

# 2017 | Annual Report



**GCERF**  
Global Community Engagement  
and Resilience Fund

**Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund**  
Geneva, Switzerland  
[www.gcerf.org](http://www.gcerf.org)

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<b>AFM</b>	Accelerated Funding Mechanism
<b>AFP</b>	Accelerated Funding Panel
<b>CBO</b>	Community-Based Organisation
<b>CFM</b>	Core Funding Mechanism
<b>CSM</b>	Country Support Mechanism
<b>GCERF</b>	Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund
<b>GCTF</b>	Global Counterterrorism Forum
<b>IRP</b>	Independent Review Panel
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Performance Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>PPR</b>	Potential Principal Recipients
<b>PR</b>	Principal Recipient
<b>PVE</b>	Preventing Violent Extremism
<b>SR</b>	Sub-Recipient

## *Abbreviations*

# Foreword

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted with the progress demonstrated in this annual report. To my mind, 2017 was a pivotal year for GCERF, when it transformed from an exciting concept into an operational reality. As the report shows, GCERF's grants are already reaching hundreds of thousands of people across our first three pilot countries. While there is a lot of talk about preventing violent extremism, I am pleased that GCERF is action-oriented, and actually helping vulnerable communities build resilience.

GCERF will continue supporting individuals and communities by raising awareness, mobilising action, and creating meaningful alternatives. We strongly believe that as a result local communities will now be

more informed, better financed, and more confident, to take forward their national project to prevent violent extremism.



I am immensely grateful to the GCERF Governing Board for its support, and the GCERF Secretariat for its tireless endeavours.



**Carol Bellamy**  
*Chair, GCERF Governing Board*

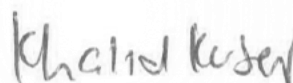


We are very pleased to provide this update on GCERF's activities and results to the end of 2017.

In 2017, in Bangladesh, Mali, and Nigeria, GCERF grants supported 15 Principal Recipients (PRs) managing

consortia comprising 65 Sub-Recipients (SRs), collectively implementing more than 72 different initiatives. Vulnerable populations, especially women and youth, continued to be the focus of interventions. GCERF-funded programmes have reached directly and engaged a total of 375,600 people across Bangladesh, Mali, and Nigeria, as of 30 December 2017.

Subsequent pages provide updates on resource mobilisation, external relations, monitoring and evaluation, governance, and financial matters. Their combined message is one of strategic momentum, a growing international profile, and an increasing global expertise.



**Khalid Koser**  
*Executive Director, GCERF*





# ABOUT GCERF

## *Vision & Mission*



### Background

**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.

Recognising the urgency of the rapidly evolving challenge of violent extremism, and the scale of its impact on local communities, the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) inspired GCERF's establishment in September 2013. On 9 September 2014, GCERF was incorporated as an independent Swiss foundation, with a Secretariat based in Geneva.

**GCERF's core objective** is to strengthen communities' resilience to violent extremism through three complementary approaches:

- ◆ GCERF funds community-level initiatives;
- ◆ GCERF supports national governments and international partners to align their activities to local contexts and needs; and
- ◆ GCERF builds and shares knowledge that enriches global understanding of how to strengthen community resilience.

***GCERF is the only global multilateral funding mechanism specifically focused on preventing violent extremism.***

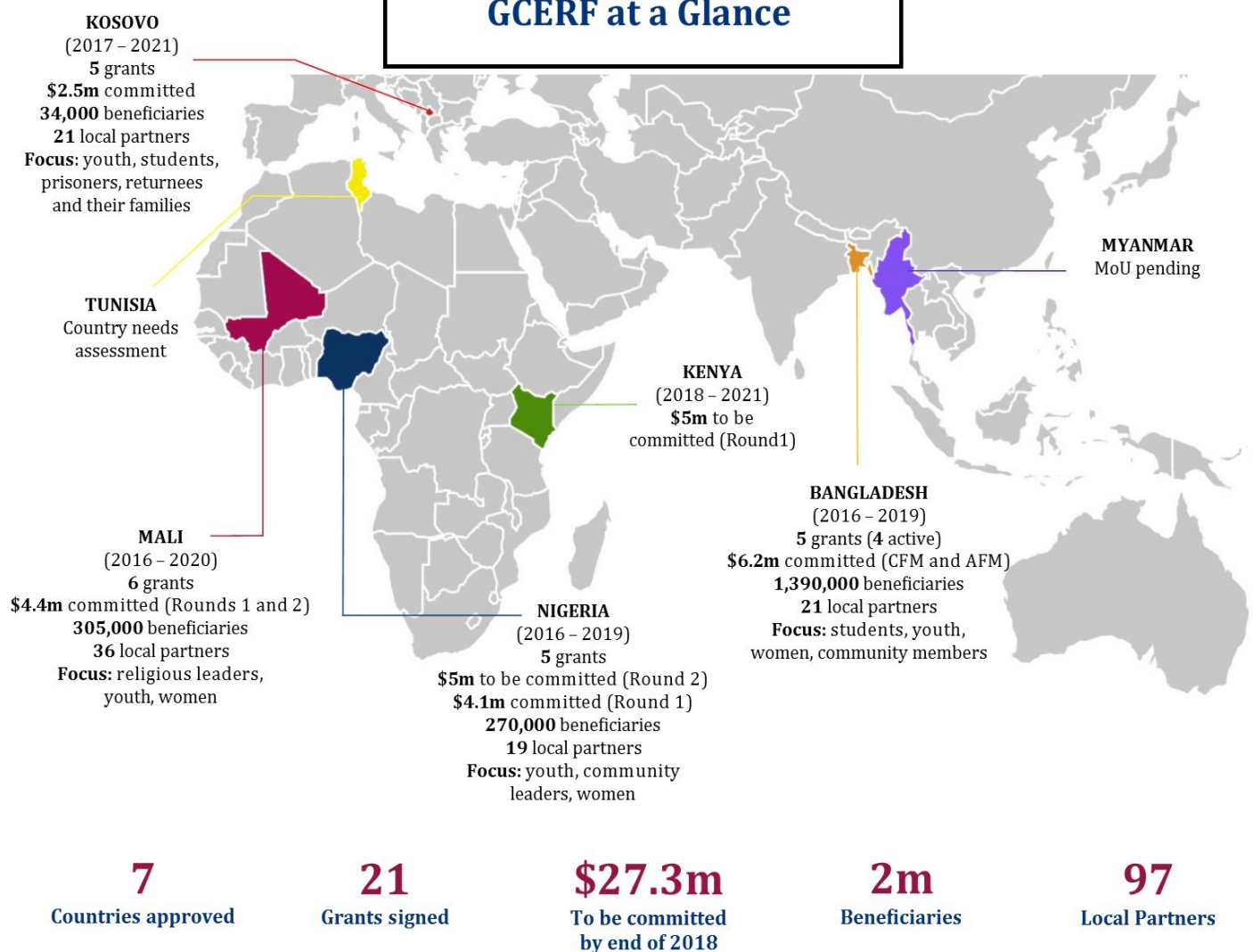
### VISION

***Peaceful and inclusive communities are resilient to violent extremism to help achieve sustainable development.***

### MISSION

***GCERF is a multi-stakeholder global fund that strengthens community resilience by supporting local initiatives to address the drivers of violent extremism.***

## GCERF at a Glance



*After three years of operations, GCERF is now firmly established as the global fund for preventing violent extremism. GCERF currently manages USD 13 million in grants in Bangladesh, Kosovo, Mali, and Nigeria, and intends to invest a further USD 20 million and extend its grant making to Kenya and Tunisia in 2018.*

*Preventing violent extremism is about attitudinal, behavioural, and other changes—and therefore long term, complex to measure, and time-consuming to achieve.*

*GCERF's unique, sustainable approach proactively builds the capacity of vulnerable communities, and strengthens their resilience to violent extremism.*

*GCERF's work is anchored in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 16: "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions".*

*GCERF is committed to the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2006) and the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (2016).*

## Investing in Communities

GCERF pursues a bottom-up approach and supports initiatives that are designed and led by local communities. Communities are critical in this process because they suffer the most from violent extremism, and, due to the highly contextualised nature of violent extremism, they are optimally placed to understand and act upon its drivers.

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



**Social cohesion:** to help communities build and strengthen positive options where communities and their members maintain cohesion 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.



**Community agency:** 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.



**Equal access to opportunities:** 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. Members of the community believe that they have the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to access meaningful livelihoods.



**Sense of purpose:** 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.

***GCERF grantees design programmes to address locally specific drivers of violent extremism, starting with a Community Needs Assessment to establish an evidence base and to align to the local context. Local communities vulnerable to violent extremism are the ultimate beneficiaries of GCERF-funded programmes.***



# STORIES OF IMPACT

## Bangladesh

### Investing in Communities: A Grassroots Activist's Story

Tahmid is an active member of a community-based organisation (CBO) that is part of a GCERF-funded consortium. With funding from GCERF, the CBO organises community engagement events in Cox's Bazar.

Tahmid explains how, before joining the CBO, he was a drug addict and was involved in local criminal activities. He was eager to reform but did not find alternatives to his way of life. At a consortium-led event in February, Tahmid learned about the CBO's important work, and he was inspired to join so that he could make a difference in his community—and leave behind his life of crime and drug addiction.

Since then, he has been devoted to the CBO's work and has found a new sense of purpose. Tahmid hopes to help expand the organisation's PVE efforts by doing more outreach, and by conducting more inter-faith dialogues to ensure unified messaging among religious leaders.

*"Before the [GCERF-funded] consortium started their activities, there were no actors in Chapai-Nawabganj working for building resilience to violent extremism in the community. There was a mindset among the majority that any activity not aligned with Islam must be eliminated by any means, including by adopting violence. But since [the] consortium activities have started, this common mindset has been challenged, and if the activities run for a long time, the community will start thinking differently. Radicalisation [to violent extremism] has been a long process, so developing community resilience is not an overnight job to do."*

**Ahmed**  
Principal and Imam







# GOVERNANCE



The GCERF Governing Board is the Fund's supreme decision-making body. Its multi-stakeholder structure convenes a diverse pool of expertise and perspectives, and foremost strategic engagement and opportunities. The Chair of the GCERF Governing Board is Carol Bellamy, former Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Board members include representatives of countries in which GCERF funds programmes, donor countries, international organisations, civil society, the private sector, foundations, think tanks, and a Swiss national as representative of the host state.

In 2017, the GCERF Governing Board had two face-to-face meetings: 28-30 June in London, United Kingdom, hosted by Google; and 5-6 December in Doha, hosted by the State of Qatar.

The main highlight of the Board's work in 2017 was the development and approval of GCERF's [Strategy to Engage Communities and Address the Drivers of Violent Extremism \(2017-2020\)](#) in June 2017.



Figure 1. Structure of the GCERF Governing Board

# STORIES OF IMPACT

## Mali

### Investing in Communities: A Madrasa Teacher's Story

Adama is the director of a religious school (madrasa), and he teaches Arabic and French. He belongs to an organisation of imams and scholars. He describes the problem of violent extremism in his region and points out that Ségou region is located in close proximity to where terrorists are operating. His prime concern lies with the risk of recruitment of young children: *"We cannot leave our children to the care of any marabout or Quranic master anymore without verifying his credentials."*

The GCERF-funded consortium seeks to strengthen community and religious leaders' capacities to manage conflict and implement awareness-raising and advocacy activities on the issues of conflict, violent extremism, and civic education.

Adama embraces his role as a change agent. Through his participation in the GCERF-funded initiative, he and other change agents are trained on how to prevent radicalisation to violent extremism. *"We now have the tools to recognise and identify someone who is spreading violent extremist ideas. First and foremost, this enables us to protect ourselves,"* Adama explains. He also makes the link between the lack of favourable economic prospects and the material enticements that can incentivise youth to join a violent extremist group. *"These kids we teach here, we need to find them opportunities on the job market. Everyone should be given an equal chance. This is my wish."*

Adama is aware of the difficulty of the task ahead and the additional resources it requires. *"Preventing violent extremism and radicalisation to violence is fighting the good fight. But this is a long-term endeavour."*

*"I fell in with armed groups in northern Mali at the border with Algeria. I was with other migrants from sub-Saharan Africa looking for the European El Dorado. It was a nightmarish ordeal.... I thought I had reached the end of the world. I witnessed how these armed groups indoctrinated the youth who fell into their clutches. Thanks to God, I escaped in March 2017 to return to my native village. When I learned of the [GCERF-funded] project through a radio programme, I sought out the project team in order to thank them for the noble actions they led in our community. It is interesting to stabilise youth by giving them an occupation. This project contributes to ideologically and economically strengthening youth resilience to the temptations of armed groups."*

**M. Diaby**

Participant in GCERF-funded project







# OPERATIONS

## *GCERF Funding Streams*



### Core Funding Mechanism (CFM)

The CFM is a bottom-up funding mechanism that facilitates and strengthens community resilience to violent extremism. The CFM provides a comprehensive, community-driven approach by funding flexible, multi-year grants to consortia of national and community-based organisations led by a Principal Recipient (PR).

Funding decisions are based on: expert technical analysis by the Independent Review Panel (IRP), which makes funding recommendations to the GCERF Governing Board; and rigorous due diligence by the GCERF Secretariat. Most GCERF funding is channelled through the CFM, which is currently supporting grants in Bangladesh, Kosovo, Mali, Nigeria, and soon in Kenya.

### Accelerated Funding Mechanism (AFM)

The AFM provides an agile, flexible, and responsive funding stream which is complementary to the CFM. The AFM supports smaller groups and organisations with short-term small grants to address specified objectives to prevent violent extremism.

Potential grantees for the AFM apply on a rolling basis in response to specific funding calls. Funding decisions are made within a short time frame through an Accelerated Funding Panel (AFP), consisting of government, donor, civil society or research institution, grant making foundation or private sector, and IRP representatives.





# BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES

*Bangladesh, Mali, and Nigeria*



In 2017, in Bangladesh, Mali, and Nigeria, GCERF grants supported 15 Principal Recipients (PRs) managing consortia comprising 65 Sub-Recipients (SRs), collectively implementing more than 72 different initiatives. Vulnerable populations, especially women and youth, continued to be the focus of interventions.

GCERF-funded programmes have reached directly and engaged a total of 375,600 people across Bangladesh, Mali, and Nigeria, as of 30 December 2017.

By the end of March 2017, all PRs had conducted Baseline Studies to: ensure that planned actions most effectively address specific drivers of violent extremism; and establish an evidence base for their geographic, demographic, and thematic focus. In addition, the Baseline Studies laid the foundation for monitoring and evaluation, to measure results over

the period of performance.

The Secretariat conducted grant monitoring missions involving both GCERF Operations Unit and Grant Finance staff to visit PRs. This included four missions to Bangladesh (February, May, August, and November 2017); three missions to Mali (February, May, and September 2017); and three missions to Nigeria (April, June/July, and October 2017). During each mission, the Secretariat held consultations with Country Support Mechanism (CSM) representatives of the government, the international community, civil society organisations, and other local stakeholders.

In 2017, the Secretariat conducted a CSM Review to further develop and strengthen the CSMs' capacity and potential. The assessment aimed to harness the potential of the CSM as an important feature of GCERF's value proposition; enhance

coordination through the CSMs; create and strengthen national fora for discussion and coordination of PVE funding; and work with the CSMs to coordinate the funding of national and local PVE action plans.

***A Principal Recipient may be any local or national non-governmental or non-profit organisation including: independent political foundations; community-based organisations; and private sector non-profit organisations.***

***Sub-Recipients are smaller, local, community-based institutions, organisations, or networks at the local or national level, closely linked to its local community and credible with its intended audience, beneficiaries, and participants.***



# BANGLADESH

## 2017 Highlights

### GCERF Portfolio in Bangladesh

**Number of principal recipients /sub-recipients:** 4/18 organisations

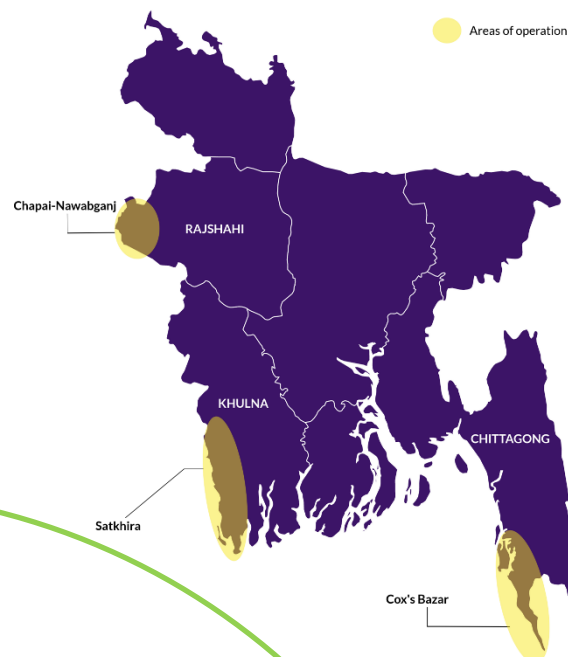
**Locations:** Satkhira, Chapai Nawabganj, and Cox's Bazar districts

**Budget:** USD 4,071,447

**Programme period:** July 2016 – December 2018

**Number of people directly engaged in 2017:** 302,600

**Key populations:** adolescents; community members above the age of 35; secondary school and madrasa students; women, unemployed youth, including Undocumented Myanmar Nationals (UMNs)



### Background

Bangladesh became a GCERF beneficiary country in 2015, because violent extremism in the country had intensified since 2013, including increased targeting and killing of foreigners, LGBTQI activists, secular bloggers, and religious minorities across the country. The three priority districts were identified because Cox's Bazar is a centre of human and drug trafficking, and several violent extremists hailed from Chapai Nawabganj and Satkhira, including the mastermind behind the Holey Artisan Bakery attack that killed 29 people.

Baseline studies conducted by GCERF grantees in the first quarter of 2017 highlighted the impact of increased violent extremism on local communities, and the growing threat that radicalisation to violent extremism poses to vulnerable communities across the districts.

### Scope of GCERF funding

In 2017, GCERF funded **22** organisations, which launched **21** initiatives and conducted **89** activities, directly reaching **302,600** beneficiaries. The key objectives of GCERF grantees in Bangladesh are to: (1) raise awareness of violent extremism; (2) create livelihood opportunities, as an alternative to material enticements offered by violent extremist groups; and (3) strengthen social harmony to create more resilient communities.

### Adapting to the changing context

The influx of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh has brought significant challenges, but also lessons, to GCERF's operations, especially on how PVE fits at the peace, development, and humanitarian nexus. Grantees in Bangladesh working in the proximity of the border with Myanmar are responding to the influx of Rohingya refugees, demonstrating flexibility and quickly adapting some of their activities. In order to mitigate the social and religious tensions between the Buddhist minority living in Cox's Bazar and the majority Muslim population, GCERF grantees saw the need to increase the number of inter-faith dialogues, and were able to do so, thanks to the flexibility of GCERF funding.

# BANGLADESH

## 2017 Highlights

### Mainstreaming PVE in education

District Education Officers are now supporting PVE activities in colleges and schools across focus districts in Bangladesh. The officers have been engaged in, and have observed various activities, such as: life skills education, PVE information events, PVE debate competitions, and other relevant meetings. According to two of GCERF's PRs, the District Education Officers are very interested in integrating PVE into school curricula

### Women PVE trainees find strength in diversity

Rakhine, Rohingya, Hindu, and Muslim women have regularly participated in PVE activities in the remote island of Maheshkhali in the Bay of Bengal. These activities are facilitated by trained change agents and field workers. In one meeting attended by GCERF Secretariat staff, women identified the different signs of radicalisation and came up with ideas and suggestions on how to address violent extremism. They acknowledged that radicalisation to violent extremism is a threat regardless of religious affiliation.

### Change Agents realise the power of PVE

A central aspect of GCERF's programmes in Bangladesh involves cultivating and working with Change Agents: individuals who act as a catalyst for positive change in their community, thereby contributing to PVE. In July 2017, GCERF brought together its four grantees in Bangladesh to explore the role and potential contribution of Change Agents to PVE objectives. A brief assessment revealed that the young community members were very keen to spread their newly acquired knowledge and skills, and that they had found a new sense of purpose in their responsibilities as Change Agents. As one Change Agent expressed, *"I love working for my community, but since I do PVE, I feel that my work is more meaningful."*

Change Agents reported that they take pride in their activities and are respected in their communities. They also averred that awareness of violent extremism has increased in their community: *"People started talking more openly about preventing violent extremism. They are also looking out for people who may show signs of radicalisation."* By working with Change Agents, GCERF grantees have enhanced young community members' sense of purpose and strengthened community ownership of PVE activities.

### Examples of GCERF-funded activities:

#### SOCIAL COHESION

**266,400**

community members directly engaged in activities such as **inter-faith and inter-generational** dialogues, sports events, and folk theatre

#### SENSE OF PURPOSE

**66,300+**

people, including **college & madrasa students** in Cox's Bazar, engaged in activities to promote **critical thinking & life skills** to resist violent extremism

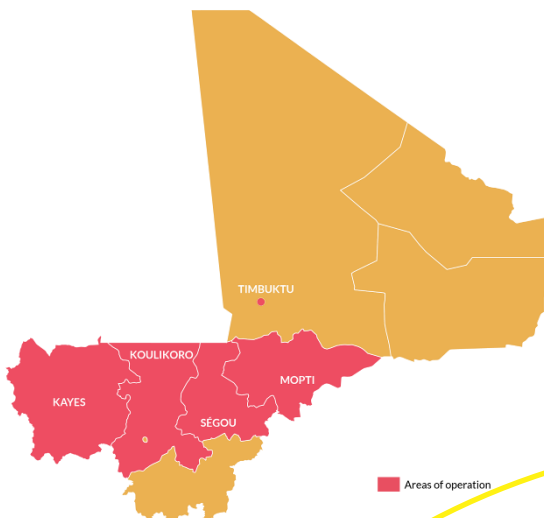
#### COMMUNITY AGENCY

**1,430**

local stakeholders participated in Upazilla Law and Order Committee meetings, to discuss PVE in Satkhira and Chapai Nawabganj

# MALI

## 2017 Highlights



### GCERF Portfolio in Mali

**Number of principal recipients/sub-recipients:** 6/32

**Locations:** District and capital of Bamako, Kayes, Koulikoro, Mopti, Ségou, and Timbuktu

**Budget:** USD 4,412,583

**Programme period:** August 2016 – December 2019

**Number of people reached:** 49,000

**Key populations:** community, religious, and traditional leaders; local authorities; madrasa students and professors; women; youth

### Background

Mali has been in a state of instability since a military coup ousted the democratically elected president in 2012, resulting in a state collapse and chaos that left the northern reaches of Mali open to a number of armed groups. In this ever-shifting context, violent extremist groups in Mali have exploited a wide range of vulnerabilities to recruit and radicalise new members. Youth, the most significant demographic group, are the most vulnerable to recruitment into violent extremist groups. Baseline studies conducted by GCERF grantees revealed that unemployment, poverty, lack of access to basic social services, and the lack of economic opportunities have resulted in frustrations that contribute to feelings of exclusion and marginalisation — which can, in turn, be exploited by violent extremist recruiters.

### Scope of GCERF funding

The three Round 1 PRs launched programmes in late 2016; and in 2017, the Governing Board approved funding for three new grants under Round 2. GCERF funded **36** organisations that launched **24** initiatives with **124** activities, directly reaching **49,000** beneficiaries. The key objectives of GCERF grantees in Mali are to: (1) strengthen social cohesion where violent extremists recruit the marginalised; (2) create more resilient communities; (3) raise awareness of the importance of PVE; and (4) create more livelihood opportunities, as an alternative to material enticements offered by violent extremist groups.

### Adapting to the changing security situation

Continued terrorist attacks necessitated more intensive measures to ensure the safety and security of GCERF grantees and staff. In Mopti and Ségou regions, it became difficult to conduct PVE activities in some communities, given the presence of violent extremist groups in the region. To enable continued operations, GCERF sub-grantees and grantees devised an alternative way to implement activities. When it is too dangerous to gather people together in a community to discuss PVE, the grantees select a more secure alternative location to conduct the meeting or training for community workers. Then the knowledge or information that was shared at the event can be brought back to the community, where the project workers can share the messages in smaller groups.

# MALI

## 2017 Highlights

### Examples of GCERF-funded activities:

#### COMMUNITY AGENCY

**7,000**  
**religious and**  
**community leaders**  
sensitised and trained to  
promote peace and tolerance,  
including **2,000**  
**women leaders**

#### SOCIAL COHESION

**30,000**  
**men and women**  
involved in  
awareness raising  
activities on PVE and  
**inter-faith dialogues**

#### EQUAL ACCESS

**6,000**  
men and women  
directly involved in  
**vocational training**  
and **livelihood**  
**support activities**

#### 10 OPPORTUNITIES

### New approaches to community security

A total of 132 village committees were set up in the Mopti region of Mali. The 10-member committees are on constant watch to monitor activity of newcomers to the village, alert about signs of recruitment and radicalisation to violent extremism, and act as a liaison with local authorities. Similarly, 133 community watch groups were formed in Ségou and Mopti regions, and have initiated dialogue with local authorities. Community watch groups have been replicated in other villages.

As one imam proclaimed: ***"The project has deployed an 'army' without conventional weapons. The weapons are observation, communication, and awareness-raising, and are more formidable than the ammunition of classical armies."***

### Vulnerable youth resume their education

In the regions of Ségou and Kayes, one PR supported the re-enrollment to school of 600 children (up to the age of 14) vulnerable to violent extremism at the start of the school year in August 2017. The students were provided with school kits and supplies.

### Girls escape violent extremist recruitment

Amina and Khady, both aged 17, live in a region of Mali near where terrorists are operating. Although they're still teenagers, the girls have overcome very difficult situations – living alone in a city, no family or school; sleeping outside; being violently attacked. It was only by participating in a GCERF-funded programme that Amina realised how lucky she was not to have fallen into the hands of violent extremists: ***"We need to be supported to escape the grip of the violent extremists."*** The programme gives shelter to young women and girls, and provides them with psychological support and vocational skills to develop income-generating activities, as an alternative to material enticements offered by violent extremist groups. Amina is learning a trade and is optimistic that she will earn a living. Khady says that she ***"escaped from being easy prey of the extremist recruiters, and I have a better life."*** She resumed contact with her family, is learning a trade, and hopes to earn an income before returning to her family, with her ***"head held high."***

# NIGERIA

## 2017 Highlights

### GCERF Portfolio in Nigeria

**Number of principal recipients/sub-recipients:** 5/15 organisations

**Locations:** Benue, Kogi, Nasarawa, and Plateau States

**Budget:** USD 4,151,770

**Programme period:** August 2016 – December 2018

**Number of people reached:** 24,000

**Key populations:** community, religious, and traditional leaders; farmers and herders; local authorities; women; and youth



### Background

In Nigeria, baseline studies conducted by GCERF grantees identified unemployment, poverty, and lack of education as the main drivers of violent extremism in communities across the focus states. GCERF grantees work in four states in Nigeria's Middle Belt, which were highlighted in Country Needs Assessments conducted in 2015 and 2016 as particularly susceptible to violent extremism: Benue, Kogi, Nasarawa, and Plateau States. The situation is aggravated by reported cases of violent and resource-based conflicts between farmers and herders. High levels of insecurity, loss of lives and property, and a breakdown of trust between communities are a fertile ground for recruitment and radicalisation and to violent extremist groups.

### Scope of GCERF funding

In 2017, GCERF funded **19** organisations that launched **26** initiatives and conducted **108** activities, with **24,000** people directly engaged. Their key objectives are to: (1) strengthen social cohesion; (2) to create more resilient communities; (3) raise awareness of the importance of preventing violent extremism; and (4) create livelihood opportunities, as an alternative to material enticements offered by violent extremist groups.

### Adapting to the changing environment

GCERF focuses its PVE work in the North Central states of Benue, Kogi, Nasarawa, and Plateau. Given that the drivers of violent extremism are prevalent in these states and that the region has a history of vulnerability to violent extremism, the intensification of farmer-herder conflict raised concerns over the last year. GCERF grantees proactively responded to the recent increase in violence and clashes in the region, and adapted and/or included additional activities tailored to their local context.



# NIGERIA

## 2017 Highlights

### Building social cohesion among herders and farmers

In 2017, the North Central region experienced an increase of violence and clashes between farmer-herder groups over the last year. Communities participating in GCERF-funded activities were directly engaged in adapting project activities to respond to the increase in tensions, like conflict mediation and resolution forums, community and inter-faith dialogues, peace rallies, safe spaces, and leadership trainings, in order to enhance cohesion, cooperation, and tolerance. Participating communities reported improved relationships amongst various populations groups, including between farmers and herders.

Representatives of herder groups expressed their satisfaction with the level of inclusion in the PVE activities. Once excluded from similar community activities, herder youth who participated in life skills training to resist recruitment to violent extremist groups and in the Safe Space initiative, have expressed their appreciation for the programme. Some participants have indicated that they aim to become change agents to continue to spread the importance of social cohesion in preventing violent extremism.

### Peace Ambassadors put PVE training into practice

The two GCERF-funded Peace Camps organised in 2017 gathered 406 young men and 162 young women from different faiths and ethnic groups. The camp raised awareness among youth about violent extremism, promoted tolerance, and enhanced participants' capacity to solve conflicts peacefully. Following the camp, participants became Peace Ambassadors and took concrete actions. They successfully organised dialogue sessions in four conflict-affected communities, using the skills and knowledge gained during their training. One of the Peace Ambassadors stated: *"My mentality was always that revenge is the right response to violence and conflict. But now I know that revenge will lead to more violence and misery. I have learned to forgive and mediate in conflict situations."*

### Examples of GCERF-funded activities:

#### SENSE OF PURPOSE

5,000

community members engaged in activities to enhance sense of purpose (safe spaces, life skills training, peace fora, psychosocial support in schools)

#### COMMUNITY AGENCY

8,000

people directly engaged in **advocacy activities**, trainings for community watch groups, and conflict resolution platforms

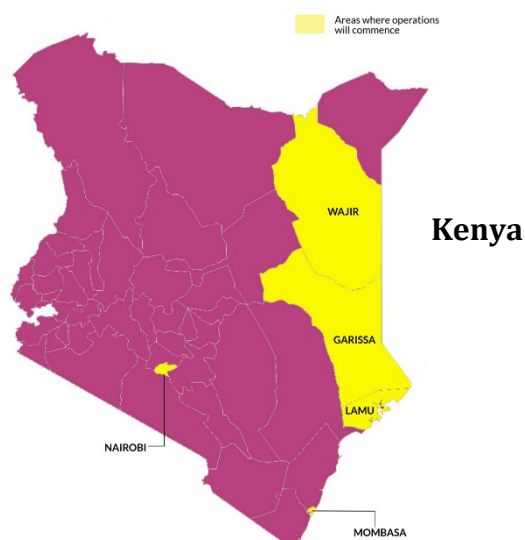
#### SOCIAL COHESION

10,000+

people engaged in inter-religious dialogue sessions, peace rallies, broadcasting radio jingles and messages, and sport and cultural events

# NEW COUNTRIES

## CFM: Kenya, Kosovo, Myanmar, Tunisia



In 2016, the GCERF Governing Board approved the geographic, demographic, and thematic focus of funding in Kenya, pre-allocating up to USD 5 million. GCERF-funded programmes will take place in Garissa, Lamu, Mombasa, Nairobi, and Wajir counties with a **specific focus on youth, women, and religious leaders**.

In 2017, the CFM was launched in Kenya, where GCERF works closely with the government, civil society, private sector, and the international community to ensure that funding is used strategically and contributes to the implementation of Kenya's National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism.



In 2016, the GCERF Governing Board allocated USD 2.5 million to Kosovo under the CFM. First projects started at the end of 2017, and all grant agreements will be signed by early 2018.

In Kosovo, GCERF-funded programmes will take place in Kacanik Municipality, District of Ferizaj, Pristina, Gjiilan, Prizren, and Mitrovica over the period of 2017–2021. GCERF will fund **5 PRs** and **16 SRs**, which are collectively implementing **19** initiatives comprising **189** activities directly reaching **34,000** beneficiaries.

The main focus is on **youth, students, returnees and their families**; 53% of programme participants are women.

### AFM Updates

**In 2017, the AFM was launched in Kenya and Bangladesh.**

In Bangladesh, the geographic and demographic focus of the AFM is PVE among university-level students in Greater Dhaka. The AFM will be known as SAMPRETI (**S**ocial Action and **M**obilisation for **P**revention of **R**adicalisation and **E**xtremism through **E**nhanced and **T**argeted Interventions). GCERF has also established in-country presence to manage AFM small-scale grants.

The AFM in Kenya will focus on private sector engagement considering its important role in addressing some of the drivers of VE.

**Tunisia:** In September 2017, the GCERF Governing Board approved Tunisia as a GCERF beneficiary country, and asked the Secretariat to launch the CFM process. Consultative missions in Tunisia in 2017 informed the development of the Tunisia Country Strategy.

**Myanmar:** Implementation of the CFM in Myanmar is currently on hold while GCERF continues to explore modalities for engagement. An MoU has been drafted between GCERF and the Ministry for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and is being reviewed in Naypyidaw.

# STORIES OF IMPACT

## Nigeria

### Investing in Communities: A Mother's Story

In one community in Kogi State, which has experienced violent crises, the situation has begun changing since a GCERF-funded project on approaches against radicalisation to violent extremism was launched, says Aishat, a mother of four. She, along with other women in her community, has benefitted greatly from the series of structured leadership trainings under this programme, engaging with other women and promoting peace amongst members of the community. The community has put in place a community watch group that helps to fight criminality and prevent violent extremism.

Aishat, who once believed people from different communities could not co-habit without violence, now plays a mediatory role in her community. *"If there is conflict in the community, the chief of the community sends for me and asks for my opinion,"* she says proudly. *"Now I have learnt a lot of things; I am changed now. I am training my children to value education and my community has changed too."*

*"The training for preventing violent extremism and learning Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms was practical; most of the knowledge was shared in our local language and taught us what violent extremism was, how we can build better relationships, influence our fellow women to serve as advocates for peace, observe our children for signs of radicalisation, and what we can do when we suspect a youth is radicalised or about to be radicalised. Now I help other women keep the peace by applying the Alternative Dispute Resolution skills I acquired. I use every opportunity to talk to women and other community members on the need to exert influence on their husbands, wives, and children to eschew violence."*

**Anyalewa**

Trader and leader of market women





## Promoting meaningful participation of women and girls

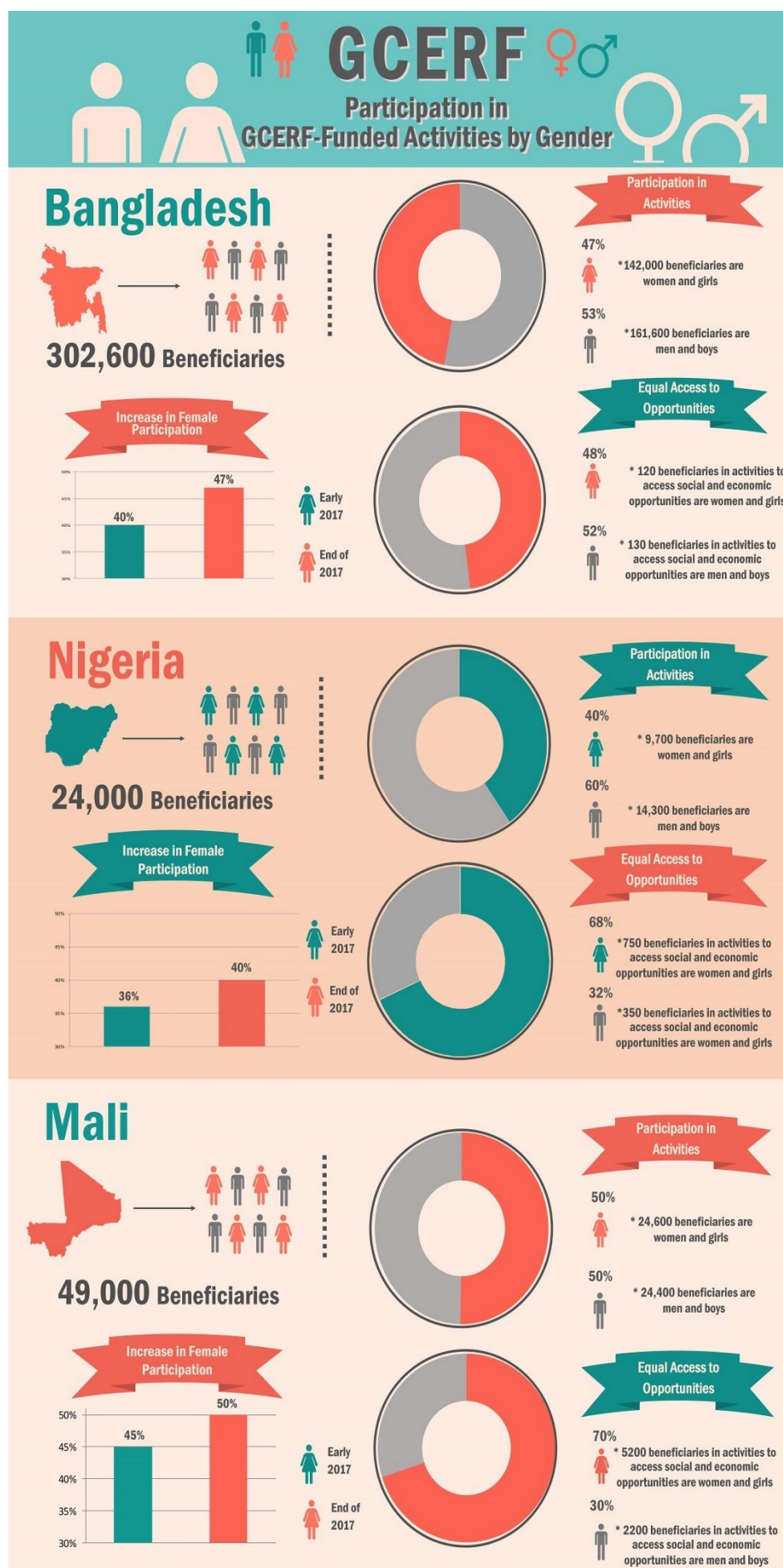
# Gender Responsiveness

Gender is a critical entry point for engaging communities in PVE. As a core principle of GCERF's work, gender responsiveness is mainstreamed throughout grant making and management processes, and integrated at a corporate level.

At the local level, community needs assessments determine how women and girls feature during programming. In many countries, female involvement in violent extremism is complex and nuanced, and they are vulnerable as both victims and perpetrators of violent extremism. Specific contextual and cultural differences in all countries mean that GCERF grantees tailor gender responsiveness differently.

All GCERF grantees are engaged with local authorities to advocate for women's and girls' rights, and to ensure they are active change agents in increasing community resilience to violent extremism.

*Integrating women  
into the social fabric of  
a community builds  
resilience to violent  
extremism.*





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# EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS

## *Key Partners*



As a multi-stakeholder global fund, GCERF is committed to partnerships at both the national and international levels, and enjoys ongoing cooperation with governments, multilateral organisations, research institutions, centres of excellence, foundations, and the private sector worldwide.

### Key Partners

**Board members:** main stakeholders providing strategic direction, promoting, and supporting the Fund.

**Local Partners:** consortia of national and community-based organisations led by Principal Recipients (PR) in each country.

**National Partners:** Country Support Mechanism (CSM)—multi-stakeholder platform reinforcing dialogue between national government, civil society, private

sector, and the international community. GCERF works closely with the CSMs to further develop and strengthen their capacity on coordination of PVE funding, and implementation of PVE national action plans and strategies.

**International Partners:** GCERF remains committed to its partnership with the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) and the other GCTF-inspired institutions. In 2017, GCERF signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Hedayah to further cooperation and synergies. GCERF seeks to establish strategic partnerships with United Nations institutions engaging on PVE.

GCERF also works with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and has continued upholding their Memorandum of Understanding throughout 2017.

**Private Sector:** Recognising the critical role that they can play in addressing local drivers to violent extremism, GCERF engages with the private sector and foundations at all levels of governance, with the goal of building long-term and innovative partnerships.

In 2017, GCERF expanded its interaction with the private sector by incorporating new companies and foundations, Bechtel and the Ford Foundation, in the GCERF Governing Board; engaging the private sector in discussions; and connecting the private sector with PRs in beneficiary countries. In 2018, GCERF hopes to further engage these private entities in many different ways, including by: increasing their presence on the Board; increasing in-kind and financial support to the Secretariat and PRs; and forging innovative partnerships.





# RESOURCE MOBILISATION



GCERF is supported by 14 governments and the private sector. As of the end of December 2017, total financial contributions received since GCERF's inception reached USD 45 million, including in-kind contributions. In 2017 alone, GCERF secured a total amount of USD 16 million in order to reinvest in existing beneficiary countries and add new countries to its portfolio.

GCERF continues to benefit from the strong support from its current donors, who have renewed their commitments to the Fund and its mission. Through their representatives on the GCERF Governing Board, they strengthened their advocacy efforts to expand GCERF's donor base and resources for the coming

year, and to secure the contributions and support needed to implement the objectives outlined in GCERF's 2017-2020 global strategy. A particular focus of their advocacy efforts was on Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) members that have yet to contribute to GCERF.

In parallel, GCERF continued to explore the potential of engaging the private sector and foundations, which remains a long-term goal. In this regard, events and bilateral meetings were organised to raise the Fund's profile and sensitise these new stakeholders to the importance of being part of global efforts to prevent violent extremism.

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***GCERF is grateful for contributions in 2017 from:***

***Australia  
Canada  
European Union  
France  
Japan  
Liechtenstein  
Netherlands  
Norway  
New Zealand  
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United States of America***

***Support from Private Sector:  
Google***

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