



REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF FORMER COMBATANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO PREVENT VIOLENT EXTREMISM

WHAT IS REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION ?

Thousands of people have left their places of origin to join violent extremist and terrorist organisations. When they (and their families) disengage from these groups and/or leave conflict zones to return home, governments and other stakeholders work together to ensure their rehabilitation and reintegration (R&R).

This process typically involves a combination of psychological, social, educational, civic and economic support, with the overarching goal of preventing individuals from returning to terrorism or engaging in violence. Failing to invest in Rehabilitation and Reintegration of former combatants and their families perpetuates a cycle of radicalisation, by increasing their sense of grievance, isolation and lack of other opportunities.

Conversely, providing R&R support to former combatants and their family members creates a sense of hope, forgiveness and inclusion, which can positively influence other members of the community who might otherwise feel disenfranchised by the government and civil society.

WHY IS REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF RETURNEES IMPORTANT ?

Supporting R&R of returnees is critical to:



Reducing recidivism, new radicalisation and recruitment



Promoting inclusion, tolerance and social cohesion, which are essential for fostering community resilience against violent extremism



Reducing stigma towards returnees, building trust within communities and fostering a sense of security



Addressing the drivers of radicalisation such as ideological influences, socio-economic disparities and political grievances

WHO IS REACHED THROUGH REHABILITATION & REINTEGRATION PROGRAMMES ?



Returnees: people formerly associated with terrorism and violent extremism, including those returning from conflict zones and individuals disengaging from terrorist and violent extremist groups, and their families



Communities and the community members to which they are returning



Frontline workers working with returning combatants, family members and victims

WHAT IS GCERF'S APPROACH TO REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION ?

Two types of R&R support are applied. A hybrid approach is used in many contexts.



CASE-MANAGEMENT INTERVENTIONS

The case-management approach to R&R connects returnees to the psychiatric, psychological, social, economic, administrative, legal, educational, and/or clinical services and support they need to recover from trauma. For child returnees, the emphasis is on providing education and language skills to familiarise them with the local culture and facilitate a smoother integration process.



COMMUNITY-BASED INTEGRATION

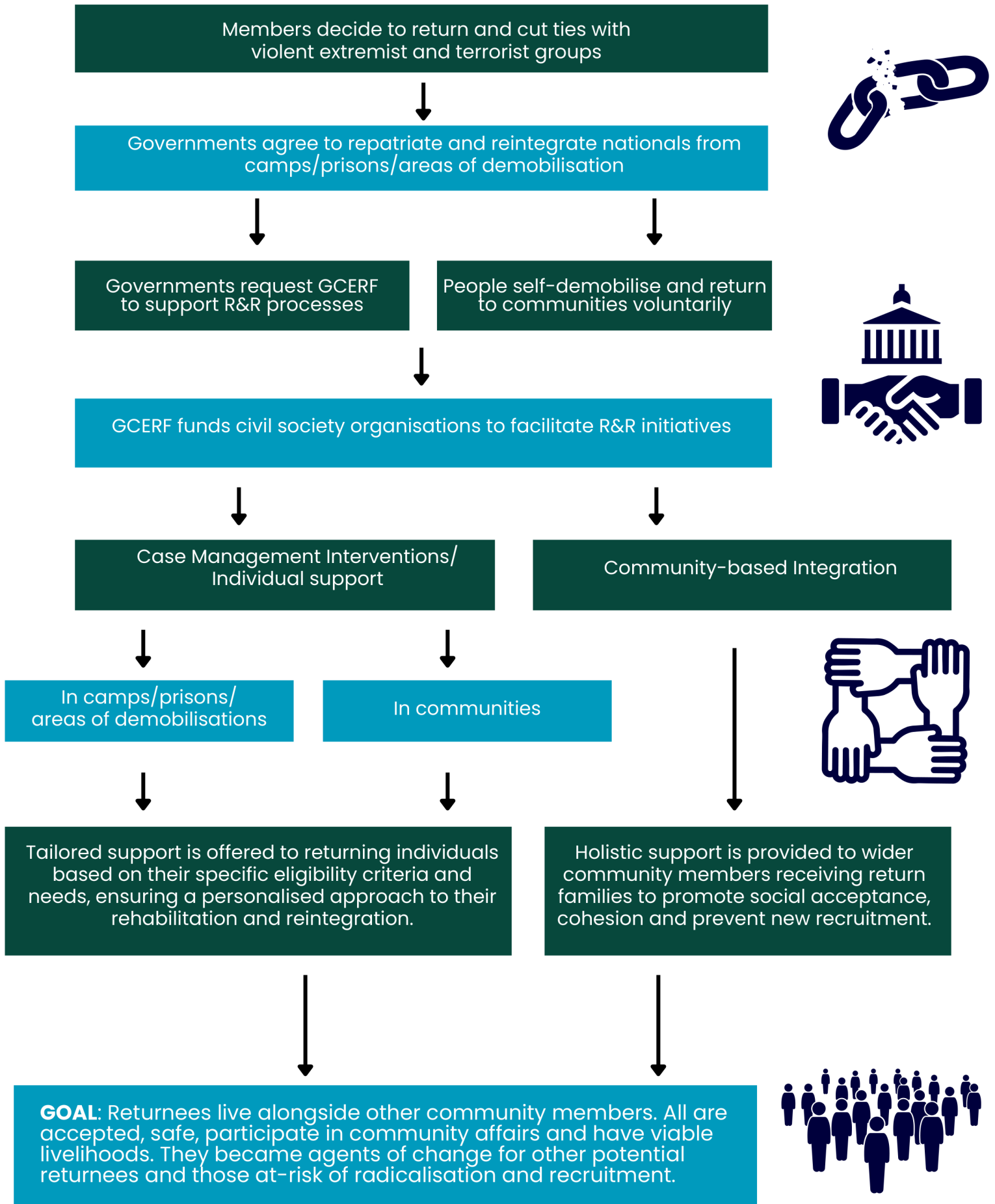
Community-based integration places control in the hands of communities as they absorb and integrate people. Communities lead this process and should also expect to benefit from it, harnessing opportunities alongside returnees. Because community acceptance is key, benefitting from social, economic, civic and/or cultural services by both returning families and wider community members are key to fostering lasting peace.

Through grants to local partners, GCERF:

- Assigns case managers to link returnees with frontline professionals providing services and support to return home and integrate.
- Provides capacity reinforcement to local authorities, and CSOs involved in integrating returnees and providing services.
- Strengthens capacity of frontline workers (psychologists, educators, public health professionals) to support case-management process for individuals, by providing these professionals with specialised training in trauma- and violence-informed care.
- Based on assessed needs, provides vocational training and entrepreneurship support to both vulnerable community members and returnees to support economic integration
- Offers extracurriculaire opportunities and enhanced educational and language learning support to returnee and vulnerable children
- Provides legal and administrative support to families for reintegration into education and other public services.
- Supports community and cultural events, meetings and reconciliation steps to build social acceptance and cohesion



HOW DOES REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF RETURNEES WORK ?



WHAT PRINCIPLES ARE KEY TO INVESTING IN REHABILITATION & REINTEGRATION ?

The following principles guide GCERF's programming in R&R:

- **Complementarity and National Ownership:** GCERF's investment in R&R is conducted in cooperation with the national and local authorities, aligning with government-led strategies. GCERF's efforts complement those of local governments, other international organisations, civil society and aid agencies.
- **Sustainability:** GCERF focuses on interventions that strengthen capacity of local institutions and organisations.
- **Conflict-sensitive approaches:** GCERF adheres to the principle of 'do no harm', as well as human-rights-based and whole-of-society approaches.
- **Inclusivity:** GCERF interventions call upon funded programmes to consider the needs of all demographics: women and girls as well as men and boys, in a gender and age-sensitive manner.
- **Accountability:** GCERF ensures excellence in measurable and trackable indicators associated with harmonised outcomes and outputs
- **Dissemination:** GCERF shares good practices and learnings to strengthen efforts in the R&R space.

WHERE DOES GCERF INVEST IN REHABILITATION & REINTEGRATION TO DATE ?

