

ASSESSING PERSON-CENTERED OUTCOMES IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN RETURNING FROM VIOLENT EXTREMIST CONFLICT

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Women and children returning from formerly ISIS-controlled territories have been exposed to trauma and adversity. They also face challenges upon returning to their countries of origin, including ruptured social networks, family conflict, community stigma, challenges of acculturation and resettlement stress, and identity conflicts with surrounding society. Unless these challenges are addressed, returning women and their children remain more vulnerable to retaining or reforming ties with violent extremist networks as a means of fulfilling some or all these needs.

WHY OUTCOMES?

Outcomes are the intended accomplishments of a program that includes short-term, intermediate, and long-term or distal outcomes.

Why do outcomes matter for repatriation, resettlement, reintegration, rehabilitation, & resilience (5Rs)?

Necessary for directly managing individual care and for developing best practices or evidence-based care.

Enable comparing the effectiveness of different intervention strategies.

Provide a common language for a community of practice for assessing individual change.

Provide an opportunity for individuals receiving care to assess their own progress and to take responsibility for their care and well-being.

METHODS

1. We conducted reviews of several different types of pertinent sources regarding women and children who have been involved in R&R or other relevant programs (e.g. terrorist deradicalization programs, juvenile justice programs). It also includes sources of children who have been exposed to adversities that have some key overlap with those in R&R programs (refugee children, war-impacted children, child criminal gang members, child victims of maltreatment, and child victims of sex trafficking).
2. We conducted multiple workshops and individual interviews with R&R stakeholders and experts and service users and practitioners.

Principles for Identifying and Measuring Outcomes

Evidence-based	Person-centered	Ecological	Collaborative
The identification of outcomes should be informed by existing scientific evidence, such as by formative qualitative research.	The outcomes should be selected and defined in a way that reflects the service users' personal characteristics, conditions, and preferences of the mothers and children themselves, with equal emphasis on areas of strengths and vulnerability.	The outcomes should reflect a holistic view of the person in the environment which recognizes that the health and wellbeing of women and children is a reflection of and dependent upon interactions with multiple levels and aspects of their environment.	The rating of outcomes should be done by the service user, but informed by an explicit discussion with their practitioners in a manner that helps both to make improvements in the outcomes that matter to the service user.

IMPLEMENTING THE SCALES



The scale should be completed by women or adolescent service users (age 14 and above) either on their own or in the presence of a practitioner who works with them.

In the later case, the service user and practitioner can discuss each item and reflect upon what each knows of the service user's relevant experiences. The service user should choose which rating to give each item. The service user should rate their status for each of the items over the past month.



When used as part of a R&R program, the scale can be utilized to assess the changes in the 5R's of service users over time, such as quarterly or once or twice a year. Then the ratings can be compared to track the person's progress.

5R ASSESSMENT SCALE FOR ADULTS

Adult version (ages 18 and over)

Below is a list of statements that describe how people feel about their lives. Please read each one carefully and circle the number that best describes the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement. Answer regarding your situation over the past month. Circle only one for each statement and do not skip any items. Then, please also indicate which of these 18 statements are the most important ones for you in terms of making changes that will improve your life. Put a check in each "most important" box that applies, as many as you want.

	Absolutely Disagree	Disagree	Not Sure	Agree	Absolutely Agree	Most Important
1. I have legal status as a citizen and all necessary papers.	1	2	3	4	5	
2. My basic needs are met, such as housing, food, finances, work, and school.	1	2	3	4	5	
3. I am able to access the services I need, including health, mental health, social services, and job training.	1	2	3	4	5	
4. Any health problems I have (illnesses, disabilities, injuries) don't interfere with living the life I want.	1	2	3	4	5	
5. Any emotional problems I have (depression, anxiety, fear) don't interfere with living the life I want.	1	2	3	4	5	
6. I believe in my future.	1	2	3	4	5	
7. I feel safe and accepted in the neighborhood and community where I live.	1	2	3	4	5	
8. I know how to manage the current demands and challenges in my life.	1	2	3	4	5	
9. My family accepts me as I am.	1	2	3	4	5	
10. I have friends I enjoy spending time with.	1	2	3	4	5	
11. I have people outside of my family I can count on for support.	1	2	3	4	5	
12. I like who I have become.	1	2	3	4	5	
13. I keep my children safe and well and help them to grow.	1	2	3	4	5	
14. I am satisfied with the work I do, either in or outside the home.	1	2	3	4	5	
15. I am managing my emotions in ways that do not lead to verbal or physical aggression towards others.	1	2	3	4	5	
16. I feel like I have a place in this country.	1	2	3	4	5	
17. I get along with people with different views, beliefs, and backgrounds.	1	2	3	4	5	
18. I can freely practice my religion.	1	2	3	4	5	

Note: There are also adolescent and children versions of this scale.

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For a complete description of the research, see: Heidi Ellis, Michael King, Emma Cardeli, Enryka Christopher, Seetha Davis, Sewit Yohannes, Mary Bunn, John McCoy, & Stevan Weine (2023). Supporting Women and Children Returning from Violent Extremist Contexts: Proposing a 5R Framework to Inform Program and Policy Development. *Terrorism and Political Violence*, [DOI: 10.1080/09546553.2023.2169142](https://doi.org/10.1080/09546553.2023.2169142)

The evidence base for developing the 5R model is outlined here: Mary Bunn, Enryka Christopher, Chloe Polutnik-Smith, John McCoy, Rosie Hanneke, Michael King, B. Heidi Ellis, Emma Cardeli & Stevan Weine (2023). Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Women and Children Returning from Violent Extremist Contexts: A Rapid Review to Inform Program and Policy Development. *Terrorism and Political Violence*, [DOI: 10.1080/09546553.2023.2169143](https://doi.org/10.1080/09546553.2023.2169143)