

EVALUATION BRIEF

MID-TERM INDEPENDENT IN-DEPTH EVALUATION

STRIVE Juvenile: Preventing and Responding to Violence Against Children by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups (part of GLOZ43)

Region: Global (with a focus on three partner countries: Indonesia, Iraq and Nigeria)
Duration: 1 Jan. 2021-31 Dec. 2025
Donors: European Union (EU)
Evaluation team: Ms. Nihad ElGhamry (Lead Evaluator) and Ms. Marine Braun (Substantive Child Rights Expert)
Full report:
https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/evaluation/reports_year_2023.html

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

“STRIVE Juvenile: Preventing and Responding to Violence against Children by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups” is a five-year global project (2021-2025) that is EU-funded (10.5 M €) and implemented by the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Section at UNODC Headquarters with country specific activities focusing on Indonesia, Iraq, and Nigeria. The project’s objective is to prevent and counter violent extremism affecting children, in full respect of human rights, gender equality and international law.

The project - as part of UNODC's Global Programme to End Violence against Children (GLOZ43) - is structured along four pillars: research, legal and policy advice, capacity building, and the participation of children and their environments.

MAIN FINDINGS

Relevance: STRIVE Juvenile aligns with UNODC, EU, and national strategic frameworks for preventing and countering terrorism and child protection. The project is appreciated for its evidence-based approach and adaptability, it effectively addresses specific needs in partner countries. **Efficiency:** STRIVE Juvenile demonstrated an efficient structure and staffing, aiding in effective implementation and strong national engagement. Although it successfully delivered outputs within budget and time constraints, the project faced challenges in administrative agility and lacked both a multi-stakeholder global governance mechanism and a results-based financial reporting system, as well as qualitative monitoring tools. **Coherence:** STRIVE Juvenile effectively partners at national and sub-national levels, drawing positive feedback for inclusivity. Synergies within UNODC and collaborations with various entities expand its reach and address capacity gaps. **Effectiveness:** STRIVE Juvenile championed a child rights-based approach in preventing and countering terrorism. It influenced legal reform discussions in Indonesia and Nigeria, supporting reductions in punitive treatment and increased focus on rehabilitation for children associated with terrorist groups. It contributed to institutional capacity building across partner countries, though further refinement in training and technical assistance is needed. **Impact:** STRIVE Juvenile demonstrates notable progress in areas with potential for long-lasting impact, such as producing knowledge assets, raising awareness of child protection in preventing and countering terrorism, fostering cross-sector coordination, and improving conditions of detention. However, the lasting impact of its capacity-



STRIVE Juvenile Youth Peace Champion promotes reconciliation in Borno state.

building efforts depends on effectively institutionalizing the training within government bodies for broad professional development. **Sustainability:** The project realizes varied sustainable benefits, but broader dissemination and integration of its research and tools within UNODC are needed. Training-of-trainers efforts face challenges in long-term sustainability. **Human Rights, Gender Equality, Disability Inclusion, and Leaving No One Behind:** The project successfully mainstreams child rights into preventing and countering terrorism. While focusing on prevention, justice, rehabilitation, and reintegration, and upholding human rights and gender equality, the project encounters challenges in thoroughly integrating gender aspects and disability inclusion.

LESSONS LEARNED

The one-year inception phase enabled the project management to establish strong foundations for the formulation of work plans that are localized and context-specific. The involvement of youth from local communities is an important component of both the preventive and responsive support to children impacted by terrorist and violent extremist groups.

GOOD PRACTICES

Setting up national governance mechanisms with inclusive representation in each partner country early during the inception phase had positive implications for promoting national ownership, commitment and supporting the delivery of programming. Conducting country-specific situation analysis processes during the inception phase was also critical to support the project to deliver context-specific and relevant interventions aligned with institutional needs in each partner country. The delivery of multi-disciplinary training in Indonesia and Nigeria were instrumental in promoting improved coordination among government actors involved in the prevention and response to violence against children by terrorist and violent extremist groups.

METHODOLOGY

The evaluation applied a mixed-methods approach, complementing secondary data review with primary data collection through semi-structured interviews, an online survey that was disseminated in English, Arabic and Bahasa and direct observation through site visits to social reformatories for juveniles and adults in Iraq. In total, 208 individuals participated in the evaluation (108 males, 98 females and 2 individuals with undisclosed gender) representing Government institutions, civil

society and youth, research institutions as well as UN agencies and other international organizations.



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Directed to: Project Management Team, Crime Prevention and Justice Section, UNODC

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Replicate the project's partnership approach leveraging on the strengths of evidence-based planning and the added-value of multi-stakeholder governance structures that are established in early phases of project initiation.
2. Take stock of the project's community-driven interventions in Nigeria and Indonesia to inform replication and/or scalability in the context of criminal justice and terrorism prevention programming.
3. Plan for the dissemination of STRIVE Juvenile knowledge outputs including research, operational guidance tools and training manuals, using where appropriate, relevant regional platforms and inter-governmental processes.
4. Consider engaging CSOs at sub-national levels in Iraq where resilience interventions are yet to commence and in future similar projects to reinforce the prevention efforts.
5. Consider the incorporation of additional practical modalities in the delivery of training programmes on the treatment of children associated with terrorism or violent extremism as well as special modules on GBV and dealing with children with physical disabilities based on the analysis of the prevalence and requirements related to physical disabilities within this population.
6. Plan for sustainability of capacity building interventions earlier during project inception in similar projects to expand the scope of the benefits to a wider segment of practitioners.
7. Consider the inclusion of qualitative monitoring tools to capture the project's non-quantifiable outcomes especially in the legal and policy space as well as its influence on children's rehabilitation and reintegration practices.