RISK FACTORS COMBINED TO CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY STRUCTURE FOR VIOLENT EXTREMISM

LEVELS	RISK FACTORS	OPPORTUNITIES
Global, State & Societal	• Secondary migration • Being an underserved U.S. refugee community	**Youth's Unaccountable Times & Unobserved Spaces**
Community	• Lack of support for youth • Unsafe neighborhoods • Social exclusion • Unmonitored spaces in community forums	
Family and Youth	• Family separation or loss • Weak parental support • Absolute trust in everyone who attends mosque • Mistrust of law enforcement • Overemphasis on government power • LACK OF AWARENESS OF VIOLENT RADICALIZATION AND RECRUITMENT • Lack of accurate info on violent radicalization and recruitment • Little parental involvement in education • Lack of opportunities • Lack of warning signs	
Global, State & Societal	• Viewing Somalia as a failed state • Violent extremism on the Internet • PERCEPTION OF A NEW THREAT TO SOMALIA • Objections to U.S. government foreign policy	**Perceived Social Legitimacy Of Violent Extremism**
Community	• COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR AL SHABAAB • Hearing bad news about Somalia • Social exclusion • Being a divided community • Remittance sending • Having a nomadic heritage • Interaction with migration brokers	
Family and Youth	• Little family talk about war • Identity issues among members of Generation 1.5 • Being passionate about Somalia • Being uninformed about Islam • Being uninformed about Somalia • Social identity challenges • Indirect and direct traumas	
Global, State & Societal	• Terrorist organization's recruitment • Violent extremism on the Internet	**Presence Of Recruiters Or Associates**
Community	• Sources of radical ideology	

CAPS = Transient risk

Table 1

RESILIENCE MEANS STRENGTHENING PROTECTIVE RESOURCES

SECTOR	AIMS	PROTECTIVE RESOURCES
Family and Youth	Diminish Youth's Unaccountable Times and Unobserved Spaces	• Awareness of risks and safeguards • Parental monitoring and supervision • Family confidants • Family social support • Family involvement in education • Access to services and helpers • Parental and youth help-seeking • Parental involvement in mosques & religious education
	Diminish the Perceived Social Legitimacy of Violent Extremism	• Focus on youth's future in the U.S. • Parental support for youth socialization • Rejecting tribalism and war • Parental talk with youth regarding threats • Youth civic engagement • Youth political dialogue
	Diminish Recruiters and Associates Presenting Opportunities	• Parents informing law enforcement • Parental messaging in community re youth protection
Community	Diminish Youth's Unaccountable Times and Unobserved Spaces	• Trusted accurate information sources • Increased activities in supervised community spaces • Mentoring of youth • Increased civilian liaisons to law enforcement • Interactions with community police • Social entrepreneurship • Interfaith dialogue • Social support networks
	Diminish the Perceived Social Legitimacy of Violent Extremism	• Islamic education & Imam network • Community support for youth socialization • Understanding of Islam as a peaceful religion • Youth civic engagement • Youth political dialogue • Youth opportunities for peace activism • Messaging to challenge legitimacy of violent extremism
	Diminish the Potential for Contacts with Recruiters and Associates	• Cooperation with law enforcement • Monitoring by community members • Messaging to warn off recruiters • Bloggers and websites against violent extremism • Critical voices in the community
Government (in part through supporting community-based NGOs)	Diminish Youth's Unaccountable Times and Unobserved Spaces	• Trusted accurate information sources • Community policing • Support for parenting and parent education • Support for after-school programs and mentoring • Support for youth and family social services
	Diminish the Perceived Social Legitimacy of Violent Extremism	• Empowering critical voices • Support for youth community services • Support for youth leadership training • Support for parenting and parent education
	Diminish Recruiters and Associates Presenting Opportunities	• Community policing • Training for community leaders and providers • Support for community messaging • Support for bloggers and websites

Table 2

Further Considerations

RISK AND PROTECTION

ACKNOWLEDGE community members' concerns that violent radicalization and terrorist recruitment will not disappear from U.S. Somali-American communities anytime soon, though over time it will change in form and intensity.

SHIFT from analyses overly focused on individual-level factors to multi-level analyses that include structural, social, political, economic, community, and family-level risk factors and protective resources.

UNDERSTAND why some communities are more at risk than others in terms of presenting more opportunities for transformative contact with recruiters and violent extremists in the everyday lives of diaspora youth.

RESILIENCE APPROACH

REALIZE that community resilience is not a single factor and cannot simply be dialed up.

ENSURE that resilience-focused programs and policies are well supported by theory, empirical evidence, and community collaboration.

APPRECIATE the risks and limitations of government, communities, and families when focusing on resilience.

INCLUDE family resilience as an important component of community resilience and acknowledge the family as a key locus of both risk factors and protective resources.

PREVENTION

ACCEPT that there is no magic bullet of prevention.

CONCEPTUALIZE that primary prevention in an immigrant and refugee community is more than only better cooperation with law enforcement.

TARGET prevention efforts towards the most vulnerable people and places.

UTILIZE a capacity building approach to enhance government, community, and family capacities to reduce opportunities for involvement in violent extremism.

PARTNERSHIPS

WORK towards countering violent extremism through collaborative partnerships between government and community groups, organizations and leaders.
REALIZE that building prevention through partnership is a long-term process.
UTILIZE a comprehensive approach to countering violent extremism with key contributions from law enforcement, immigration, public health, social services, education and media.
ADOPT balanced, fair and transparent approaches to partnerships not limited by the biases of particular gatekeepers.

FURTHER RESEARCH

IDENTIFY reliable short-term proximal indicators of violent radicalization and terrorist recruitment as well as community and family protective resources.
CONDUCT feasibility assessments of prospective interventions to demonstrate whether they are acceptable, appropriate, and practically achievable.
PERFORM efficacy studies of potentially effective interventions to demonstrate whether they lead to statistically significant differences in key outcomes.
ADAPT effective interventions that have worked under one set of circumstances, and investigate applying them to new or larger circumstances with community collaboration.

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