

REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION (R&R) OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN RETURNING FROM VIOLENT EXTREMIST CONTEXTS: A RAPID REVIEW TO INFORM PROGRAM AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

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BACKGROUND

One significant barrier to supporting returning women and children has been outstanding questions of how to effectively design programs in a manner that responds to their complex and nuanced needs and protects the safety and security of citizens at home.

METHODS

This rapid review used a systematic approach to examine the available literature on rehabilitation and reintegration programs for women and children returning from contexts of violent extremism.

Fifty-one documents were included in the analysis and examined for common assumptions, inputs, activities and outcomes across diverse countries and regions.

KEY FINDINGS

Most common R&R program activities

- Mental health services, parenting training and education, community engagement and education for receiving communities, and capacity building for service providers

Diverse inputs and resources needed to implement R&R programs

- Government officials, child welfare, mental health professionals, teachers, law enforcement, healthcare, community leaders, and extended family

Gaps in R&R programming & evidence-based services

- Clear definitions of rehabilitation and reintegration that are applicable and relevant to key stakeholders
- Age-appropriate activities and outcomes for young children, youth, and adults
- Defined frameworks for service delivery and coordination of stakeholders
- Placing R&R programs within existing domains of public safety and restorative justice
- Consensus around core program components

CONCLUSION

The findings indicate there is consensus around the need for a diverse range of inputs and services at the individual, family, school, community, and macro levels, and diverse outcomes to track progress against repatriation, reintegration, and rehabilitation goals.

This review also identified gaps in the literature and the need for improved conceptual development of R&R; tailored and developmentally appropriate services for young children, youth and adults; integration of justice and public safety in R&R programming; and studies that better account for practitioner knowledge and the lived experience of the women and children themselves.

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For a complete description of this rapid review, see: 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)

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