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IMPACT THROUGH INSIGHT | 1999-2019

EMERGING SECURITY SECTOR LEADERS SEMINAR



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Session 9: Violent Extremism

Dr. Brandon Kendhammer

Violent Extremism and CVE in Africa: Strategies and Approaches

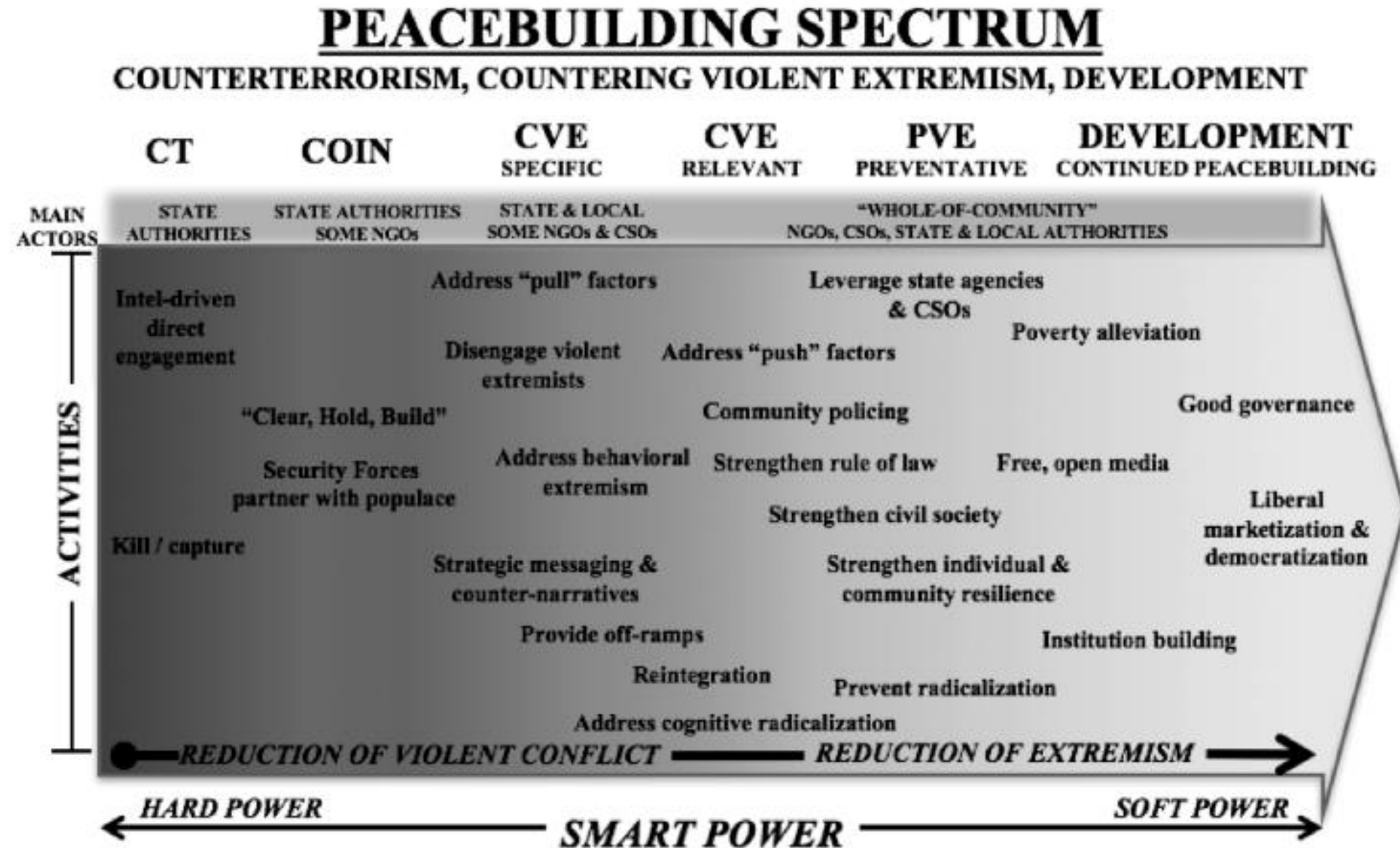


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Emerging Security Sector Leaders Seminar
Africa Center for Strategic Studies
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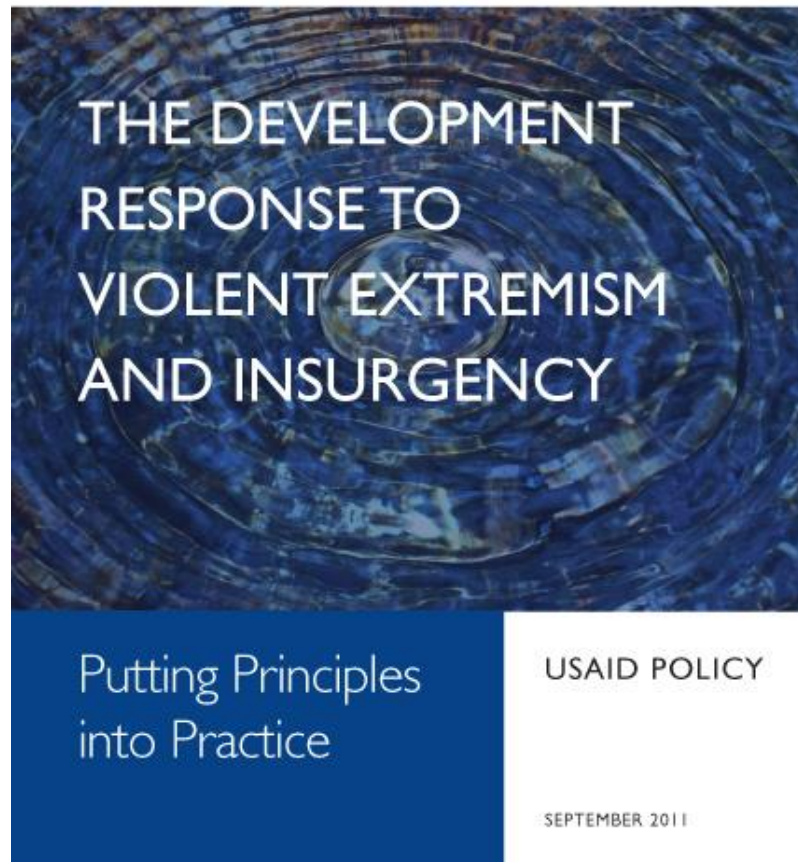
Background Issues and Definitions

- What is “Violent Extremism”? How (if at all) is it distinct from terrorism?
- What is CVE and what is its relationship with CT/COIN and CT strategy?



From Dyrenforth (2018)

What's Unique about CVE?



	Push Factors	Pull Factors
USAID Development Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social marginalisation / fragmentation • Poorly governed / ungoverned areas • Government repression / violations • Endemic corruption and elite impunity • Cultural threat perceptions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to material resources • Social status and respect from peers • Belonging • Adventure • Self-esteem / personal empowerment • Prospect of glory or fame • Social networks • Radical institutions / venues • Extremist involvement in economics
KTI Eastleigh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police harassment and corruption • Very high youth unemployment • Idleness • Marginalisation • Racial and cultural profiling • Lack of social amenities • Youth estrangements and frustrations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radicalised religious environment • Misinterpretation of religious teachings • Personal appeal of radical preachers • Concept of global Muslim community • Influence of cyber preachers / sheikhs
KTI Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty / unemployment • Marginalisation • Unattended historical injustices • Police harassment / cultural profiling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Misinterpretations' of jihad teachings • Radicalised religious environment • Appeal by charismatic preachers • Hero worship of extremist individuals • Lack of effective mosque structure

What's Unique about CVE?

- CVE's Implicit Theory of Change

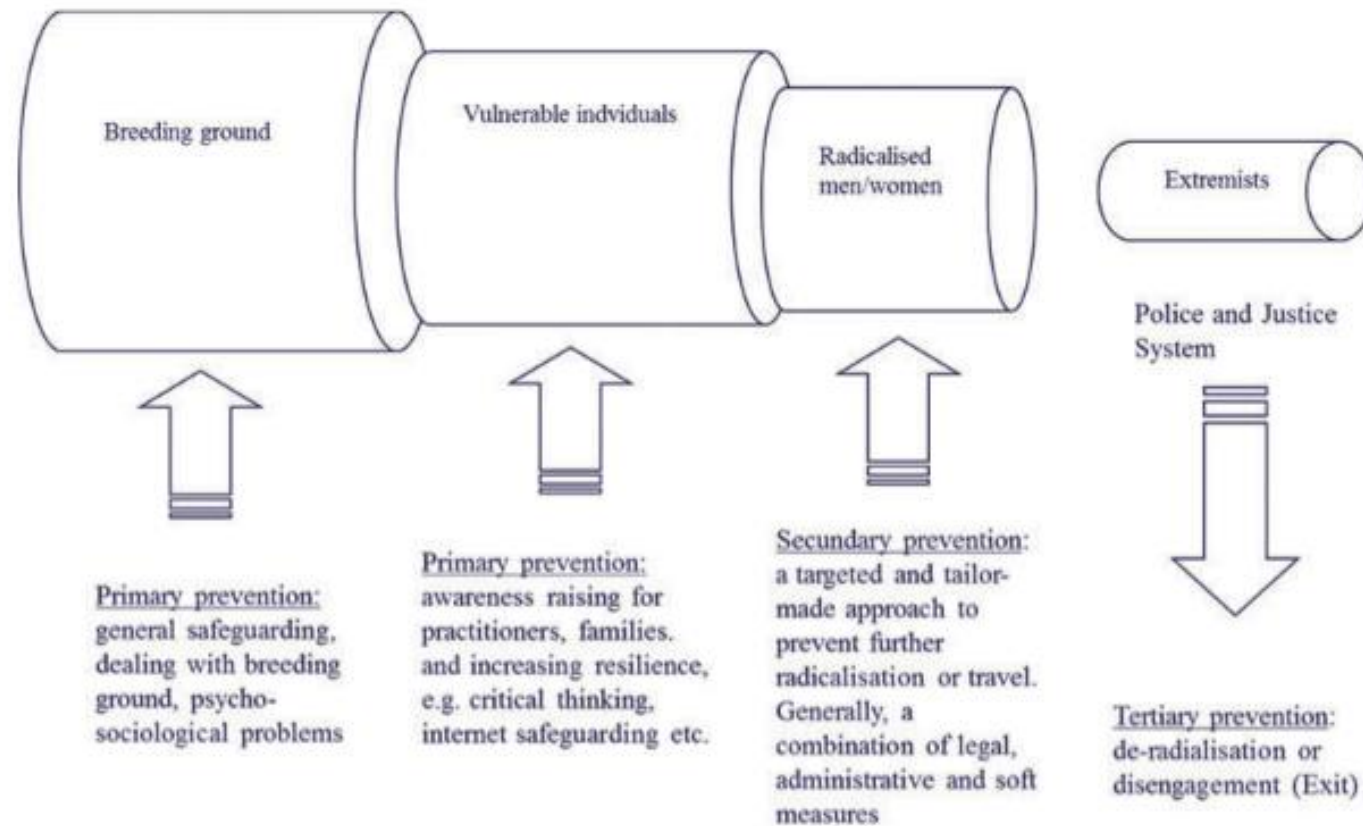
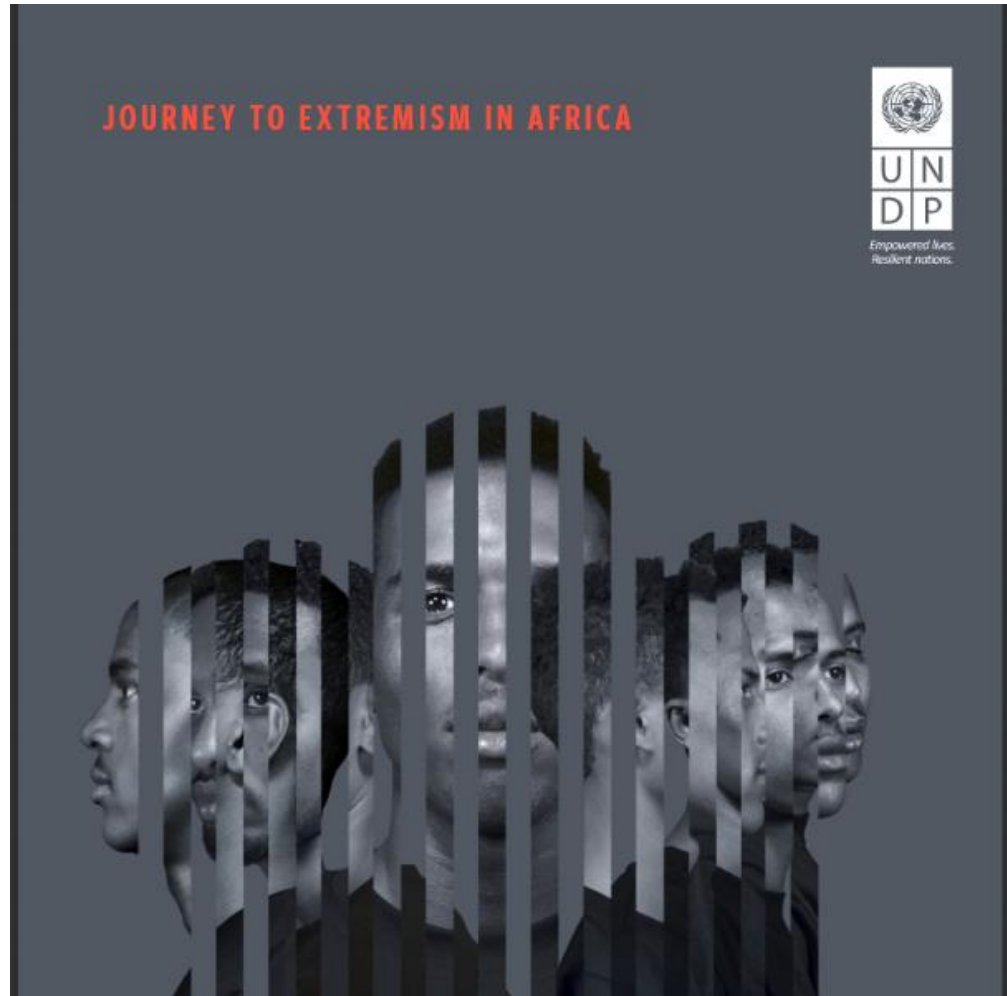


Figure 1. Overview of CVE Policy spectrum.

From Gielen (2017)

VE Drivers Through the CVE Lens—Empirical Findings and Questions Unanswered



- Marginalization (defined broadly) matters
- Lack of access to education and security as children is correlated with future VE participation
- Economics are a powerful driver of VE engagement decision-making
- Religion? Less ideology, more a sense of cultural/religious “threat”
- Distrust of government and grievances against the political system makes for vulnerable populations
- Experience of state violence is a common “tipping point” in VE engagement

How Do We Know If CVE is Working?

Evaluation and Assessment

Figure 1. The CVE Policy Cycle



- National CVE action plans are great. But how do we know if they're “working”?
 - What's *your* theory of change? Is it consistent with your expected outcomes?
 - Contact is not impact
 - Moving beyond “objectives”—what can we measure? And how?
 - Closing the loop
- Distrust of P/CVE programming and its sponsors is a deterrent to its success (UNDP 2017). Evaluating these programs rigorously can build trust, capacity, and efficacy.
- Different P/CVE efforts (deradicalization, desistance, resiliency) need different types of assessment and evaluation.

Best Practices and Beyond—What does “good” CVE look like in Africa?

- Deradicalization/rehabilitation programs for former combatants can/do work—with important caveats
 - Audience is everything—different communities need different programs
 - Gender matters, and existing programs targeting women fail at high rates
 - Do you care about changing hearts and minds? Or “just” behaviors?
- Evidence for virtually all other CVE programs is mixed and context specific
 - Counter-communication and education changes some attitudes and behaviors, but takes *a long* time (Mali/Uganda)
 - Resiliency/community engagement programs are *hard* to assess, and changes in attitudes, beliefs, and even actions may not end risk of violence (Kenya/Somalia)



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