

Rehabilitation and reintegration of women and children returning from violent extremist contexts: A rapid review to inform program and policy development

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Abstract

This review used a systematic approach to examine the available literature on rehabilitation and reintegration (R&R) programs for women and children returning from contexts of violent extremism, examining common assumptions, inputs, activities and outcomes across diverse countries and regions. Fifty-one documents including peer reviewed articles and grey literature were included in the analysis. The most common program activities identified included mental health services, parenting training & education, community engagement and education for receiving communities, and capacity building for service providers, though there was a lack of consensus around core program components. The analysis points to the need for a robust set of inputs and resources to implement R&R programs including government officials, child welfare, mental health professionals, teachers, law enforcement, healthcare, community leaders and extended family. The review also uncovers a number of gaps. This includes the need to create clear and analytically distinct definitions of rehabilitation and reintegration that are applicable and relevant to key stakeholders, delineating age-appropriate activities and outcomes for young children, youth and adults, defining frameworks for service delivery and coordination of stakeholders, and placing R&R programs within existing domains of public safety and restorative justice.

Keywords: ISIS, Repatriation, Foreign Fighter, Terrorism, Intervention, Countering Violent Extremism, Ecological, Literature Review

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