

Countering Violent Extremism in Prisons

Across the world, prison services are playing an increasingly pivotal role in preventing and countering the spread of violent extremism and terrorism. As the number of terrorism offenders increases, including returning foreign fighters, prison services increasingly operate on the frontlines of the counterterrorism and the preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) challenge. These institutions carry responsibility for managing the potential risks posed by violent extremist offenders (VEOs) and for preventing the radicalization and recruitment to violent extremism.

OUR WORK

The Global Center developed the Countering Violent Extremism in Prisons (CVE-P) Program, which encompasses a series of tailored training courses, technical assistance, and ongoing support to prison authorities, to improve the management of VEOs and effectively identify and address radicalization and recruitment to violent extremism in prisons.

Established in 2015 in cooperation with the Global Counterterrorism Forum's Detention and Reintegration Work Group, the program is founded on the latest, evolving best practices and expertise from correctional services around the world. Program areas of expertise include support on strategic planning in the management of VEOs, violent extremism risk identification and assessment, and risk reduction and rehabilitative interventions.

The Global Center draws on an international, multidisciplinary team of senior corrections officials, forensic psychologists, P/CVE practitioners, and academic experts.

Program Streams

The CVE-P Program contains four streams of technical assistance that work to support prison authorities in P/CVE efforts.

- **Resource and Guidance.** The CVE-P Program includes tailored resources and guidance for prison services to enhance approaches to P/CVE in custodial settings. They are based on the latest available data, national approaches, and international guidelines and good practices. Resources include a Compendium of Good Practices, a Prison Radicalization Awareness Guide for prison officers, and a CVE-P Good Practices Guide for senior leadership.
- **Training.** The CVE-P Program provides tailored training courses for new recruits as well as prison staff managing VEOs. The Global Center designs and delivers training curricula for frontline staff in close consultation with national prisons training academies and local country experts who serve as co-facilitators. Through training-of-trainer programs and mentoring, training expertise is institutionalized within national prison services and training academies.
- **Strategy.** The CVE-P Program provides technical assistance to senior prison managers and corrections leadership, such as wardens, governors, directors, and headquarters staff. It is designed to support senior officials in assessing areas of improvement and making strategic decisions on changes in regime policies and standard operating procedures to improve the management of VEOs.

- **Networks.** The CVE-P Program benefits from a global network of corrections experts spanning Europe, North America, Southeast Asia, and North, East, and West Africa. Trainees are able to benefit from peer-to-peer knowledge sharing, foreign study visits, and exchange programs to promote learning, and the development of new expertise.
- **Trinidad and Tobago.** The Global Center partners with the Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service to provide strategic guidance on the management of VEOs and the development of approaches to prevent radicalization and recruitment to violent extremism in prisons.

Country Programs

The CVE-P Program currently supports the national prison services of Indonesia, Kenya, Morocco, and Trinidad and Tobago.

- **Morocco.** The Global Center partners with the Moroccan General Delegation for Prison Administration and Rehabilitation to implement a national awareness raising training for all staff and new recruits, and provide advanced management courses for staff responsible for managing VEOs.
- **Indonesia.** The Global Center partners with the Indonesian Directorate General of Corrections to improve the management of VEOs in their maximum security facilities.
- **Kenya.** The Global Center collaborates with the Kenya Prisons Service and the National Counter Terrorism Centre to develop national awareness raising trainings for frontline prison staff.

Core Values

The CVE-P Program is developed and implemented specific to the prisons in which it operates and benefits from a high degree of ownership by partner countries in the design and implementation of activities. It seeks to contribute to sustainable and meaningful change in a niche area of capacity building and technical assistance. Staying focused on this niche helps target the program, improve its effectiveness, guard against coordination issues, and ensure that it is complimentary to other ongoing national and international efforts.

Funding

The CVE-P Program receives funding from the governments of Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, and the United Kingdom, as well as the Commonwealth Secretariat.

About the Global Center on Cooperative Security

The Global Center works with governments, international organizations, and civil society to develop and implement comprehensive and sustainable responses to complex international security challenges through collaborative policy research, context-sensitive programming, and capacity development. In collaboration with a global network of expert practitioners and partner organizations, the Global Center fosters stronger multilateral partnerships and convenes key stakeholders to support integrated and inclusive security policies across national, regional, and global levels.

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