

Countering Violent Extremism Globally

Codebook

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Introduction

In this codebook, you will find all of the information necessary to code countering violent extremism programming within a country. The primary source of information for this data is the US State Department Annual Country Reports on Terrorism. This source is used for all variables. The reports for this dataset can be found online starting in 2010.

Reports covering the years between 2010 and 2015 can be found at:

<https://2009-2017.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/index.htm>

Reports covering 2016-2019 can be found at:

<https://www.state.gov/country-reports-on-terrorism/>

Coding Unit:

“Country-year” serves as the basic unit of coding. The dataset covers the reports between 2010 and 2017 and includes eight main variables. For each variable, you will find the following formation.

- Variable Name
- Definition
- Coding Scheme
- Examples

Miscellaneous coding:

- (-66) Used when there were at least 2 consecutive previous years when a country was coded as previously having a CVE program, but that aspect was not mentioned in the current year’s report. The code is changed back to “0” after two consecutive years of a “-66” code.
- (-77) Not enough information to determine a code
- (-99) Country included in reports from previous years, but not included in present year

National CVE Strategy

Definition:

A national Countering Violent Extremism Strategy/Action Plan is either a separate strategy announced by the government or a sub-component of a larger national counterterrorism strategy. For any given year, the presence of a strategy was determined by: the reported strategy in the annual terrorism report OR an additional outside corroborating report OR if the present year was covered by a strategy released in a previous year OR if the leadership in a country stayed the same, but a prior strategy did not include dates. The contents of these strategies vary across countries and the announcement of a strategy does not necessarily mean that there are active CVE programs within the country.

Coding Scheme:

- (0) No reported CVE National Strategy
- (1) Reported CVE National Strategy

Examples from Country Reports:

Below are examples of scores from the US State Department Country Reports on Terrorism. There is one example at each score level.

Cameroon, 2017, (0)

“The Government of Cameroon does not have a national CVE action plan, but officials at all levels acknowledged radicalization to violence as a significant concern and said they integrate it into their work and planning.” (p.16)

Chad, 2017, (1)

“The Government of Chad adopted a national strategy and action plan to “Counter Violent Extremism and Radicalization” in December 2017.” (p.18)

CVE Programming

Definition:

Countering Violent Extremism programming refers to a set of non-punitive policies and programs that aim to prevent violent extremism by addressing its root causes within its own country. CVE programming can include: prevention, intervention, disengagement, deradicalization and rehabilitation programming. The US State Department reports indicate if a country has CVE programs.

Coding Scheme:

- (0) No reported CVE programs
- (1) Country has at least one CVE program

Examples from Country Reports:

Below are examples of scores from the US State Department Country Reports on Terrorism. There is one example at each score level.

Yemen, 2017, (0)

“Due to the conflict in Yemen, the ROYG had no CVE initiatives.” (p. 165)

Bangladesh, 2017, (1)

“Bangladesh organizations continued cooperative activities through the Country Support Mechanism under the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), a public-private global fund to support local, grassroots CVE efforts in at-risk communities.” (p. 172)

Deradicalization, Disengagement and Rehabilitation Programming

Definition:

Deradicalization, disengagement, and rehabilitation (DDR) programming consists of programs that target individuals who are already engaged in violent extremism by providing these individuals with assistance in leaving violent extremism behind and/or reintegrating back into society. The US State Department reports indicate if a country has a DDR or amnesty program. It is possible that a country has only one type of DDR program such as a deradicalization program, but not a rehabilitation program.

Coding Scheme:

- (0) No reported DDR program
- (1) Reported DDR program

Example from Country Reports:

Below is an example score from the US State Department Country Reports on Terrorism.

Singapore, 2017, (1):

“Through entities such as the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) and the Religious Rehabilitation Group (RRG), Singapore serves as a regional CVE hub.... The RRG, a volunteer organization, has had success in counseling detainees held under the Internal Security Act. The comprehensive program includes religious and psychological counseling and involves the detainee’s family and community. ” (p. 64)

Prevention Programming

Definition:

Prevention programming attempts to prevent violent extremism from surfacing by addressing any root causes or perceived root causes of violent extremism. These programs can include: economic and social development, integration, education, interfaith dialogue, outreach efforts, community policing, capacity building including training or research. Prevention programs do not include efforts to target religious ideology by restricting or monitoring speech. The US State Department notes any prevention efforts within a country.

Coding Scheme:

- (0) No reported prevention programs
- (1) Reported prevention programming

Example from Country Reports:

Below is an example score from the US State Department Country Reports on Terrorism.

Sri Lanka, 2017, (1):

“At the provincial level, Sri Lanka is implementing educational outreach programs to address issues of religious tolerance and non-violent conflict resolution. These programs focus on post-conflict areas of Jaffna, Mannar, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, and Vavuniya where the local populations are considered vulnerable to re-radicalization.” (p. 188)

Counter-narrative Programming

Definition:

Counter-narratives refer to efforts that attempt to tackle violent extremism by promoting a viewpoint or perspective. Narratives can include the monitoring of religion to promote one narrative, monitoring of sermons, or efforts to promote moderation. More traditional counter-narrative programs can include information campaigns or public radio programs that are not religiously-charged. US State Department reports include information on government or non-government counter-narrative campaigns.

Coding Scheme:

- (0) No reported counter-narrative efforts
- (1) Reported counter-narrative efforts

Example from Country Reports:

Below is an example score from the US State Department Country Reports on Terrorism.

Tunisia, 2017, (1)

“The government also attempted to prevent the radicalization of Tunisians by minimizing their exposure to inflammatory rhetoric in mosques by replacing imams deemed extremist, although local populations in several cases resisted the changes.” (p. 160)

Intervention Programing

Definition:

Intervention programming refers to programs that attempt to provide a “off-ramp” for individuals on the path towards radicalization. These programs are developed for individuals who have not yet committed a crime. For instance, some intervention programs may seek to help individuals who are thinking about becoming foreign fighters.

Coding Scheme:

- (0) No reported intervention programs
- (1) Reported intervention program

Example from Country Reports:

Below is an example score from the US State Department Country Reports on Terrorism.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2017, (1)

“Working in close partnership with the International Organization for Migration and other well-known international organizations, BiH... piloted comprehensive community-led intervention procedures at the local and municipal level.” (p. 78)

Role of Religion

Definition:

A country is first coded for the role of religion if that country has CVE programs. A country is then coded as having programming that have a religious component if any of the following is true: (1) the main actors involved in a program come from the religious community or (2) the reported CVE programs focus on religion through the content of the program or target population of the program.

Coding Scheme:

- (0) Reported CVE programs do not have a religious component
- (1) Some of the reported CVE programs have a religious component
- (2) All of the reported CVE programs have a religious component

Examples from Country Reports:

Below are example scores from the US State Department Country Reports on Terrorism.

Algeria, 2017 (1):

“Algeria emphasized a whole-of-government CVE approach, including rehabilitation and reintegration programs for repentant terrorists. Stressing the importance of an inclusive society, the foreign ministry published a booklet on *The Role of Democracy in the Fight Against Violent Extremism and Terrorism*. Regulation of mosques to ensure they are “de-politicized” and “de-ideologized” is a key aspect of the Algerian approach. The foreign minister recently lauded the “crucial role” of women in CVE efforts, highlighting the *mourchidates*, female clerics who work with young girls, mothers, and prisoners.

The Algerian government monitors mosques for possible security-related offenses and prohibits the use of mosques as public meeting places outside of regular prayer hours. Government officials publicly affirmed Algeria’s Sunni Maliki tradition of Islam, which the Algerian government believes provides a moderate religious vision or the country. There have been complaints that the government imposes restrictions on other variants of Islam.” (p.124)

*Although many of Algeria's programs had a religious component, Algeria also incorporated reintegration and rehabilitation programming and focused on the role of democracy is the fight against violent extremism.

Afghanistan, 2017 (2):

“Five thousand out of 160,000 mosques are registered with the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Education. Many mosques and associated religious schools (madrassas) are unregistered and operate independently of the government. The government estimated 370,000 students attend independent madrassas.” (p. 170)

Civil Society Participation

Definition:

Civil society participation refers to any instance where non-government actors are involved in CVE initiatives within a country. It is possible for a country to have non-government CVE activity, but not government activity.

Coding Scheme:

- (0) No reported non-government activity
- (1) Reported non-government activity

Example from Country Reports:

Below is an example score from the US State Department Country Reports on Terrorism.

Bahrain, 2017, (1):

“...numerous officials from the government, legislature, and non-governmental organizations have developed programming targeting youth and other vulnerable populations.” (p. 127)

Government Participation

Definition:

Government participation refers to any instance when the government is involved with CVE initiatives in a country. Government participation can refer to government actors developing a CVE strategy OR government actors implementing a CVE strategy OR government actors implementing a program.

Coding Scheme:

- (0) No reported government activity
- (1) Reported government activity

Example from Country Reports:

Below is an example score from the US State Department Country Reports on Terrorism.

Spain, 2014, (1):

“Spain is working toward final approval of a new national strategy for countering radicalization to violence that will establish a national group managed by the National Counterterrorism Coordination Center that liaises with local, multi-sectorial CVE groups.” (p. 144)

Relevant versus Specific CVE Programing

Definition:

A country receives a code for this category if there are CVE programs within the country. A CVE Specific program refers to a program that meet the following requirements: (1) the program has a primary objective to prevent or counter violent extremism and (2) the program directly addresses a perceived root-cause of violent extremism or threat. A CVE relevant program refers to a program that meets both of the following requirements: (1) preventing or countering violent extremism is not the primary objective of a program; (2) the program indirectly helps prevent or counter violent extremism.

Coding Scheme:

- (1) A country has at least one CVE-relevant program
- (2) A country has at least one CVE-specific program
- (3) A country has both CVE-relevant and CVE-specific programs

Examples from Country Reports:

Below are example scores from the US State Department Country Reports on Terrorism.

Afghanistan, 2017, (1):

“Five thousand out of 160,000 mosques are registered with the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Education. Many mosques and associated religious schools (madrassas) are unregistered and operate independently of the government. The government estimated 370,000 students attend independent madrassas.” (p. 170)

*This qualifies as a CVE-relevant program because the program’s main objective is not to counter violent extremism, rather it is to monitor religion.

Colombia, 2017, (2):

“Colombia continued to employ a modern, multi-agency approach to CVE, with a focus on encouraging individual guerrillas to demobilize.: (p.204)

*The primary objective of Colombia’s reincorporation program is to demobilize individuals from violent extremism.

Concern About CVE Efforts

Definition:

This variable provides an indicator for whether CVE programs reportedly threaten religious freedom.

Coding Scheme:

- (0) Reported CVE Programs do not threaten religious freedom
- (1) Reported CVE Programs do threaten religious freedom

Example from Country Reports:

Below is an example score from the US State Department Country Reports on Terrorism.

China, 2017, (1):

“The government implemented a number of other programs aimed at “stability maintenance,” many of which promote cultural assimilation in the XUAR and place restrictions on the practice of Islam. For further information, please see the Department of State’s *Report on International Religious Freedom for 2017*.” (p. 53)