



# GCERF

Global Community Engagement  
and Resilience Fund

## FACT SHEET

### What Is GCERF?

The Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) is a multi-stakeholder global fund that works with local partners to strengthen community resilience to violent extremism. GCERF is an independent public-private partnership that directs resources to initiatives led by and benefiting local communities in order to empower women, girls, boys, and men. GCERF focuses on local communities because they suffer the most from violent extremism, and because they are optimally placed to understand and act upon the drivers of violent extremism. GCERF's work is anchored in the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16 "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions." GCERF is also committed to the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2006) and the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (2016).

### What Does GCERF Do?

GCERF supports communities through a comprehensive approach that seeks to identify and address drivers of violent extremism through four pathways to change:



**Social cohesion:** GCERF aims to help build and strengthen the cohesion of communities during times of societal change. GCERF aims to enhance community members' sense of belonging to an inclusive, constructive, and positive group or community, where different ideas, ideologies, and identities are embraced and incorporated, and that does not resort to violence. In this area, GCERF supports: arts/cultural/sport events; community, intra-, and interfaith action; consultations and dialogue; disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration of armed youth; and trainings and sensitisation workshops.



**Community agency:** GCERF aims to strengthen the capacity of communities to mobilise, organise, and represent their own interests. GCERF strives to increase the number of communities that actively and effectively engage with authorities on topics that are relevant to them. Community agency contributes to more effective dialogue between state authorities, other stakeholders, and local communities. In this area, GCERF supports: peace and conflict resolution mechanisms; community watchdog groups; counter-narrative campaigns; local, regional, and national radio and TV programming; and research and analysis.



**Equal access to opportunities:** GCERF aims to lift barriers that limit access to social and economic opportunities. GCERF strives for more members of the community to feel that they have equal opportunities for self-improvement and for achieving their aspirations; and the self-belief that they have the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to access meaningful livelihoods. In this area, GCERF supports: income-generating activities; vocational/entrepreneurship/life skills training; small business seed funding; and linking communities with markets and employment opportunities.



**Sense of purpose:** GCERF aims to help individuals become more resilient to radicalisation to violent extremism through a stronger and more positive sense of self. GCERF seeks to provide individuals with confidence, critical thinking, and other life skills that can enhance their sense of self-worth and resilience to violent extremist agendas. In this area, GCERF supports: peace rallies, camps, and clubs; youth action teams; community development activities; and school and/or family reintegration for disconnected youth.

## Whom Does GCERF Support?

GCERF's business model reflects the belief that local communities are critical in preventing violent extremism. GCERF relies on national partnerships and support mechanisms to fund comprehensive approaches that are designed and implemented by locally based civil society organisations and other relevant actors. GCERF also invests in building the capacity of these local organisations to better serve their communities in the long term. GCERF currently manages grants in Bangladesh, Kenya, Kosovo, Mali, and Nigeria, and has already committed more than USD 20 million to supporting initiatives in those countries.

## What Is GCERF's Added Value?

GCERF's work both complements and provides alternatives to traditional approaches to counterterrorism by focusing on the drivers of violent extremism and engaging local communities. As a multi-stakeholder global fund, GCERF provides a political and resource mobilisation focal point for the international community; extends access within and across countries threatened by violent extremism; promotes innovation; and serves as a repository of expertise. By strengthening communities' resilience, GCERF promotes peaceful and inclusive societies, and enables sustainable development.

## What Are GCERF's Core Principles?



**Comprehensive risk management:** GCERF adopts a comprehensive risk management approach in all aspects of its work. To ensure the optimum performance of its funding GCERF systematically conducts risk assessments in areas of institutional, programmatic, and contextual risks, with special focus on ensuring that the risks to grantees and beneficiaries are minimised.



**Independence:** GCERF is guided by its own principles and priorities. GCERF never lets the political agendas of stakeholders interfere with accomplishing GCERF's goals.



**Country-ownership:** GCERF ensures that activities are led by local communities and support the strategic objectives of national governments to prevent violent extremism. GCERF only engages in projects or activities that are previously agreed to by the states where GCERF works.



**Context relevance:** GCERF always bases its funding decisions on thorough assessments of context-specific factors that act as drivers to violent extremism. Addressing context-specific needs often calls for new and innovative approaches.



**Sustainability:** GCERF focuses on long-term preventive solutions rather than mitigating initiatives. As part of its engagement with communities, GCERF assesses how long to engage to achieve impact and what are the plans forward when direct GCERF support stops.



**Gender responsiveness:** GCERF promotes the empowerment of women, girls, boys, and men towards achieving community resilience against violent extremism.



**Accountability and learning:** GCERF's work is anchored in evidence and learnings. GCERF develops and adapts methodologies and tools to monitor and evaluate results, learn from experience, and continuously improve performance.

## How Is GCERF Structured?

GCERF is governed by a multi-stakeholder Governing Board with representatives of governments (both donor and beneficiary), the private sector, civil society, foundations, and research institutions. Governing Board decisions are informed by multi-stakeholder national advisory bodies and an independent expert review panel. The GCERF Secretariat is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

## How Is GCERF Supported?

Thirteen countries and the European Union have already pledged over USD 41 million from both security and development sources. GCERF is now recognised as an ODA-eligible multilateral organisation. The private sector also provides support, including expertise, as well as human and logistical resources.

## How Can I Support GCERF?

For further information about GCERF, please visit [www.gcerf.org](http://www.gcerf.org) or email [info@gcerf.org](mailto:info@gcerf.org).