



Countering Violent Extremism and Education

Sara Zeiger, Senior Research Analyst, Hedayah
INEE Roundtable
21 October 2015, Geneva



Outline:

- 1. Introduction to Hedayah**
- 2. Introduction to CVE**
- 3. CVE interventions**
- 4. CVE and Education Frameworks**



1. Introduction to Hedayah

Answering A Need

Hedayah was created as an independent international organization working with the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) and other international stakeholders



Countering Violent Extremism Working Group
(Co-Chaired by UAE and UK)



GCTF Structure



GCTF
GLOBAL COUNTERTERRORISM FORUM

Coordinating Committee



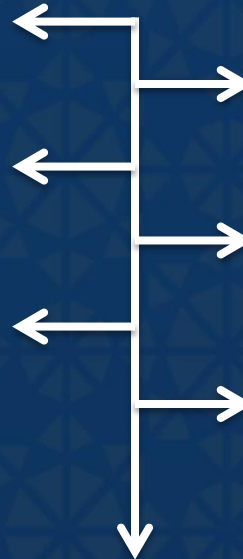
Regional Working Group – Capacity
Building in the Sahel



Working Group – Foreign Terrorist
Fighters



Regional Working Group – Capacity
Building in the Horn of Africa



Working Group: Criminal Justice,
Rule of Law



Working Group: Countering Violent
Extremism



Working Group: Detention and
Reintegration



Mission

- To serve as the premier international hub for CVE policy makers, experts and practitioners to enhance understanding and share best practices.
- To promote and support an effective evidence-based approach that lessens the threat through innovative dialogue and collaboration, research and analysis, training and capacity building.



Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

CVE is about reducing the terrorist threat through ***non-coercive*** approaches that directly address its root causes.

	Traditional Counterterrorism	Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deny opportunities for terrorist activity• Disrupt and arrest terrorist groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Challenge the structural conditions that lead to terrorism• Initiate activity to discourage engagement or re-engagement in violent extremism
Actors	Government and security agencies	Same actors but also multidisciplinary, including civilian participation
Perception		

Strategic Significance

- Hedayah is **international, independent, a-political, non-ideological**
- Hedayah serves as an a-political **platform to connect** policymakers to practitioners and experts
- Hedayah **targets audiences** that national governments may struggle to reach
- Hedayah allows national governments to "**burden share**"
- **Connect with civil society** as a non governmental organization
- Hedayah promotes an effective **evidence-based** approach



Thematic Priorities

CVE and Education



Victims and CVE



Community Engagement and Policing



Prison de-radicalization



Sports and Cultural Diplomacy



CVE Security and Development



CVE and National Strategies



Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF)



CVE through Communications





2. Introduction to CVE

- Definitions: The importance of common understanding and common vocabulary.
- CVE Methodology: Evolving, accepted best practices, transferable.
- Always reliant on local knowledge

Terrorism

- Criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act.

(United Nations Security Council Resolution 1566, 2004)

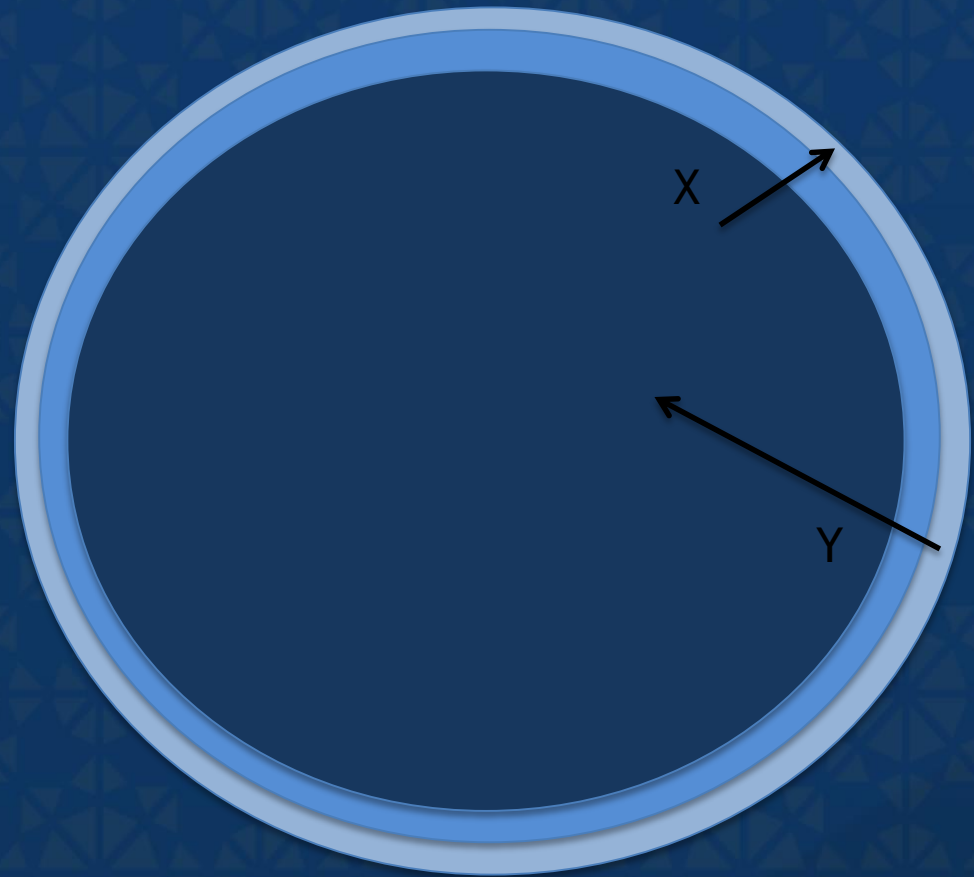
Two key characteristics:

- A self-defined rational political/ideological objective
- The belief that violence is a legitimate and inevitable means to achieve that objective

Violent Extremism

- The purpose of violent extremism is to provoke the target into a disproportionate response, radicalise moderates and build support for its objectives in the long term, (David Lake, 2002).
- Interchangeable definitions and objective use of language

Mapping Attitudes to Violent Extremism



X= Circumstances that motivate individuals to re-engage with terrorism

Y= Circumstances that motivate individuals to reject terrorism

Radicalization

- A **process** by which a person to an increasing extent accepts the use of undemocratic or violent means, including terrorism, in an attempt to reach a specific political/ideological objective
(Danish Government, 2009)

Counter-Radicalization

- Radicalization is a process that can be countered
- Counter-Radicalization: The process of interaction through which individuals come to reject the legitimacy of violence as a means to achieve a specific political or ideological objective

Evidence Base for CVE

- Local understanding directs CVE activity
- **Push Factors**
- **Pull Factors**





3. CVE interventions

CVE Activity on Three Levels

- Working with governments to encourage national and international approaches at the policy level
- Building the capacity of local actors to deliver new interventions that make individuals and communities less susceptible to violent extremism
- Engaging with state actors to promote activity and behavior that ameliorates the threat – **e.g. police, teachers, social workers, health officials**

Counter-Narrative Response

- Role of the radicalizing narrative
- Counter-narrative using same method and media
- Directly addressing the pull factors - myth-busting and exposing hypocrisy



Responding Through Targeted Interventions

- Designing programs and projects that directly address the push and pull factors (CVE-specific)
- Avoiding CVE branding
- Non-CVE Programmes that have CVE benefits (CVE-relevant)





4. CVE and Education Frameworks

Mechanisms for CVE and Education Interventions

- Formal educational institutions
- Broader community and family-based education
- Engaging youth through other activities such as sports, arts, culture, media, gaming etc.

Types of CVE and Education Interventions

- Education ABOUT CVE
 - Provides platform for discussion in community about CVE
 - Catalyzes community to identify local push and pull factors
 - Encourages community solutions to counter violent extremism
- Education FOR CVE
 - Developing coursework or curricula (e.g. social and emotional learning) that addresses push and pull factors
 - Implementing programming in an educational setting to address push and pull factors (e.g. vocational training in education)
 - Equipping teachers and educators with skills and knowledge to build community resilience to violent extremism

CVE and Education: GCTF Current Status

- **Work Plan of GCTF CVE Working Group - Abu Dhabi , Apr '12**

Specifically discussed the need to identify and develop best practices for government engagement with educational institutions to prevent and counter VE.

- **Plenary Meeting of GCTF CVE Working Group - London, Jun '13**

US Non-Paper re-emphasized the need for applying CVE strategies to education by focusing on specific areas, such as identity and values, vocational and technical training, life-skills, violence prevention and social work in schools, as well as communities and families.

- **Abu Dhabi Memorandum on GP for Education and CVE**

Confirmed at September 2014 Ministerial Meeting by GCTF members. Hedayah led the discussions and the development of this good practices document in collaboration with interested GCTF members.

- **Action Plan on CVE and Education (Forthcoming)**

Tracking and mapping of existing CVE and education initiatives as illustrative of examples of good practice.

CVE and Education at Hedayah

- Closed Expert Roundtable on the Role of Education in CVE, New York, Sep '13
- Senior Official Meeting on Education and CVE, New York, Sep '13
- Workshop on Roles of Families and Communities in Strengthening Community Resilience against VE, Abu Dhabi, Dec '13
- Practitioner-Focused Workshop on Education and CVE, Abu Dhabi, May '14
- CVE and Education Training Program- , Abu Dhabi, May '14
- Expert Meeting on the Role of Sports, Arts and Culture in CVE, Abu Dhabi, May '14
- CVE and Education Training, Abu Dhabi, March/April '15

Abu Dhabi Memorandum on Education and CVE

- GCTF Framework Document
- Intended to support GCTF members with guidelines for how to implement CVE and Education policy and programs
- Evidence-Based approach to development:
 - series of workshops and meetings
 - consultations with experts
 - research conducted by Hedayah
- Hedayah will work with the GCTF to implement among interested countries

Abu Dhabi Memorandum on Education and CVE

- General Good Practices
 - Emphasis on multi-sectoral, comprehensive approach including education sector
 - Noting that labeling programs as “CVE” may have adverse effects
 - Utilize an evidence-based approach
 - Conduct interventions at an early age
- Educational Approaches
 - Enhance problem-solving and critical thinking skills
 - Promote civic education, civic responsibility and human values in curricula
 - Offer vocational training and technical training
 - Relate CVE issues to existing social issues
 - Address role of trauma in building resilience to trauma
- Institutional Approaches
 - Utilize experiential learning techniques
 - Promote safe spaces for discussion of ideas in school setting
 - Provide incentives to parents for school enrollment/basic access

Abu Dhabi Memorandum on Education and CVE

- Institutional Approaches (Cont.)
 - Train teachers on managing biases and on identifying signs of radicalization
 - Integrate marginalized communities
 - Engage and incorporate private sector partners where relevant
 - Engage and incorporate media sector to reinforce values learned in school
 - Tap into technology to enhance learning of basic skills
- Family-Based and Community Approaches
 - Involve youth in the development of their own educational programming
 - Engage community leaders in educational programs to raise awareness of VE and techniques to counter it
 - Offer opportunities for families and parents to learn about VE
 - Interact with families to reinforce formal lessons at home
- Sports, Arts and Cultural Approaches
 - Incorporate and coordinate with sports, arts and cultural programs to reinforce and build secondary effects for formal educational programs for CVE

Private Sector Responses

- Burka Avenger- Pakistan
- 1001 Nights- Middle East and South Asia

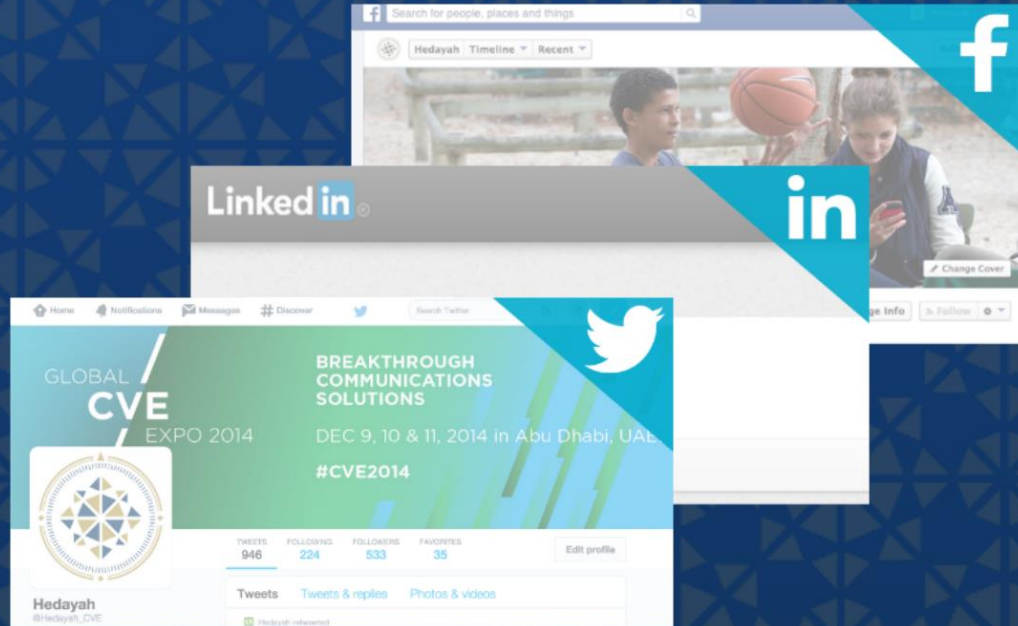


www.burkaavenger.com



www.bigbadboo.ca

Thank you



www.hedayah.ae
Twitter @Hedayah_CVE

Hedayah is now on Instagram!
Follow us @hedayah_cve