GCERF
Preventing Violent Extremism and Terrorism

COUNTRY SNAPSHOT
MALI
OCTOBER 2026

BACKGROUND

The threat of terrorism and violent extremism have worsened in recent decades, become increasingly pronounced in the Central Sahel region of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. The security challenges inherent in the sub-regional context, resulting from the increase in asymmetric threats and their various forms of manifestation as well as the outbreak of social tensions, have resulted in the advent of transitional regimes in the three countries of the Central Sahel and the creation of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) in 2023.

COUNTRY SUPPORT MECHANISM (CSM)

GCERF in Mali is working with the government, through the country support mechanism, and bilateral and multilateral donors to ensure a coordinated approach to prevention. GCERF works with the Malian government to support the implementation of its national action plan and invests in local organisations that design and run programmes contributing to stability and resilience. CSM provides strategic direction for the programmes, ensure results, and progressively inherit ownership of funding community-level efforts to prevent violent extremism.

OUR INVESTMENT STRATEGY IN MALI

Contribute to improvements in the social ecology to create conditions conducive to prevention and resilience-building

Facilitate community-led rehabilitation, disengagement, and (re)integration, including people disengaging from criminal, non-state armed, and violent extremist groups

2016
Mali became a GCERF partner country in 2016

USD 11.9 M
GCERF's total investment in Mali to date

USD 1.4M
Active grants value

2
Current civil society partners

1
Active Grant

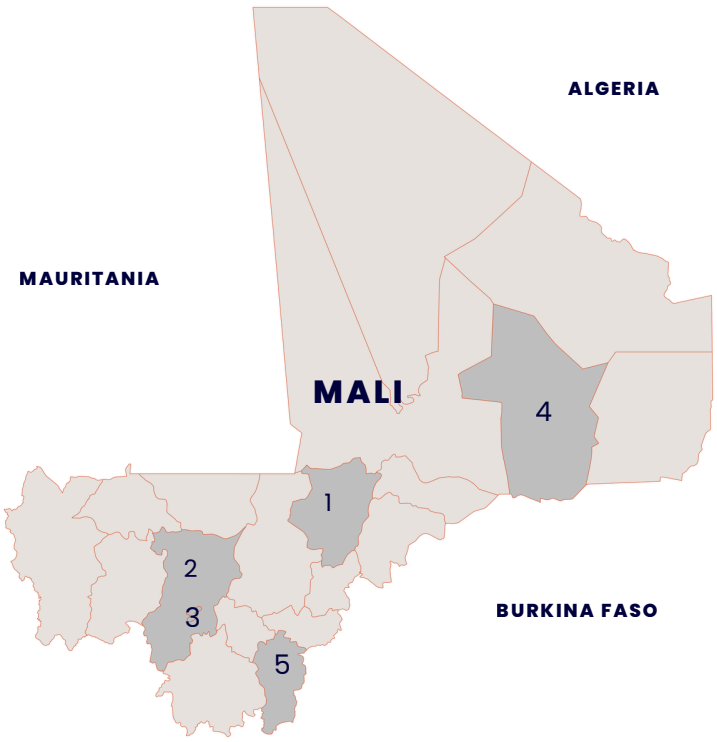
DRIVERS OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM

High levels of youth employment

Recurrent farmer-herder conflicts

Longstanding governance-related grievances

GCERF FOCUS AREAS AND POPULATION GROUPS IN MALI



LOCATIONS

1 Mopti
2 Koulikoro
3 Bamako
4 Gao
5 Sikasso

POPULATION GROUPS

Individuals who have disengaged from VE groups

Women and survivors of VE

Religious and traditional leaders

Farmers and herders

Local authorities

Youth

KEY RESULTS*

16,000+
Women, young people at-risk of radicalisation, religious leaders, ex-detainees and ex-combatants trained in PVE, peacebuilding, conflict resolution to address grievances before VE groups can exploit them

3,000+
Women, young people identified at-risk of radicalisation, detainees and ex-combatants trained in vocational skills and entrepreneurship to strengthen their economic resilience

230+
Survivors of violent extremism received psychosocial support to heal trauma and recover

**Cumulative figures from 2024 until June 2026*

> Through drawing, I learned to process the painful memories of the attack on our village - memo- ries that could have turned into anger or a desire for revenge. Every time a difficult memory surfaces, I draw instead of letting bitterness take hold. Art gives me a way to heal, so that grief does not become hatred.
>
> -a survivor of violent extremism