefs through some form of cognitive change. Theoretically, these are different processes, and some argue achieving one without the other is possible. Rehabilitation offers psychological, social, and sometimes economic support, ensuring that individuals have the necessary tools to reject extremist ideologies. Reintegration then helps individuals return to their communities as positive contributors, breaking the cycle of radicalization. Collectively, these interventions recognize that a purely punitive approach to VE can be counterproductive and emphasize that it is essential to provide pathways that allow individuals to abandon extremist views and actions and return to society.

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 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 DDDR interventions and identifies what worked, challenges faced, and recommendations to improve practice.

This research applies an innovative ToC process, culminating in the development of seven distinct, theoretically anchored and testable ToCs across DDDR programming responses. These overarching ToCs serve three primary functions: (1) categorize

programs with shared foundational logic and assumptions; (2) shed light on this logic and its underlying assumptions; and (3) 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.

In theory, each of the DDDR approaches is seen as distinct, especially between respective outcomes and program logic. However, in practice, many of the included studies applied a combination of these approaches with little to no distinction between their outcomes. If and when a distinction is made in the evidence synthesis, particular care is provided to denote between:

- Disengagement and deradicalization (DD)
- Disengagement, deradicalization, and rehabilitation (DDR)
- Comprehensive DDDR programs

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 25 DDDR-focused studies pertaining to P/CVE. Indonesia (16%) emerged as the primary research location, closely followed by Nigeria and Australia (12% each). On a broader regional scale, West Africa led in research frequency. A significant portion (85%) of these studies were published between 2015 and 2022. Notably, 2022 witnessed the pinnacle of research publications at 24%, preceded by 2021 (16%), underlining the burgeoning interest in DDDR research. In efforts to ascertain unbiased insights, it was observed that 60% of these studies underwent external evaluations. Conversely, 16% represented internal evaluations, and a notable 24% lacked clarity on their evaluation methodologies.

Analysis of the 25 DDDR studies revealed diverse beneficiaries targeted by their respective activities. *Incarcerated individuals* (past or present) were most likely to be targeted, followed equally by *security forces, military police, and prison staff*, as well as *youth and civil society organizations (CSOs)*. Many of the studies (64%) elaborated on their beneficiary selection criteria. *Targeting by geographic location* for program beneficiaries was the most prevalent strategy employed followed by *self-referrals*.

In terms of program activities, vocational training stood out as the primary focus. This encompasses skills development in market access, livelihoods, mentorship, and entrepreneurship aimed at amplifying beneficiaries' employability and fostering income-generation. *Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)* also featured prominently, addressing the needs of VE offenders, returnees, and their families. *Awareness raising and/or narrative creation* activities are also prevalent across studies, particularly for fostering positive perceptions of returnees through various mediums, like social media and radio. Additionally, *network-building* activities, pivotal for reinforcing one's social support infrastructure, especially among family and peers, were spotlighted in DDDR research.

Interpretation of Findings

Each ToC was assessed across multiple variables to ascertain the maturity of the evidence base. A 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/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 reflects the field's current programming and funding practice. While in theory there exist 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.

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

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 built. Where applicable, this sections includes study exemplars to complement the research findings and emphasize key insights.

Theory of Change 3.1: Curriculum-Based DD and Case Management

Theory of Change: IF individuals with prior VE involvement are provided with tailored interventions that improve their socio-economic prospects, provide psychological support to process trauma and develop skills for managing mental and physical health, and receive opportunities to build healthier relationships, THEN they will disengage from VE involvement and/or resist future VE appeals.

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 very small body of evidence evaluating the effectiveness of this ToC, encompassing six studies that present anecdotal, promising findings, and moderate evidence. Cumulatively, there is a maturing evidence base employing a variety of interventions focused on developing tailored and comprehensive interventions to support disengagement from and resistance to future extremist appeals. The included studies explore two tailored and comprehensive DD approaches:

- **Case Management**
- **Curriculum-Based Approach**

This ToC is based on the concept that a holistic approach to support VE offenders is critical to bring about disengagement, deradicalization, and eventual reintegration. By increasing radicalized individual's awareness and attributed importance to education, socio-economic prosperity and security, and psychological coping and mental health, this holistic approach provides VE offenders with paths to alternative avenues for deriving purpose to rival the allure of VE.

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 high, and the average suggests a tendency toward medium to medium-high quality.

The most frequently used measures of success relate to participant engagement with activities, attitudes and perceptions of self, self-reflection, and development of prosocial support and activities. The studies report successful cases of reductions in extremist attitudes with the frequency of engagement, including a smaller number of days between engagement, associated with positive change. However, the sample size is small due to the specificity and relative rarity of these interventions, limiting more statistically rigorous research methods. Both approaches provide diverse services, often merging employment, life skills, psychological, family, and other informal types of support tailored to diverse individual needs. Studies focused

on improving socio-economic prospects, providing psychological support, and helping build skills towards managing their mental and physical health and positive relationships.

Limited evaluative work has been done in this ToC; however, additional research is necessary to explore and test the association between trust building activities and DD and to determine which specific interventions yield the most significant impact on DD for different populations, considering diverse pathways to VE and distinctions across gender, age, and extremist type.

Evidence-Informed Approaches

In Curriculum-Based DD and Case Management, current research bolsters confidence in the following evidence-informed approaches:

- **Case Management**
- **Curriculum-Based Approach**

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

Curriculum-Based Approach

Curriculum-based DD approaches are overseen by a state or governmental body, with the objective of facilitating the rehabilitation and eventual reintegration of individuals who have been involved in or influenced by extremist ideologies or groups. Studies focused on the use of prescribed modules, including the provision of socio-economic and psychosocial support and the incorporation of family members in the DD process.

[A study \(Webber et al. 2017\) in Sri Lanka](#) of a curriculum-based DD approach worked with former beneficiaries of a government-run DD program administered in detention centers. Primary research collected from participants during and after the program and their release assessed their endorsement of extreme ideology compared to community members that never belonged to a VE organization. The study classified participants as either full treatment, which included comprehensive DD activities, or minimal treatment, which included less, albeit standardized, DD activities. The study found that VE offenders receiving the full treatment reported increasingly lower extremist beliefs, as well as higher levels of reduction in extremist attitudes than those who received the minimal treatment during their year participating in the DD program. The ex-post study demonstrated a sustained reduction in extremist ideology a year after the program ended. Program participants were significantly less extreme than general members of their communities that did not undergo the DD programming.

The findings from this study suggest that comprehensive curriculum-based programs can effectively disengage and deradicalize VE offenders, with results persisting up to a year post-program. However, evaluating this approach in other contexts with different extremist ideologies is crucial.

Case Management

Unlike traditional curriculum-based DD approaches with prescribed modules that often occur in government-managed custodial settings, case-managed CVE interventions are bespoke, wherein the unique individual needs per participant are addressed. Activities across all studies included components of socio-economic support such as employment opportunities,

vocational training, and life skills, as well as ongoing psychosocial support and/or fostering and strengthening social networks, particularly with family members. Activities are determined by the individual needs of each participant. This diversity often makes it challenging to evaluate standard outputs or assess overall effectiveness across this approach type.

Two studies in Australia explored different aspects of case management programs. [A study \(Cherney & Belton 2021\)](#) explored individual progress and program effectiveness of two case-managed DD programs using a five-point metric to assess participant change. Researchers found that case-managed CVE programs can affect deradicalization when working with individuals demonstrating radicalized attitudes and behaviors. It produced two critical findings related to the relationship between program length, intensity, and participant change. First, it demonstrated that **longer VE offender involvement in interventions increases the likelihood for demonstrating behaviors and attitudes of VE disengagement and participation in prosocial activities—such as distancing oneself from radicalized networks and peers, participation in work and education opportunities, and in some cases even repudiation of extremist views.** Second, it showed that **the frequency of engagement was associated with positive change, suggesting that the more contact between VE offenders and intervention staff/service providers with a smaller number of days between engagement positively improved client progress.** The study did note, however, that gaining trust with participants is a critical and difficult component of case-managed CVE interventions that can have impacts on the overall success of the program. The study could not establish direct causation.

[A promising study \(Cherney 2018\) in Australia](#) investigated the success of a case management program through self-reported benefits of participation by participants and staff observations of participant progress. Participants reported a number of benefits substantiated by staff connected to the DD process focused on improving psychological coping, promoting self-reflection and insights into personal offenses, and developing prosocial support and activities. **Religious mentoring was observed to be beneficial, as it made inmates feel that the staff genuinely cared about their well-being, thereby reducing feelings of neglect by the “system.”** Researchers noted that case managed programs can challenge the perception of participants who feel marginalized by the “system,” fostering a more open engagement with staff.

The findings from these studies demonstrate promising evidence that prolonged and frequent engagements in case-managed programs lead to positive changes in individuals with radicalized behaviors, emphasizing the importance of trust building and open engagement. However, given limitations in the methodologies and data sources, particularly the inherently small sample sizes, they cannot confirm a direct cause-and-effect relationship.

Promising Approaches

There were no promising approaches found within this ToC.

Theory of Change 3.2: Education, Counseling, and Training for Value Complexity

Theory of Change: IF individuals with prior VE involvement are provided with programming led by trusted, credible actors that supports a more complex, pluralist worldview and/or credibly challenges the validity of extremist beliefs and values, THEN they will reject further participation in or support for VE.

Key assumptions: This type of programming is generally intended to invoke an attitudinal change and can often only occur following voluntary/involuntary disengagement.

There is a very small body of evidence evaluating the effectiveness of this ToC, encompassing eight studies that present anecdotal, promising, and moderate findings. Cumulatively, there is a developing evidence base employing a variety of interventions focused on using trusted, credible actors to introduce a pluralistic understanding of religious principles and value pluralism to individuals with prior VE involvement and a rejection of VE participation and support. Given the limited number of extant studies, caution must be used when examining trends. The included studies explore two DD approaches:

- **Religious and Peer Education**
- **Value Complexity**

The underlying theory is derived from the hypothesis that underpinning extremist ideologies is a reductive mentality of “us versus them” and/or “right versus wrong,” often termed value-monism. To address this binary thought structure, effective DD programs work on developing critical thinking and skills, appreciation for different perspectives, diverse worldviews, and conflict management skills. These interventions expose participants to a multiplicity of value priorities both within and beyond their personal religious group without directly challenging or changing their core beliefs. A key component of this approach is to provide an opportunity for participants to personally reflect on and voice their religious beliefs, creating cognitive openings for critical thinking and examination of extremist information and religious ideologies underpinning their radicalization, and to recognize complexity and ambiguity to promote desistance from extremism. The theory is that these efforts equip prior VE participants/sympathizers with the ability to reduce personal vulnerabilities to radicalization and strengthen their resilience against the influence of other extremists.

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 high, and the average suggests a tendency towards medium quality.

The most frequently used measures of success relate to bolstering critical thinking about potential issues exploited by extremists. While the evidence base points to successful cases of increased religious knowledge, critical thinking, and in some instances, confidence, more research must be done to examine the different magnitudes of success between participants’ approaches to in-group and out-group integrative complexity. Finally, caution must be taken with religious education programs and a highly gendered approach must be taken, particularly as it relates to developing program materials for female VE offenders, who are more likely to struggle with literacy and language capacities.

Limited evaluative work has been done in this ToC; however, additional research is necessary to explore and test the association of employing education, counseling, and training with individuals with prior VE involvement as there is limited evidence to determine which approaches yield the most significant impact on DD for different populations, considering diverse pathways to VE and distinctions across gender, age, and extremist type.

Evidence-Informed Approaches

In Education, Counseling, and Training for Value Complexity, current research bolsters confidence in the following evidence-informed approach:

- Value Complexity

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.

Value Complexity

Studies focused on increasing value complexity theorize that increasing the variety of ways people think about potential issues exploited by extremists—like identity or religion—can reduce their vulnerability to recruitment strategies and the allure of returning to an extremist group. Studies employing this approach use a specific framework to gradually introduce conflicting values and diverse worldviews to participants and provide them with skills and resources to apply new ways of thinking to their own values and appreciate better different perspectives.

[A study \(Savage 2014\) in Kenya](#) of a pilot program demonstrated significant gains in creating integrative value complexity and increasing participants' ability to think in more complex ways about issues related to extremism through an integrated course for recent members of extremist groups, vulnerable individuals exposed to extremist groups, and support staff seeking to counter extremism. Researchers intentionally **recruited a diverse group of participants to elicit intense discussions and involvement; however, this must be balanced with a capped number of participants to guarantee effective engagement with the facilitators.** By the end of the course, participants demonstrated concrete evidence of an ability to perceive some validity in differing viewpoints. However, these gains were lowest, but still significant, amongst recent members of extremist groups, highlighting the likelihood that those more deeply committed to extremism narratives require a much longer process to emerge from them. The researchers also noted gains in participants' integrative value complexity in relation to their own self-designated in-groups and out-groups, but of a greater magnitude for their own ingroup. The researchers connected this shift with common trends from autobiographical accounts that highlight growing awareness of the flaws within their extremist ingroup, particularly of its leaders, can act as catalysts for deradicalization.

Findings from this study suggest that **applying value complexity approaches to former extremists can lead to greater appreciation for different perspectives and diverse worldviews; however, this process takes substantial time and may require more resources to implement effectively to address entrenched narratives.**

Promising Approaches

In Education, Counseling, and Training for Value Complexity, current research highlights a promising approach that demonstrates consistent findings and requires further rigorous testing to establish stronger evidence in:

- **Religious and Peer Education**

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

Religious and Peer Education

Studies focused on delivering religious or peer education often do so in coordination with or by credible religious or peer actors. Some programs further work with designated religious support officers to ensure cultural and contextual relevance of programming. Religious education programs aim to counteract extremist interpretations of religious texts/doctrine and in some instances strengthen religious identity in more positive ways. These deradicalization programs focus on expanding participants' knowledge of their religion through direct religious scholarship, referencing holy materials and teachings to provide original and contextual explanations. **Rather than trying to detach individuals from their religious identity, which might be deeply ingrained and central to their sense of self, DD programs can also help participants rediscover and strengthen their faith in a positive and nonviolent manner.** Programs that incorporate peer educators focus on identifying relatable and credible role models to deliver more authentic and impactful engagement with participants. Both approaches use training and awareness-raising workshops—both formal and informal—to enhance knowledge and often communication skills.

The studies reported that participants experienced increased religious knowledge, critical thinking, and in some instances, increased confidence to resist the influence of extremist inmates. However, **unique challenges to religious education include illiteracy and language capacities, both of which can be highly gendered. Female VE offenders, in particular, struggle with high rates of illiteracy, particularly in reading Arabic, limiting their ability to engage with the Quran.**

A promising study (Kahlmeyer 2019) in Morocco promoted both deradicalization and prevention through a public health model and a peer education intervention to “vaccinate” a large proportion of the general prison population to radicalization. The program focused on developing a training of trainers model amongst peer educators and religious experts to improve prisoners' communication skills so they could better identify, understand, deconstruct, and counter radical discourse. The approach was based off successful earlier interventions in Moroccan prisons to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS. The program showed moderate gains, but highlighted key recommendations to improve future iterations, including maintaining up-to-date manuals for educators and developing and institutionalizing a long-term system to ensure all new inmates can participate in the program to promote ongoing “herd immunity.”

Findings from these studies suggest that while participants often gain enhanced religious knowledge and critical thinking skills, challenges include gendered illiteracy issues, particularly among female VE offenders. The studies also emphasized the need for updated resources to make sure that program gains are more sustainable.

Theory of Change 3.3: Capacity Building of Vulnerable/At-Risk Populations

Theory of Change: IF individuals with prior VE involvement transform their identity away from affiliation with extremist groups and develop an alternative identity, THEN they will reject further participation in or support for VE.

Key assumptions: This type of programming is generally intended to invoke an attitudinal change and can often only occur following voluntary/involuntary disengagement.

There is a very small body of evidence evaluating the effectiveness of this ToC, encompassing seven studies that present promising and moderate findings. Cumulatively, there is a developing evidence base employing a variety of approaches focused on transforming and developing alternative identities for individuals with prior VE involvement away from extremist groups and a rejection of VE participation and support. Most of the research has drawn conclusions on the relationship between physically removing VE offenders from extremist networks as a precursor to disengagement; yet, they do not measure the effect of these activities on the attitudinal and ideological perceptions of VE offenders' identities. Given the limited number of extant studies, caution must be used when examining trends. The included studies explore two DD approaches:

- **Custodial/Prison Programs**
- **Narratives – Mass Media**

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

The studies within this ToC however, do not directly evaluate the effect of activities aimed at transforming VE offenders' individual sense of identity away from extremist affiliations or towards the development of alternative identities, and their eventual DD. The literature widely recognizes the initial step of physically removing VE offenders from extremist networks—via incarceration, detainment, or case management—as a precursor to disengagement. Over time, such disengagement might naturally evolve into deradicalization, but this can be enhanced through interventions that help to create distance from VE ideologies. However, understanding the impact of programs aimed at transforming the attitudinal and ideological perceptions of VE offenders' identities is less well evidenced as part of ongoing DD programming.

The most frequently used measures of success relate to participant engagement with activities, attitudes and perceptions of self, critical thinking, support for more complex and pluralistic worldviews, self-reflection, changes to perceptions of VE, development of prosocial support and activities, and engagement with former extremist networks/actors. Studies reported anecdotal findings on the influence of exposure to comprehensive DD program helping participants resist extremist persuasions. However, despite these efforts, VE offenders who retained social connections to other members of their former violent extremist networks, family, and friends in the diaspora expressed significantly higher levels of extremism.

Limited evaluative work has been done in this ToC; however, additional research is necessary to explore and test the association between identity transformation away from extremist groups and rejection of further participation in or support for VE.

Evidence-Informed Approaches

In Custodial/Prison Programs, current research bolsters confidence in the following evidence-informed approach:

- **Custodial/Prison Programs**

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.

Custodial/Prison Programs

Transforming identity away from affiliation with extremist groups involves both physical and cognitive transformation. As a preliminary form of disengagement, custodial/prison programs provide opportunities for both voluntary and involuntary physical disconnection from known networks and associates. These programs can include physical separation to promote physical disconnection alongside a mix of intentional curriculum-based DD and case-managed CVE programming to promote cognitive transformation. However, studies did not assess the direct impact of transforming extremists' identities away from affiliation with extremist groups, either voluntarily or involuntarily, and further research is required.

Involuntary, custodial settings physically separate participants from extremist networks. However, the prevalence of radicalization within prisons undermines this physical separation as a form of disengagement. Within these settings, programs combine incentives, like vocational training, with prohibitions, such as restricted internet access or physical separation from convicted VE offenders. Similarly, paroled VE offenders can face prohibitions on meeting former VE offenders and visiting cities where their networks are still active to prevent them from being pulled back into these radical social networks and reoffending.

Voluntary and intentional curriculum-based DD and case-managed CVE programming often present numerous opportunities for participants to engage with new social circles, using preventative diversion logic to shift participants from existing networks to alternative ones, such as those in recreational centers, gyms, or sports. These programs often aim to develop critical thinking skills and support more complex and pluralistic worldviews through exposure to new networks. Included studies have provided anecdotal findings that exposure helps participants sever ties with extremist associates and networks, comprehend their former VE networks' influence, and build connections outside these circles while resisting extremist persuasions. In congruence with evidence associated with other ToCs, increasing engagement time within programs could provide stronger opportunities for participants to transform and/or develop their identity.

[A study \(Webber et al. 2017\) in Sri Lanka](#) presented significant findings that participants in a comprehensive DD program who retained social connections to other members of their former violent extremist networks, family, and friends in the diaspora expressed significantly higher levels of extremism. These findings suggest the critical importance of both physical disengagement and cognitive transformation through continued deradicalization, to promote a dissolution of extremist worldviews that legitimize the use of extremist violence and transition former VE offenders to more pro-social behaviors and networks outside of former groups.

For programs associated with eventual parole and/or reintegration, these findings are important because social networks, both online and offline, have been shown to play key roles

within the radicalization process and influence recidivism rates through the reinforcement of personal grievances and ideology.

[A promising study \(Cherney 2018\) in Australia](#) delivered case management services to prison inmates convicted of terrorism or at-risk of radicalization to explore early indicators of program success through self-reported benefits of participation by participants and staff observations of participant progress. The study pointed to the **pivotal influence parole and social workers can have as intermediaries post-incarceration to help individuals settle into their new environments and avoid former social networks.**

Findings from these studies suggest that **physical disengagement and cognitive transformation are vital for transitioning former VE offenders away from extremist views and towards pro-social behaviors and networks, but the presence of radicalization within prisons and within former networks, including family, challenges its effectiveness.** Engaging participants in new social circles, developing critical thinking skills, and increasing program engagement time can help them sever extremist ties, understand past influences, and resist returning to radical ideologies, with support from parole and social workers playing a critical role in post-incarceration reintegration.

Promising Approaches

In Custodial/Prison Programs current research highlights a promising approach that demonstrates consistent findings and requires further rigorous testing to establish stronger evidence in:

- Narratives – Mass Media

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

Narratives — Mass Media

Identity transformation from VE can be hindered by a lack of information of alternative pathways for disengagement. Utilizing narratives that challenge extremist ideologies, like mass media, can sow seeds of doubt, present alternative viewpoints, and/or debunk false information that extremist groups propagate, thereby creating a pathway towards physical and even cognitive transformation.

[A promising study \(Igodoe 2021\) in Niger](#) examining a mass media program emphasized communication as a tool for disengagement. Messages targeting potential defectors were sent via radio, videos, and physical leaflets—to inform extremists of potential surrender pathways and detail the actual process of disengagement and surrender.

Findings from this study suggested the messages gave potential defectors an assurance that there were opportunities for reintegration and others had successfully disengaged, thus encouraging greater defection. These reassurances provided hope and opportunities for VE offenders to change their affiliations with VE. These findings further support that **mass media is a powerful tool for combating extremist ideologies due to its vast reach, ability to present counter-narratives, and potential to influence societal norms and values.**

Theory of Change 3.4: Mental Health and Psychosocial Services

Theory of Change: IF individuals with prior VE involvement are provided with psychosocial, mental health, and/or behavioral support to process trauma and develop skills for managing mental and physical health, THEN they will be more likely to disengage from VE involvement, be more prepared to rejoin the wider community, and/or resist future VE appeals.

**Caveat: This ToC includes studies that did not make a distinction between MHPSS services targeted at DDDR. Instead, these studies provided bundled programming that included aspects of MHPSS across the continuum of DDDR. Even though there are distinct theories and definitional boundaries separating DDDR programming and the crucial role MHPSS can play within each phase, the current state of practice and evaluation does not support this separation.*

Key assumptions: There are many competing and overlapping frameworks for providing this support, but they share a common set of assumptions about the relationship between trauma, mental health, and VE disengagement/belief shifts. Mental health and psychosocial support is a continuum with distinct phases that support initial disengagement/deradicalization and prepare for reintegration.

There is a very small body of evidence evaluating the effectiveness of this ToC, encompassing seven studies that present anecdotal findings. Cumulatively, there is an immature evidence base employing a variety of approaches focused on delivering comprehensive MHPSS and disengagement, reintegration, and a resistance to future VE appeals. Most of the research has drawn conclusions on the reinforcing impact of mental health programming, trauma care, counseling, psychological coping and care, and the development of prosocial activities on DDDR of former VE participants; yet evaluations of these efforts remain sparse, and they do not measure the effect of these activities on actual reintegration or recidivism of individuals. **Given the unique characteristics of DDDR programming and their very targeted and limited sample, many of the studies focus on very small sample sizes within difficult to reach intervention circles, leading to DDDR programming being empirically understudied.** Acknowledging the limited number of extant studies and their mainly anecdotal nature, caution must be used when examining trends. The included studies explore various MHPSS approaches including:

- MHPSS
- MHPSS + Family/Community Support
- MHPSS + Pro-Social Support and Services

On assessing the strength of evidence, the distribution of evidence across studies spans anecdotal to strong theory findings, 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 participant engagement with activities, ex-offenders’ attitudes of integration, perceptions of fairness and safety, changes to perceptions of VE, and the development of family and alternative networks. MHPSS programs that deliver services alongside other comprehensive support, including livelihood and socio-economic services to individuals with prior VE involvement often exhibit a lack of temporal distinction between when these supporting interventions are most impactful to facilitate DDDR—whether during a unique DDDR phase, often in an institutional setting, or prior to reintegration, or both. These programs are often started and sometimes continue beyond custodial rehabilitation settings, including through detention centers, probation oversight, and reintegration programs implemented by both government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and CSOs. Reported outcomes across these studies suggest there is a strong theory that foundational and ongoing MHPSS support, particularly in the areas of mental

health programming, trauma care, counseling, psychological coping and care, and the development of prosocial activities, can be impactful on different levels in reinforcing effective DDR of former VE offenders. However, there are limited evaluations of these efforts, and the evaluations that do exist do not measure the effect of these activities on actual reintegration or recidivism of individuals.

Limited evaluative work has been done in this ToC; however, additional research is necessary to explore and test the association between comprehensive MHPSS support to process trauma and manage mental and physical health with VE disengagement, reintegration, and recidivism.

Evidence-Informed Approaches

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

Promising Approaches

There were no promising approaches found within this ToC.

Anecdotal Approaches

In Mental Health and Psychosocial Services (MHPSS) current research highlights three anecdotal approaches that requires further testing to establish stronger evidence in:

- **MHPSS**
- **MHPSS + Family/Community Support**
- **MHPSS + Pro-Social Support and Services**

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

MHPSS Studies focused on MHPSS worked mostly through providing direct mental health programming that included trauma care, counseling, and psychological coping and care for individuals who have expressed a willingness to disengage from VE or have physically disengaged from VE in a custodial setting. However, these studies did not evaluate the direct impact of provision of these services and participants ability to rejoin the wider community or resist future VE appeals. The studies predominantly reported anecdotal findings on best practices for implementing MHPSS programming with individuals with prior VE involvement.

The studies theorized the importance of the critical role of establishing open and trusting relationships between VE offenders and support staff, particularly through hiring civilian personnel who are appropriately qualified and experienced to establish the necessary trusting relationships that enable DDR. However, a major challenge exists vis-à-vis the lack of trained psychologists, mental health experts, and counselors within formal criminal justice settings, probation settings, and non-governmental agencies and organizations. Studies also highlighted the critical role of the support staff from different backgrounds and experiences to

provide tailored services that meet the needs of VE offenders. Many of the studies discussed the unique role religious actors can play providing religious mentoring and support for VE offenders' religious health to complement other common forms of MHPSS. Studies further highlighted the critical importance to reject a generic, one-size-fits-all program and instead provide bespoke MHPSS services, including specific focus on people with disabilities, female VE offenders, and children. However, VE offender DDR programming can build off the larger body of research and interventions for "mainstream" offenders, as many VE offender needs align with other standard forms of assistance for custodial rehabilitation programs.

Anecdotal findings provided recommendations for implementation best practice, including the importance of open, trusting relationships between VE offenders and civilian support staff and tailored, bespoke MHPSS that recognize the diverse needs of different VE offenders, including of women, children, and people with disabilities. However, connecting these practices with actual reintegration or recidivism of former VE offenders remains unsubstantiated.

MHPSS + Family/ Community Support

In addition to the MHPSS services outlined above, some studies further explored the need to provide the family and communities of VE offenders with additional support services as a complement to VE offenders' DDR processes.

Given the ongoing vulnerability of returnees, the studies theorized the need to provide MHPSS on a continuous basis alongside other support services to family and community to positively impact the psychosocial and mental health of VE offenders in the long-term. The studies posited that an inclusive support approach is likely to reduce recidivism rates because returnees are provided with needed support to meet their basic needs and will thus be less inclined to seek it elsewhere through alternative and/or violent means. However, the studies did not directly evaluate the impact of these programs on recidivism rates.

MHPSS + Pro-Social Support and Services

In addition to the MHPSS services outlined above, some studies further explored the inclusion of prosocial support and activities as a complement to provide opportunities for VE offenders to engage with alternative networks and act as peer educators to others in their communities.

One study paired MHPSS with the development of "peace clubs" as a grassroots approach to involve children directly in peacebuilding and peer-to-peer awareness-raising and education. The study hypothesized this activity, which promoted individual ownership and leadership, may have had more of an effect on participants than any other form of support or awareness-raising activities conducted, but did not provide additional data to support this claim. Exploring the inclusion of prosocial support and activities with adult VE offenders and returnees could be an opportunity to test this hypothesis.

Anecdotal findings suggest that the incorporation of prosocial support and activities can enhance benefits of MHPSS, though without conclusive data. Additional research is necessary to test this approach with adult offenders.

Theory of Change 3.5: Family and Community-Based DDR

Theory of Change: IF individuals who have disengaged from VE participate in programs to help them build healthier relationships with their families and community, AND these relationships encourage the rejection of violence and/or extremist worldviews, THEN they will be more prepared to rejoin the wider community and/or resist future VE appeals.

Key assumptions: Recognizing that communities and families reject VE provides space for VE sympathizers and participants to do so, as well, and prepares them for, but is separate from, reintegration.

There is a very small body of evidence evaluating the effectiveness of this ToC, encompassing eight studies, with only one in moderate evidence/medium-high quality category, that present anecdotal, promising findings, and moderate evidence. Cumulatively, there is an immature evidence base employing a variety of interventions focused on building healthier relationships between individuals who have disengaged from VE with their families and community, and reintegration and a resistance to future VE appeals. None of the included studies assess the impact of activities focused on rebuilding connections with family and the community as part of DDR programming. Given the limited number of extant studies and their mainly anecdotal nature, caution must be used when examining trends. The included studies explore two DDR approaches:

- **Collaboration with Families, Religious Actors, and Community Leaders**
- **Family and Community Inclusion**

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 low to high, and the average suggests a tendency toward medium-low to medium quality.

While this kind of programming happens frequently, it is rarely directly assessed on the basis of a clearly articulated ToC. Subsequently, none of the included studies assess the impact of activities focused on rebuilding connections with family and the community as part of DDR programming in custodial rehabilitation settings, resulting in an immature evidence base. Therefore, the strength of evidence for this ToC is unsupported by direct programming and remains theoretical.

The most frequently used measures of success relate to participant engagement with activities, openness to alternate narratives, attitudes and perceptions of self, safety, and fairness, self-reflection, knowledge and skills, changes to perceptions of VE, development of prosocial support and activities, personal relationships with former extremist networks/actors, and recidivism. The importance of involving family members in reintegration efforts is well-established, but the influence of early interventions targeting the rebuilding of familial and community connections during rehabilitation, before reintegration, remains unevaluated. Studies reported that it is important to discern the most effective ways to involve family and community members in rehabilitation programming, as their inclusion may obstruct decreasing extremist views of VE offenders. Caution must be exercised as past extremist affiliations may include family members, who might also require access to external MHPSS and socio-economic service providers to successfully participate in interventions.

Limited evaluative work has been done in this ToC; however, additional research is necessary to explore and test the association between rebuilding connections with family and the community as part of DDR programming in custodial rehabilitation settings and reintegration and recidivism.

Evidence-Informed Approaches

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

Promising Approaches

In Family and Community-Based DDR, current research highlights a promising approach that demonstrates consistent findings and requires further rigorous testing to establish stronger evidence in:

- **Collaboration with Families, Religious Actors, and Community Leaders**

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

Collaboration with Families, Religious Actors, and Community Leaders

Studies included in this ToC approach focused on collaborating with families/caregivers, community members, religious actors, and local community leaders during and after reintegration as part of the DDR process with individuals who have disengaged with VE. Included studies emphasized the importance of collaborating with families/caregivers, community members, religious actors, and local community leaders during and after reintegration. The studies stressed that such collaboration is pivotal to alleviate their fears, reduce stigmatization, and equip them for the re-entry challenges faced by returnees. However, these efforts appeared primarily centered on direct family and community involvement, not on early rehabilitation endeavors to restore or establish familial and community ties with VE offenders before their reentry or return.

The studies advocated for bolstering the proficiency of prison and probation officers, counselors, and other rehabilitation providers to engage proactively with VE offenders and their families. **Engagement between prison and probation officers and VE offenders can help curb the dissemination of extremist ideologies and offer alternatives to VE offenders' previous former extremist networks. More involvement, especially with probation post-custody, is deemed essential to sustain the gains from DDR and to facilitate the VE offenders' transition back into the community.**

Critically, VE offenders past extremist affiliations may include family members and close acquaintances. Special caution is required when interfacing with these networks during DDR.

[A promising study \(Webber et al. 2017\) in Sri Lanka](#) of a curriculum-based DD approach worked with former beneficiaries of a government-run DD program administered in detention centers. The program offered social, cultural, and familial rehabilitation to all participants as part of the comprehensive DD approach. VE offenders were permitted unrestricted communication with their families, attended family visits, and even received permission for home visits during significant events like weddings and funerals. Although the study did not specifically evaluate the impact of this unrestricted familial engagement aspect on reintegration, it found that those in comprehensive DD programming who retained social ties with their former violent extremist networks, family, and friends in the diaspora demonstrated markedly elevated extremist views.

Findings from these studies suggest that collaboration with the people most connected to former VE offenders is a necessary component of both active DDR efforts and their sustainability upon reintegration. They further highlight that **enhancing the skills of prison staff, probation officers, and counselors to engage with VE offenders and their families is vital to counter extremist ideologies and sustain these benefits. However, care is needed, as some VE offenders have extremist affiliations within their family and close connections, where unrestricted communication with extremist-linked affiliates has demonstrated heightened extremist views.**

Anecdotal Approaches

In Family and Community-Based DDR, current research highlights an anecdotal approach that requires further testing to establish stronger evidence in:

- **Family and Community Inclusion**

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.

Family and Community Inclusion

Research indicates that providing VE offenders with regular opportunities to interact with family and community members enhances their support systems and can introduce alternate affiliations to replace their ties to violent extremist networks. However, none of the included studies evaluated the impact of activities focused on rebuilding connections with family and the community as part of DDR programming. The studies predominantly reported anecdotal recommendations for implementing DDDR programming that integrates family and communities.

The studies cautioned that executing these engagements can be complicated, especially for high-risk prisoners/detainees who have more limiting custodial environments. Often, family members grapple with their own psychological issues, necessitating staff to allocate additional resources and refer these family members to external MHPSS and socio-economic service providers.

Overall, further research is needed to discern the most effective ways to involve family and community members in rehabilitation programming, particularly for VE offenders in custodial settings and how this interplays with other reintegration programming, both temporally and sequentially.

Theory of Change 3.6: Capacity Building, Mentorship, and Financial Incentives

Theory of Change: IF individuals who have disengaged from VE are provided with supervision and ongoing support through training, skills, and/or material resources that improve their socio-economic prospects, THEN they will be more prepared to rejoin the wider community, more likely to be accepted, and more able to resist recidivism.

Key assumptions: This support must reflect specific local context/needs. Often these activities occur following disengagement and beginning in an institutional setting and carried out throughout rehabilitation and reintegration through ongoing support.

There is a small body of evidence evaluating the effectiveness of this ToC, encompassing 14 studies that present anecdotal, promising findings, and moderate evidence. Cumulatively, there is an immature evidence base employing a variety of interventions focused on improving supervision for individuals disengaged from VE coupled with socio-economic capacity building and material support and the successful reintegration and decreased recidivism of returnees. The included studies explore two DDDR approaches:

- Capacity Building + Mentorship
- Capacity Building + Mentorship + Cash Transfers/Capital Inputs

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 quality.

The most frequently used measures of success relate to recidivism, community acceptance, self-esteem, personal rehabilitation, and skills-building. While study findings report successful cases of reintegration in relation to economic supports, further research is needed to examine causal links. The studies also suggest that sustainable access to financial resources and incentives can act as a preventative measure against reverting to extremist or illicit activities. Caution also must be exercised in program design and program beneficiary targeting, as limiting participation to less hard-core VE offenders only may bias results towards more positive outcomes.

Moderate evaluative work has been done in this ToC; however, additional research is necessary to explore and test the association between improving socio-economic capacity building and reintegration and recidivism. Additional research is also necessary to explore the role that timing, sequence, and program intensity and saturation play in supporting former VE offenders.

Evidence-Informed Approaches

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

Promising Approaches

In Capacity Building, Mentorship, and Financial Incentives, current research highlights a promising approach that demonstrates consistent findings and requires further rigorous testing to establish stronger evidence in:

- Capacity Building + Mentorship + Cash Transfers/Capital Inputs

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

Capacity Building + Mentorship + Cash Transfers/ Capital Inputs

In addition to traditional capacity building and mentorship programming, some studies explored the addition of cash transfers/capital inputs as a complement to DDDR processes. These additions can offer a safety net, ensuring participants can meet basic needs such as food, shelter, and healthcare, and the immediate relief can reduce the immediate economic pressures that might otherwise tempt individuals back into VE activities out of financial desperation. Additionally, capital inputs may provide former VE offenders the opportunity to invest in small businesses, training, or other income-generating activities. By establishing a sustainable income source, they may be more likely to reintegrate successfully into the community and less likely to return to extremist groups. Furthermore, such an investment can give them a sense of purpose and direction, further anchoring their commitment to a nonviolent life.

Research indicates that poor economic conditions and livelihood prospects can serve as motivational factors for negative coping mechanisms, particularly among VE offenders. A recurrent recommendation in included studies was the need for sustainable access to capital and financial incentives to ensure desistance related to the risk that extremist groups could support reengagement by offering them resources to maintain their survival that they did not have access to in other ways.

[A promising study \(Bangura 2021\) in Nigeria](#) focused on reintegration and rehabilitation of children associated with armed groups. Though children present a unique case that may not be completely comparable to adult VE offenders, the findings may be valuable for other DDDR efforts. Besides skills-building, children received mentorship and coaching from the private sector to develop sustainable support mechanisms for their ongoing reintegration within the community beyond initial program activities. The children also received cash transfers to enhance their ability to purchase materials and address immediate needs when reintegrating. While there were suggestions to replace direct cash with vouchers or material support, the study reported positive results for both the children and their families in cushioning their return and allowing them to focus on other aspects of their reintegration than simply basic needs.

[A study \(Blattman & Annan 2015\) in Liberia](#) explored the impact of providing agricultural training, capital inputs, and counseling with former fighters on their continuation of illicit activities—illegally mining or occupying rubber plantations. While this program did not work with VE offenders, it did work with at-risk men and has potential implications towards successful DDDR of vulnerable populations through socio-economic improvements. The study found that men who participated in the study increased their employment and profits and shifted their work hours away from illicit activities. They also reported a reduced interest in mercenary work in a nearby conflict. Participants who opted instead for future cash transfers reduced their illicit and mercenary activities the most. These findings support the need for sustainable access to capital and financial incentives as a preventative measure towards illicit activities. Given the emerging evidence on the impact of cash transfers, these findings warrant further research in the realm of DDDR programming.

The findings from these studies suggest that **incorporating cash transfers and capital inputs into DDDR programs provides participants with an immediate safety net to address basic needs, reducing potential economic drives towards VE re-engagement.** Studies suggest that **sustainable access to financial resources and incentives can act as a preventative measure against reverting to extremist or illicit activities.** Moreover, study findings indicate that providing training combined with capital inputs led former fighters to shift away from illegal activities, underscoring the potential of financial initiatives within broader DDDR strategies.

Anecdotal Approaches

In Capacity Building, Mentorship, and Financial Incentives, current research highlights an anecdotal approach that requires further testing to establish stronger evidence in:

- **Capacity Building + Mentorship**

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.

Capacity Building + Mentorship

Studies within this ToC concentrated on building the capacity of the individuals who have disengaged from VE, particularly in relation to strengthening economic, social, and life skills through an ongoing combination of activities including training, mentorship, and income-generating opportunities that can be beneficial in DDDR efforts. However, a direct connection to reduced recidivism and improved community acceptance is less substantiated. Although the included studies recognized the benefits of capacity building in self-esteem, personal rehabilitation, life skills, and other soft skills, they generally did not explore the long-term impacts on successful economic and social reintegration within host communities. This is a significant gap. Similar to MHPSS services, there is a lack of temporal and sequential distinction between when these services are most impactful on building capacities required for DDDR during a unique DDR phase—often in an institutional setting—prior to reintegration, after integration into a host community, or some combination thereof. However, there is consensus across the included studies on the need for comprehensive post-release or post-engagement care alongside other support, surveillance, and deterrence activities.

The studies emphasize the necessity to determine the intensity and saturation of capacity and skills-building training to promote sustained skill application throughout the continuum of DDDR. One-time training is often insufficient, and the timing of program implementation itself for a VE offender can hinder the recall and application of these skills in the medium- and long-term. The research demonstrates that a commitment to participation is critical to successful DDDR. In certain settings, VE offenders may be disinclined to voluntarily participate in training, particularly in custodial rehabilitation settings. Studies sought ways to enhance voluntary participation through known networks and considered engaging former leaders of violent extremist groups as guest speakers or resource persons to increase buy-in and participation. Given the often-limited resources and capacities of DDDR programs, targeting the appropriate participants becomes crucial; yet, caution must be exercised as limiting participation to less hard-core VE offenders only may bias results with positive outcomes.

Assessing behavioral outcomes, like evaluating employment rates of programs preparing returnees for employment, is simpler than measuring the impacts on recidivism and community acceptance, particularly given the limited research timeframes, and tracking that often ends when a participant leaves the program. Once returnees are no longer receiving programmatic support and supervision, it becomes difficult to ascertain whether returnees re-engage in VE, ideologically and/or behaviorally, once they are no longer under ongoing support and supervision.

Anecdotal findings from these studies highlight the benefits of capacity building activities for individuals disengaging from VE, but there is limited evidence linking these efforts to reduced recidivism or successful reintegration. Determining the optimal timing, intensity, and frequency of these programs is essential, with one-time interventions deemed insufficient; however, commitment to participation, particularly in custodial settings, can be challenging. Assessing tangible outcomes, such as employment rates, is easier than gauging impacts on recidivism, especially once participants leave the program and support systems; however, they provide imperfect proxies for assessing programmatic impact.

Theory of Change 3.7: Community-Based Reintegration

Theory of Change: IF families and communities intended to receive former VE participants are provided programming that addresses their fears, reduces the stigmas associated with former VE participants, and prepares them to address re-entry challenges, THEN they will be more likely to accept and support reintegration.

Key assumptions: The existing literature on reintegration tends to assume that while there may be stigma attached to returnees, society is otherwise largely prepared for returnees in the sense of being oriented away generally from extremism. This may or may not be true and needs to be considered.

There is a small body of evidence evaluating the effectiveness of this ToC, encompassing 11 studies that present anecdotal, promising findings, and moderate evidence. Cumulatively, there is a developing evidence base employing a variety of interventions focused on improving reintegration efforts through addressing community and family members' fears and stigmas associated with returnees. The included studies explore various reintegration approaches, including:

- Counter-/Alternative Narratives
- Economic Support
- Increasing Community Understanding of and Empathy for Reintegration

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.

The most frequently used measures of success related to attitudinal change, community acceptance, and perceptions. The studies presented evidence on a variety of interventions focused on improving reintegration efforts through addressing community and family members' fears and stigmas using dialogue to create safe spaces, revitalizing traditional cultural spaces, and employing mass media campaigns, establishing a developing evidence base. Studies reported anecdotal evidence suggesting that working with communities to address stereotypes and stigmatization must occur before reintegration efforts to achieve positive outcomes.

Moderate evaluative work has been done in this ToC; however, additional research is necessary to explore and test the association between the long-term impact of programs focused on addressing community and family members' fears and stigmas and communities' receptivity toward and the sustainability of reintegration efforts.

Evidence-Informed Approaches

In Community-Based Reintegration, current research bolsters confidence in the following evidence-informed approach:

- Counter-/Alternative Narratives

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.

Counter-/Alternative Narratives

Studies on radio-based counter-/alternative narratives often partner with local radio stations to provide content addressing local grievances and needs, particularly focused on prevention. These approaches have been used to support reintegration efforts of returnees.

[A study \(Maronne et al. 2020\) in Nigeria](#) produced a radio show promoting multiple story lines aimed at both prevention and reintegration. One story line focused on refuting the stigmatization of returning kidnap and forced marriage victims. The narrative was aimed at changing listeners' perception that victims are bad people and must have done something to deserve their abduction by violent extremists. The study found no observed shift in listeners' perceptions, although the results were not statistically significant. The researchers hypothesized that this might stem from misunderstanding the questions or a prevailing belief that such victims were not stigmatized.

While there are promising and evidence-informed studies on the effectiveness of narrative campaigns using radio for prevention purposes, the findings from this study shows that the **use of radio as edutainment requires further research on mass media campaigns for reintegration efforts, compared to more localized methods for dispelling fears and stigmas.**

Promising Approaches

There were no promising approaches found within this ToC.

Anecdotal Approaches

In Community-Based Reintegration, current research highlights two anecdotal approaches that requires further testing to establish stronger evidence in:

- **Economic Support**
- **Increasing Community Understanding of and Empathy for Reintegration**

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

Economic Support

In addition to enhancing knowledge and addressing community fears, some studies further explored the addition of providing financial assistance to direct caregivers and families of returnees as a potential facilitator of community acceptance.

Studies observed that financial assistance alleviated household vulnerabilities by addressing basic human needs to maintain their survival during reintegration's early stages. Some studies also provided capital investments to businesses that offered on-the-job training to returnees. Business owners reported that this support bolstered their financial health, ensuring sustained involvement with returnees.

While these are anecdotal findings, given the emerging evidence on the impact of cash transfers, these findings warrant further research to understand their long-term impact on communities' receptivity towards and the sustainability of reintegration programs.

Increasing Community Understanding of and Empathy for Reintegration

Studies included in this ToC approach focused on fostering an enabling environment where communities have increased knowledge and understanding of the key issues related to reintegration, develop more supportive attitudes and empathy towards returnees, air potential grievances and fears, and provide time for attitudinal change amongst community members to impact community behaviors. Activities often included creating safe spaces through dialogue, from which other community assistance could be integrated, including ongoing support to returnees, their families, and the broader community.

The included studies stressed the importance of sequential programming that prioritizes working with the community first to transform stereotyping and stigmatization as a precursor to VE offender reintegration. The studies further emphasized the need for regular spaces for exchange and multi-stakeholder sharing to bridge the gap between returnees and locals, air grievances and concerns, and promote reconciliation and acceptance. Notably, due to their pivotal role within households, women can be instrumental in raising community awareness and support for reintegration.

Interventions also included intra- and inter-community dialogues and mobilization around cultural values, such as the revitalization of traditional and cultural spaces. Studies reported that these engagements fostered trust, reinforced cultural identity and connectedness, and alleviated community fears. Additionally, mass media campaigns across different print and digital mediums demonstrated valuable contributions in raising awareness and gaining community support.

Anecdotal findings from these studies emphasize the need to cultivate an understanding community environment prior to VE offender reintegration, advocating for programs that address stereotypes and stigmatization. The studies further suggest that creating safe spaces for dialogue can facilitate community support for returnees and their families, while promoting reconciliation and understanding. Leveraging women's roles within households, revitalizing traditional cultural spaces, and employing mass media campaigns have also shown promising, albeit anecdotal, findings to foster trust and community support for reintegration efforts.

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 3.1: Curriculum-based DD and Case Management

Type of Finding	Finding	Recommendation
Rigorous Evidence Findings	<p>Longer VE offender involvement in interventions increases the likelihood for demonstrating behaviors and attitudes of VE disengagement and participation in prosocial activities—such as distancing oneself from radicalized networks and peers, participation in work and education opportunities, and in some cases even repudiation of extremist views.</p>	<p>Adopt extended program durations for deeper engagement. Practitioners should look to implement DDDR programming across longer time periods, including several months or even years. By allowing for this extended timeframe, participants are granted the necessary space for personal reflection, education processing, and the integration of new perspectives necessary for effective disengagement and deradicalization efforts.</p>
	<p>The frequency of engagement may be associated with positive change, suggesting that the more contact between VE offenders and intervention staff/service providers with a smaller number of days between engagement may positively improve client progress.</p>	<p>Invest in continuous and frequent engagement. DDDR programs should prioritize ongoing, consistent interactions between VE offenders and intervention staff or service providers. Regular and sustained contact not only reinforces learning and consolidates existing knowledge but also allows for timely adjustments to meet evolving local needs. This approach maximizes the benefits of initial progress and enhances the overall effectiveness of the intervention, leading to more positive outcomes for clients.</p>
Promising Evidence Findings	<p>Religious mentoring was observed to be beneficial, as it made inmates feel that the staff genuinely cared about their well-being, thereby reducing feelings of neglect by the “system”</p>	<p>Reframe religious identity in DDDR programs. Prioritize approaches in DDDR programs that encourage participants to explore and reaffirm their religious identities in constructive and peaceful ways. Rather than distancing individuals from their deeply ingrained religious beliefs, these programs should guide them towards interpretations and practices of faith that promote nonviolence and positive self-identity. This approach can be instrumental in deterring the appeal of extremist ideologies and reinforcing personal resilience against radicalization.</p>

Theory of Change 3.2: Education, Counseling, and Training for Value Complexity

Type of Finding	Finding	Recommendation
Rigorous Evidence Findings	<p>Applying value complexity approaches—increasing an individual’s ability to think in more complex ways about issues—to former extremists can lead to greater appreciation for different perspectives and diverse worldviews; however, this process takes substantial time and may require more resources to implement effectively to address entrenched narratives.</p>	<p>Implement value complexity approaches with adequate resources. Recognize that effectively challenging entrenched narratives through these approaches is a resource-intensive and time-consuming process. Allocate sufficient time and resources to ensure these programs are thoroughly implemented, enabling a deep and lasting impact on the participants’ perception and appreciation of differing viewpoints. This strategic investment is crucial for the successful transformation of former extremists’ ideologies and attitudes.</p>
	<p>Recruiting a diverse group of participants may elicit more intense discussions and participant involvement to support the presentation of different perspectives and diverse worldviews as part of value complexity programming.</p>	<p>Prioritize diverse participant selection in DDDR programs. Emphasize the inclusion of a diverse set of participants, combining both VE offenders and individuals susceptible to radicalization. Studies reported that this mix enriches the program with varied perspectives and experiences. However, due to the intensive nature of DDDR initiatives, practitioners should also be mindful of capping participant numbers. This ensures that each participant receives tailored, frequent, and effective interventions.</p>
Promising Evidence Findings	<p>Rather than trying to detach individuals from their religious identity, which might be deeply ingrained and central to their sense of self, DD programs should help participants rediscover and strengthen their faith in a positive and nonviolent manner.</p>	<p>Leverage traditional and religious leaders in DDDR efforts. Recognize and harness the unique influence of traditional and religious leaders in the DDDR process. Studies reported that their direct religious mentoring can reduce feelings of neglect and stigmatization and their active participation can boost community involvement, strengthening trust and fostering beneficial relationships between VE offenders and the broader community.</p>
	<p>Gains from religious education may be challenged due to illiteracy and language capacities, both of which can be highly gendered. Female VE offenders, in particular, struggle with high rates of illiteracy, especially around reading Arabic, limiting their ability to engage with the Quran.</p>	<p>Explore and integrate solutions to address barriers to access. Conducting targeted research to identify key barriers to access across DDDR programming like illiteracy and language barriers, particularly for women and marginalized communities, is critical. Integrating these findings to prioritize and improve access within programs is essential for making them accessible and effective. This could include providing accessible religious education materials and instruction in native languages, and incorporating literacy training or other alternatives as key components of the curriculum. Such efforts are crucial to ensure that all participants, regardless of their literacy level, can fully engage with and benefit from DDDR programming, thereby enhancing the overall impact of such programs on marginalized populations.</p>

Theory of Change 3.3: Custodial/Prison Programs

Type of Finding	Finding	Recommendation
Rigorous Evidence Findings	Maintaining social connections with former violent extremist networks, including family and diaspora friends, can lead to higher levels of extremism by participants in custodial/prison programs compared to those without such ties.	<p>Enhance focus on social network transformation alongside physical disengagement and cognitive transformation. DDDR programs must prioritize both the physical disengagement and cognitive transformation of former VE offenders away from extremist views and towards pro-social behaviors and networks, including transformation of participants' social networks, particularly in custodial or prison settings. This involves actively facilitating the disengagement from former VE connections, potentially including family and diaspora networks, which have been shown to perpetuate extremist beliefs.</p> <p>Emphasizing both physical disengagement and cognitive transformation, these programs should aim to redirect individuals towards pro-social behaviors and networks. This strategy is crucial to reducing recidivism rates and effectively countering the reinforcement of personal grievances and radical ideologies. Additionally, integrating approaches that address and reshape online and offline social networks could contribute to breaking the cycle of radicalization and supporting sustained reintegration.</p>
Promising Evidence Findings	Mass media can be a powerful tool for combating extremist ideologies due to its vast reach, ability to present counter-narratives, and potential to influence societal norms and values.	<p>Explore how to leverage mass media as a DDDR tool. Explore how best to utilize mass media's wide reach and influence to disseminate counter-narratives and positive stories of successful disengagement and reintegration. This approach could provide hope and tangible examples to VE offenders, possibly encouraging them to change their affiliations and engage in defection and reintegration processes.</p>
Promising Evidence Findings	Parole, social workers, and other MHPSS providers can have a pivotal influence on VE offenders and can act as intermediaries post-incarceration to help individuals settle into their new environments and avoid former social networks.	<p>Create collaborative DDDR service integration for parolees and returnees. Policymakers and practitioners must take a synergistic approach in DDDR efforts, capitalizing on their respective strengths and comparative advantages. Recognizing that neither government nor practitioner services can fully address the broad spectrum of needs for parolees and returnees independently, a unified strategy is paramount. This involves tailoring services based on the strengths of each entity, fostering consistent communication, and offering joint initiatives, where appropriate. Such collaboration minimizes service redundancies, mitigates potential challenges, and maximizes community support, ensuring a more effective and holistic implementation for DDDR programming.</p>

Theory of Change 3.5: Family and Community-Based DDR

Type of Finding	Finding	Recommendation
Promising Evidence Findings	<p>Engagement between prison and probation officers and VE offenders can help curb the dissemination of extremist ideologies and offer alternatives to VE offenders' previous former extremist networks. More involvement, especially with probation post-custody, is deemed essential to sustain the gains from DDR and to facilitate the VE offenders' transition back into the community.</p>	<p>Strengthen engagement between officers and VE offenders pre- and post-custody. Enhance the consistent and structured interaction between prison and probation officers and VE offenders to effectively counter the spread of extremist ideologies. Increased engagement, particularly in post-custody probation, is crucial for sustaining the benefits achieved through DDDR programs. Such involvement is vital for supporting VE offenders in their transition back into society, offering them viable alternatives to their previous extremist networks.</p> <p>Develop Integrated Support Systems for Post-Custody Engagement. Prioritize the establishment of integrated systems that foster connections and enhance collaboration between VE offenders, prison officers, and probation officers. Such systems should emphasize post-custody support and facilitate effective communication and cooperation among all stakeholders involved in DDDR programs. By investing in these relationships and reinforcing the infrastructure that supports them, DDDR programs can more effectively curtail the spread of extremist ideologies and aid VE offenders in their transition to a positive societal role.</p>
	<p>Enhancing the skills of prison staff, probation officers, and counselors to engage with VE offenders and their families is vital to counter extremist ideologies and sustain these benefits.</p>	<p>Prioritize continuous skill development for DDDR program staff and supporting actors. Practitioners should emphasize the importance of continuous training for both DDDR staff and supporting actors involved in programming. Allocating dedicated resources to regularly enhance their skills and expertise is crucial. For DDDR staff, this ensures adeptness in their roles, fostering trust with VE offenders and optimizing program impact. For trusted actors, supplemental training augments their knowledge and capacity to align with deradicalization objectives, thus strengthening their rapport and effectiveness with participants.</p>
	<p>Care is needed when engaging with VE offenders' families, as some VE offenders have extremist affiliations within their family and close connections, where unrestricted communication with extremist-linked affiliates has demonstrated heightened extremist views.</p>	<p>Exercise caution in family engagement for DDDR. Unrestricted/unstructured family interactions could reinforce extremist views; thus, DDDR programs should employ a vetted approach to involving families, ensuring that interactions are monitored and contribute positively to the reintegration process. This careful engagement is vital to avoid inadvertently strengthening the very extremist influences these programs aim to mitigate. Balancing family involvement with robust assessments and controls can foster a supportive environment for rehabilitation while safeguarding against potential negative influences.</p>

Theory of Change 3.6: Capacity Building, Mentorship, and Financial Incentives

Type of Finding	Finding	Recommendation
Promising Evidence Findings	Incorporating cash transfers and capital inputs into DDDR programs can provide participants with an immediate safety net to address basic needs, reducing potential economic drives towards VE re-engagement.	Integrate financial support mechanisms in DDDR programs. Incorporate cash transfers and sustainable financial resource access into DDDR strategies to provide immediate safety nets and long-term economic stability for participants. This approach can effectively reduce economic motivations for VE re-engagement and prevent the reversion to extremist or illicit activities, fostering sustainable reintegration and resilience.
	Providing sustainable access to financial resources and incentives can act as a preventative measure against reverting to extremist or illicit activities.	

Theory of Change 3.7: Community-Based Reintegration

Type of Finding	Finding	Recommendation
Rigorous Evidence Findings	The use of radio as edutainment requires further research on mass media campaigns for reintegration efforts, compared to more localized methods for dispelling fears and stigmas	Prioritize evaluations of mass media campaigns for reintegration. While the use of radio as edutainment has been shown to be a promising approach to raise awareness as part of PVE efforts, the impact of mass media on addressing fears and stigmatization as part of reintegration programs requires further exploration.

Inferred Evidence Gaps

Strength and Quality of Evidence

Inferred Evidence Gap	Recommendations
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Despite many studies offering valuable theoretical perspectives, there is an evident need for methodological refinement to elevate research quality and rigor.</p>	<p>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.</p>

Maturity of the Field

Inferred Evidence Gap	Recommendations
<p>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>	<p>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>

P/CVE Monitoring and Evaluation

Inferred Evidence Gap	Recommendations
<p>Many studies still focus exclusively on process and accountability rather than generating rigorous evidence to determine what works and what does not.</p>	<p>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>
<p>P/CVE research often has an over-reliance on collecting data from easily accessible groups, like government elites, English speakers, or urban populations.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Given the unique characteristics of DDR programming and their very targeted and limited sample, many of the studies focus on very small sample sizes within difficult to reach intervention circles, leading to DDR programming being empirically understudied.</p>	<p>As necessary, identify and engage proxy populations for VE offenders in DDDR Research. Given the inherent challenges in directly accessing VE offender populations, researchers should prioritize identifying and collaborating with proxy groups that share overlapping characteristics or experiences. By actively engaging with these proxies, which could include former extremists, recent parolees, and other diverse identities, the research gains a deeper, nuanced understanding, even when direct engagement is challenging. This approach not only broadens the research perspective but also enhances the credibility and trustworthiness of it.</p>

Inclusion

Inferred Evidence Gap	Recommendations
<p>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, and this disconnect not only hampers the legitimacy of the interventions but also impedes the development of sustainable resilience against extremist narratives.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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, and LGBTQ populations, as well as explore the intersection of identities and communities.</p>
<p>VE offenders come from a variety of different backgrounds, including ethnic, cultural, gender, ideological, and ability, necessitating tailored DDDR approaches. They may also require unique accommodations and support strategies distinct from those typically provided to beneficiaries given their potential involvement in active combat, reflecting their specific needs and backgrounds.</p>	<p>Prioritize inclusive and comprehensive support structures. Practitioners should implement strategies that ensure comprehensive accommodations for a diverse range of participants, including those with disabilities. They should further establish robust referral mechanisms for essential services like psychosocial support and healthcare, and tailor approaches to resonate with varied identities—whether based on gender, age, religion, or ethnicity—ensuring that each individual garners maximum benefit from the programs.</p> <p>Tailor approaches to distinct radicalization dynamics. Given the unique pathways and effects of VE across varying demographics, especially across gender, age, and ideology, practitioners must understand and develop tailored approaches to address these unique needs. For younger individuals, consider the influence of parental perspectives, particularly from radicalized family members. While interventions may sometimes necessitate distancing from such environments, practitioners must navigate associated legal and cultural challenges to do so.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Prioritize a comprehensive gender strategy that boosts women 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>

P/CVE Measures and Outcomes

Inferred Evidence Gap

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, current metrics like target audience engagement, awareness-raising, and knowledge and skill gains offer insights into programming, but 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 innovates and tests measures that directly link program activities and establish the connection between them and desired outcomes.

Recommendations

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.

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
<p>An integrated approach for P/CVE is paramount due to the multifaceted nature of VE, which is driven by a myriad of 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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>While DRR approaches theoretically exhibit distinct outcomes and program logic, in practice, many studies show an overlap, applying combinations of these approaches without clear differentiation in outcomes. This blending of DRR strategies often lacks temporal clarity regarding the most impactful phases for interventions, whether in institutional settings, prior to reintegration, or across both contexts. Furthermore, these programs frequently span custodial rehabilitation settings, extending into activities managed by government entities, NGOs, and CSOs, challenging the demarcation between distinct DRR phases.</p>	<p>Research intervention interdependencies across the spectrum of DRR programming. Prioritize comprehensive research that delves into the interplay between various intervention activities across the entire DRR continuum. It is crucial to understand how combined efforts function within custodial settings, post-release environments, and subsequent reintegration phases. Such insights will not only elucidate the nuances of intervention synergy but also enhance the overall efficacy and strategic alignment of DRR initiatives.</p>

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 not only bridges the gap between different stakeholders but also 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 addressing of VE drivers effectively, fostering an environment of trust and enhancing overall programmatic outcomes.

DDRR INCLUDED STUDIES

Theory of Change 3.1

IF individuals with prior VE involvement are provided with tailored interventions that improve their socio-economic prospects, provide psychological support to process trauma and develop skills for managing mental and physical health, and receive opportunities to build healthier relationships, THEN they will disengage from VE involvement and/or resist future VE appeals.

Citation	Research Design	Location
Cherney, Adrian. "Evaluating Interventions to Disengage Extremist Offenders: A Study of the Proactive Integrated Support Model (PRISM)." <i>Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression</i> 12, no. 1 (2018): 17–36. https://doi.org/10.1080/19434472.2018.1495661 .	Qualitative	Australia
Cherney, Adrian. "Supporting Disengagement and Reintegration: Qualitative Outcomes from a Custody-Based Counter Radicalisation Intervention." <i>Journal of Deradicalization</i> , no. 17 (Winter 2018). https://journals.sfu.ca/jd/index.php/jd/article/view/174/129 .	Qualitative	Pakistan
Cherney, Adrian, and Emma Belton. "The Evaluation of Case-Managed Programs Targeting Individuals at Risk of Radicalisation." <i>Terrorism and Political Violence</i> 35, no. 4 (2021): 846–65. https://doi.org/10.1080/09546553.2021.1984236 .	Qualitative	Australia
Ejaz, Muhammad, Adil Khan, and Tauqeer Iqbal. "Civil Society, Gender and de-Radicalization Programs: A Case of Paiman Alumni Trust." <i>Pakistan Social Sciences Review</i> 6, no. 11 (2022). https://doi.org/10.35484/pssr.2022(6-ii)42 .	Qualitative	Australia
Schuurman, Bart, and Edwin Bakker. "Reintegrating Jihadist Extremists: Evaluating a Dutch Initiative, 2013–2014." <i>Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression</i> 8, no. 1 (2015): 66–85. https://doi.org/10.1080/19434472.2015.1100648 .	Qualitative	The Netherlands
Webber, David, Marina Chernikova, Arie W. Kruglanski, Michele J. Gelfand, Malkanthi Hettiarachchi, Rohan Gunaratna, Marc-Andre Lafreniere, and Jocelyn J. Belanger. "Deradicalizing Detained Terrorists." <i>Political Psychology</i> 39, no. 3 (2017): 539–56. https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.12428 .	Quantitative non-randomized	Sri Lanka

Theory of Change 3.2

IF individuals with prior VE involvement are provided with programming led by trusted, credible actors that supports a more complex, pluralist worldview and/or credibly challenges the validity of extremist beliefs and values, THEN they will reject further participation in or support for VE.

Citation	Research Design	Location
Anindya, Chaula Rininta. "The Deradicalisation Programme for Indonesian Deportees: A Vacuum in Coordination." <i>Journal for Deradicalization</i> , no. 18 (Spring 2019). https://journals.sfu.ca/jd/index.php/jd/article/view/195 .	Qualitative	Indonesia
Azam, Zubair, and Syeda Bareeha Fatima. "Mishal: A Case Study of a Deradicalization and Emancipation Program in SWAT Valley, Pakistan." <i>Journal for Deradicalization</i> , no. 11 (Summer 2017): 1–29. https://journals.sfu.ca/jd/index.php/jd/article/view/97 .	Qualitative	Pakistan

Citation	Research Design	Location
Cherney, Adrian. "Evaluating Interventions to Disengage Extremist Offenders: A Study of the Proactive Integrated Support Model (PRISM)." <i>Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression</i> 12, no. 1 (2018): 17–36. https://doi.org/10.1080/19434472.2018.1495661 .	Qualitative	Australia
Cherney, Adrian. "Supporting Disengagement and Reintegration: Qualitative Outcomes from a Custody-Based Counter Radicalisation Intervention." <i>Journal of Deradicalization</i> , no. 17 (Winter 2018). https://journals.sfu.ca/jd/index.php/jd/article/view/174/129 .	Qualitative	Australia
Ejaz, Muhammad, Adil Khan, and Tauqeer Iqbal. "Civil Society, Gender and de-Radicalization Programs: A Case of Paiman Alumni Trust." <i>Pakistan Social Sciences Review</i> 6, no. 11 (2022). https://doi.org/10.35484/pssr.2022(6-ii)42 .	Qualitative	Pakistan
Kahlmeyer, André. <i>Consultation Internationale Pour Évaluer l'impact et Les Progrès Du Programme Soutien à La Stratégie de La DGAPR</i> . Brussels: Conflict Management Consulting (CMC), 2019.	Qualitative	Morocco
Robertson, Lawrence, and Philippe Assale. <i>Final Evaluation of the Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in Africa: A Development Approach Project</i> . 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
Savage, Sara. "Preventing Violent Extremism in Kenya through Value Complexity: Assessment of Being Kenyan Being Muslim." <i>Journal of Strategic Security</i> 7, no. 3 (2014): 1–26. https://doi.org/10.5038/1944-0472.7.3.1 .	Mixed Methods	Kenya

Theory of Change 3.3

IF individuals with prior VE involvement transform their identity away from affiliation with extremist groups and develop an alternative identity, THEN they will reject further participation in or support for VE.

Citation	Research Design	Location
Anindya, Chaula Rininta. "The Deradicalisation Programme for Indonesian Deportees: A Vacuum in Coordination." <i>Journal for Deradicalization</i> , no. 18 (Spring 2019). https://journals.sfu.ca/jd/index.php/jd/article/view/195 .	Qualitative	Indonesia
Cherney, Adrian. "Evaluating Interventions to Disengage Extremist Offenders: A Study of the Proactive Integrated Support Model (PRISM)." <i>Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression</i> 12, no. 1 (2018): 17–36. https://doi.org/10.1080/19434472.2018.1495661 .	Qualitative	Australia
Cherney, Adrian. "Supporting Disengagement and Reintegration: Qualitative Outcomes from a Custody-Based Counter Radicalisation Intervention." <i>Journal of Deradicalization</i> , no. 17 (Winter 2018). https://journals.sfu.ca/jd/index.php/jd/article/view/174/129 .	Qualitative	Australia
Cherney, Adrian, and Emma Belton. "The Evaluation of Case-Managed Programs Targeting Individuals at Risk of Radicalisation." <i>Terrorism and Political Violence</i> 35, no. 4 (2021): 846–65. https://doi.org/10.1080/09546553.2021.1984236 .	Qualitative	Australia

Citation	Research Design	Location
Heide, Liesbeth van der, and Bart Schuurman. "Reintegrating Terrorists in the Netherlands: Evaluating the Dutch Approach ." <i>Journal for Deradicalization</i> , no. 17 (Winter 2018): 196–239. https://journals.sfu.ca/jd/index.php/jd/article/view/179 .	Qualitative	The Netherlands
Igodee, Abdoulaye. <i>Jandeniyo! Let's Talk About It: An Initiative to Support the Disengagement and Reintegration of Boko Haram/ISIS-WA Combatants and Affiliates in Niger</i> . Search for Common Ground, 2021. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Final-Evaluation_Jandeniyo-Lets-Talk-about-it_April-2021.pdf .	Mixed Methods	Niger
Webber, David, Marina Chernikova, Arie W. Kruglanski, Michele J. Gelfand, Malkanthi Hettiarachchi, Rohan Gunaratna, Marc-Andre Lafreniere, and Jocelyn J. Belanger. "Deradicalizing Detained Terrorists." <i>Political Psychology</i> 39, no. 3 (2017): 539–56. https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.12428 .	Quantitative non-randomized	Sri Lanka

Theory of Change 3.4

IF individuals with prior VE involvement are provided with psychosocial, mental health, and/or behavioral support to process trauma and develop skills for managing mental and physical health, THEN they will be more likely to disengage from VE involvement, be more prepared to rejoin the wider community, and/or resist future VE appeals.

Citation	Research Design	Location
Azam, Zubair, and Syeda Bareeha Fatima. "Mishal: A Case Study of a Deradicalization and Emancipation Program in SWAT Valley, Pakistan." <i>Journal for Deradicalization</i> , no. 11 (Summer 2017): 1–29. https://journals.sfu.ca/jd/index.php/jd/article/view/97 .	Qualitative	Pakistan
Bangura, Ibrahim. <i>Supporting the Socio-Economic Reintegration of Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups Including the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) in Northeast Nigeria</i> . Search for Common Ground, 2021. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Final-Evaluation-Report-June2021.pdf .	Multi-methods	Nigeria
Hassan, Idayat. "Reintegrating Ex-Combatants: An Assessment of Operation Safe Corridor." <i>Journal for Deradicalization</i> , no. 33 (Winter 2022): 150–80. https://journals.sfu.ca/jd/index.php/jd/article/view/673#:~:text=OPSC%20is%20a%20restricted%20custodial,in%20the%20war%20Dravaged%20zone .	Qualitative	Nigeria
Jailobaev, Temirlan, Kanykey Jailobaeva, Gulsaadat Baialieva, Gulnara Asilbekova, and Zeinep Eshmuratova. <i>Final Evaluation for the "Prevention of Violent Extremism in Central Asian Countries Through Strengthening Social Cohesion Among Labour Migrants, Returnees, and Their Families" Project</i> . Search for Common Ground, 2022. https://www.sfcg.org/tag/kyrgyzstan-evaluations/ .	Mixed Methods	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan
<i>Reducing Recidivism: A Process for Effective Disengagement of High-Risk Prisoners in Indonesia</i> . Search for Common Ground, 2013. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/INA_MT_Dec13_SCGF_NZL_MTR_Report_Revisi.pdf .	Qualitative	Indonesia
Retzlaff, Nina, Chinara Esengul, and Paul English. <i>Support to the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons and Probation Settings in the Kyrgyz Republic</i> . 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

Citation	Research Design	Location
Robertson, Lawrence, and Philippe Assale. <i>Final Evaluation of the Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in Africa: A Development Approach Project</i> . 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

Theory of Change 3.5

IF individuals who have disengaged from VE participate in programs to help them build healthier relationships with their families and community, AND these relationships encourage the rejection of violence and/or extremist worldviews, THEN they will be more prepared to rejoin the wider community and/or resist future VE appeals.

Citation	Research Design	Location
Azam, Zubair, and Syeda Bareeha Fatima. "Mishal: A Case Study of a Deradicalization and Emancipation Program in SWAT Valley, Pakistan." <i>Journal for Deradicalization</i> , no. 11 (Summer 2017): 1–29. https://journals.sfu.ca/jd/index.php/jd/article/view/97 .	Qualitative	Pakistan
Bangura, Ibrahim. <i>Supporting the Socio-Economic Reintegration of Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups Including the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) in Northeast Nigeria</i> . Search for Common Ground, 2021. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Final-Evaluation-Report-June2021.pdf .	Multi-methods	Nigeria
Cherney, Adrian. "Evaluating Interventions to Disengage Extremist Offenders: A Study of the Proactive Integrated Support Model (PRISM)." <i>Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression</i> 12, no. 1 (2018): 17–36. https://doi.org/10.1080/19434472.2018.1495661 .	Qualitative	Australia
Ejaz, Muhammad, Adil Khan, and Tauqeer Iqbal. "Civil Society, Gender and de-Radicalization Programs: A Case of Paiman Alumni Trust." <i>Pakistan Social Sciences Review</i> 6, no. 11 (2022). https://doi.org/10.35484/pssr.2022(6-ii)42 .	Qualitative	Pakistan
Heide, Liesbeth van der, and Bart Schuurman. "Reintegrating Terrorists in the Netherlands: Evaluating the Dutch Approach ." <i>Journal for Deradicalization</i> , no. 17 (Winter 2018): 196–239. https://journals.sfu.ca/jd/index.php/jd/article/view/179 .	Qualitative	The Netherlands
Retzlaff, Nina, Chinara Esengul, and Paul English. <i>Support to the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons and Probation Settings in the Kyrgyz Republic</i> . 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
Thapa, Rashmi. <i>Children's Voices: Children Associated With Armed Forces And Armed Groups</i> . Search for Common Ground, 2009. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/NEP_EV_Mar09_Final-Eval-Report-Childrens-Voice-Children-Associated-with-Armed-Forces.pdf .	Multi-methods	Nepal
Webber, David, Marina Chernikova, Arie W. Kruglanski, Michele J. Gelfand, Malkanthi Hettiarachchi, Rohan Gunaratna, Marc-Andre Lafreniere, and Jocelyn J. Belanger. "Deradicalizing Detained Terrorists." <i>Political Psychology</i> 39, no. 3 (2017): 539–56. https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.12428 .	Quantitative non-randomized	Sri Lanka

Theory of Change 3.6

IF individuals who have disengaged from VE are provided with supervision and ongoing support through training, skills, and/or material resources that improve their socio-economic prospects, THEN they will be more prepared to rejoin the wider community, more likely to be accepted, and more able to resist recidivism.

Citation	Research Design	Location
Anindya, Chaula Rininta. "The Deradicalisation Programme for Indonesian Deportees: A Vacuum in Coordination." <i>Journal for Deradicalization</i> , no. 18 (Spring 2019). https://journals.sfu.ca/jd/index.php/jd/article/view/195 .	Qualitative	Indonesia
Azam, Zubair, and Syeda Bareeha Fatima. "Mishal: A Case Study of a Deradicalization and Emancipation Program in SWAT Valley, Pakistan." <i>Journal for Deradicalization</i> , no. 11 (Summer 2017): 1–29. https://journals.sfu.ca/jd/index.php/jd/article/view/97 .	Qualitative	Pakistan
Bangura, Ibrahim. <i>Supporting the Socio-Economic Reintegration of Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups Including the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) in Northeast Nigeria</i> . Search for Common Ground, 2021. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Final-Evaluation-Report-June2021.pdf .	Multi-methods	Nigeria
Blattman, Christopher, and Jeannie Annan. "Can Employment Reduce Lawlessness and Rebellion? A Field Experiment with High-Risk Men in a Fragile State." <i>NBER Working Paper Series</i> , 2015. https://doi.org/10.3386/w21289 .	Mixed Methods	Liberia
<i>Final Evaluation – Kallo Lenio, Killa Founna: Ensemble Avançons Vers l'Avenir</i> . Search for Common Ground, 2020. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/SFCG_EEU012_RAPPORT_EVALUATION_FINALE_09112020_vf_11Nov20.pdf#new_tab .	Mixed Methods	Niger
Hassan, Idayat. "Reintegrating Ex-Combatants: An Assessment of Operation Safe Corridor." <i>Journal for Deradicalization</i> , no. 33 (Winter 2022): 150–80. https://journals.sfu.ca/jd/index.php/jd/article/view/673#:~:text=OPSC%20is%20a%20restricted%20custodial,in%20the%20war%20ravaged%20zone .	Qualitative	Nigeria
Heide, Liesbeth van der, and Bart Schuurman. "Reintegrating Terrorists in the Netherlands: Evaluating the Dutch Approach ." <i>Journal for Deradicalization</i> , no. 17 (Winter 2018): 196–239. https://journals.sfu.ca/jd/index.php/jd/article/view/179 .	Qualitative	The Netherlands
Hiariej, Eric, Ayu Diasti Rachmawati, Agustinus Moruk Taek, Mutiara Kurniasari, and Rizky Alif Alvian. <i>Reducing the Recruitment and Recidivism of Violent Extremists in Indonesia</i> . 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. <i>Final Evaluation for the "Prevention of Violent Extremism in Central Asian Countries Through Strengthening Social Cohesion Among Labour Migrants, Returnees, and Their Families" Project</i> . Search for Common Ground, 2022. https://www.sfcg.org/tag/kyrgyzstan-evaluations/ .	Mixed Methods	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan
Kahlmeyer, André. <i>Consultation Internationale Pour Évaluer l'impact et Les Progrès Du Programme Soutien à La Stratégie de La DGAPR</i> . Brussels: Conflict Management Consulting (CMC), 2019.	Qualitative	Morocco

Citation	Research Design	Location
<i>Reducing Recidivism: A Process for Effective Disengagement of High-Risk Prisoners in Indonesia</i> . Search for Common Ground, 2013. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/INA_MT_Dec13_SCGF_NZL_MTR_Report_Revisi.pdf .	Qualitative	Indonesia
Retzlaff, Nina, Chinara Esengul, and Paul English. <i>Support to the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons and Probation Settings in the Kyrgyz Republic</i> . 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. <i>Final Evaluation of the Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in Africa: A Development Approach Project</i> . 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
Saungweme, Maxwell, and Chantal Tayyar. <i>Reducing the Risk of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism in Lebanese Prisons</i> . Search for Common Ground, 2022. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Outcome-Harvesting-Evaluation-Report-2022.pdf .	Qualitative	Lebanon

Theory of Change 3.7

IF individuals who have disengaged from VE are provided with supervision and ongoing support through training, skills, and/or material resources that improve their socio-economic prospects, THEN they will be more prepared to rejoin the wider community, more likely to be accepted, and more able to resist recidivism.

Citation	Research Design	Location
Azam, Zubair, and Syeda Bareeha Fatima. "Mishal: A Case Study of a Deradicalization and Emancipation Program in SWAT Valley, Pakistan." <i>Journal for Deradicalization</i> no. 11 (Summer 2017): 1–29. https://journals.sfu.ca/jd/index.php/jd/article/view/97 .	Qualitative	Niger
Bangura, Ibrahim. <i>Supporting the Socio-Economic Reintegration of Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups Including the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) in Northeast Nigeria</i> . Search for Common Ground, 2021. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Final-Evaluation-Report-June2021.pdf .	Multi-methods	Nigeria
<i>Final Evaluation—Kallo Lenio, Klla Founna: Ensemble Avançons Vers l'Avenir</i> . Search for Common Ground, 2020. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/SFCG_EEU012_RAPPORT_EVALUATION_FINALE_09112020_vf_11Nov20.pdf#new_tab .	Mixed Methods	Niger
Hassan, Idayat. "Reintegrating Ex-Combatants: An Assessment of Operation Safe Corridor." <i>Journal for Deradicalization</i> , no. 33 (Winter 2022): 150–80. https://journals.sfu.ca/jd/index.php/jd/article/view/673#:~:text=OPSC%20is%20a%20restricted% .	Multi-methods	Indonesia
Igdoe, Abdoulaye. <i>Jandeniyo! Let's Talk About It: An Initiative to Support the Disengagement and Reintegration of Boko Haram/ISIS-WA Combatants and Affiliates in Niger</i> . Search for Common Ground, 2021. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Final-Evaluation_Jandeniyo-Lets-Talk-about-it_April-2021.pdf .	Mixed Methods	Niger

Citation	Research Design	Location
Lumbantoruan, Christina. <i>Building Resilience through Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration to Prevent Violent Extremism in Indonesia</i> . Search for Common Ground, 2022. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Final-Evaluation-Report_STD070.pdf .	Multi-methods	Indonesia
Marronne, James, Todd C. Helmus, Elizabeth Bodine-Baron, and Christopher Santucci. <i>Countering Violent Extremism in Nigeria: Using a Text-Message Survey to Assess Radio Programs</i> . RAND Corporation, 2020. https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR4257.html .	Quantitative randomized controlled trials	<u>Nigeria</u>
Saungweme, Maxwell, and Chantal Tayyar. <i>Reducing the Risk of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism in Lebanese Prisons</i> . Search for Common Ground, 2022. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Outcome-Harvesting-Evaluation-Report-2022.pdf .	Qualitative	Lebanon
Thapa, Rashmi. <i>Children's Voices: Children Associated With Armed Forces And Armed Groups</i> . Search for Common Ground, 2009. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/NEP_EV_Mar09_Final-Eval-Report-Childrens-Voice-Children-Associated-with-Armed-Forces.pdf .	Multi-methods	Nepal
Webber, David, Marina Chernikova, Arie W. Kruglanski, Michele J. Gelfand, Malkanthi Hettiarachchi, Rohan Gunaratna, Marc-Andre Lafreniere, and Jocelyn J. Belanger. "Deradicalizing Detained Terrorists." <i>Political Psychology</i> 39, no. 3 (2017): 539–56. https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.12428 .	Quantitative non-randomized	Sri Lanka



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