GCERF
Preventing Violent Extremism and Terrorism

COUNTRY SNAPSHOT
SYRIA
OCTOBER 2026

BACKGROUND

Following the territorial defeat of ISIS in Syria and Iraq, families of suspected former militants including thousands of women and children were transferred to closed detention camps in Northeast Syria (NES), of which al Roj camp remains. Following the closure of al Hol camp in NES, some of its residents were move to Aq Burhan camp in Aleppo. Many of these families are third-country nationals (TCNs) from North Africa, Central Asia, and Balkan countries. Thousands remain stranded in camps. These people are victims of ISIS rule. The camps present converging risks: a humanitarian crisis marked by inadequate access to healthcare, education, and basic services; serious human rights concerns; and a security threat, as ungoverned, radicalised environments risk perpetuating the very ideology that created the crisis.

Some countries have begun repatriating their nationals, but more action is needed to improve security and save billions in aid while preventing the resurgence of ISIS. Since 2023, GCERF has implemented a pre-departure pilot project in Northeast Syria (NES), initially in Roj camp. The programme was expanded to Al-Hol camp in October 2025. Following the forced closure of Al-Hol camp and recent security developments, GCERF is now implementing this project in Aq Burhan camp.

In line with its four-year strategy, GCERF aims to establish a Global Rehabilitation and Reintegration Mechanism (GRRM) to support global and local security and stabilisation efforts by reducing camp populations to an irreducible minimum and by assisting countries in the repatriation of their nationals.

GCERF is also in discussions with the Government of Syria to explore opportunities for supporting national efforts to strengthen community cohesion and contribute to the country's recovery and reconstruction.

The next phase of investment is expected to include a country needs assessment and an expanded geographic outreach preparing host communities for returnees, and strengthening the role of civil societies in Syria's recovery.

USD 0.9 M
GCERF'S investment in Syria to date

1
Active Grant

2
Upcoming Grants

OUR INVESTMENT STRATEGY IN SYRIA



Extend pre-departure support from Roj and Aq Burhan detention camps.



Increase participation of TCNs in case management and holistic R&R opportunites.



Strengthen educational, personal, psychological, social and other relevant capacities of caregivers, children, parents and youth to enable their reintegration upon return.



Coordinate with key protection actors and mechanisms, including child protection and gender-based violence sub-clusters and camp management.

GCERF FOCUS AREAS AND POPULATION GROUPS IN SYRIA



LOCATIONS

1 Al Roj camp and Al Hasakah Governorate

2 Aq Burhan Camp and Aleppo Governorate

POPULATION GROUPS

Third Country Nationals (TCNs)

Frontline workers

Members of informal educational institutions

Internally displaced people (IDPs) in Al Hasakah and Kobani

KEY RESULTS*

350+

TCNs identified and engaged in pre-departure support activities to return to their home country

160+

TCNs (children) attended and completed sessions on childcare and early childhood development

80+

Children and youth received educational support

30

Frontline workers and relevant stakeholders successfully completed training on social cohesion and preventing violent extremism

> My son loves toys so much. He had everything before we were displaced, but when we came here, he kept asking, 'Where are my toys?' He would remember them and cry. When the Salam team brought him toys and played with him in the yard and inside the room, he became very happy. Through simple activities such as reading, playing and continuous supportive interaction, he regained his self-confidence and is able to reconnect with natural childhood emotions.
>
> -Mother of a displacement-affected child

Cumulative figures since the 2025 pilot programme