



GCERF **ANNUAL** **REPORT** **2021**

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REPORT
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2021 Annual Report details the achievements and results of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), its grantees and partners at national, regional and global levels.

This year has been one of progress and opportunity, as well as reflection and a strategic reset as we move into our 2021-2025 strategic plan and look to the future.



Work in 14 countries

In 2021, secured total USD 16.8 million

12 new contributions were awarded from 8 donors

63 grants signed total and 12 in 2021

Work with 203 local partners

Direct beneficiaries by resilience factors: 63% social cohesion, 18% sense of purpose, 15% community agency, 3% equal access to opportunities

2.6 million direct beneficiaries & 14.9 million indirect beneficiaries with proportion of girls and women reached increased to almost 50%

Total contributions received since 2014 inception = USD 114.2 million (including in-kind)

Supported by 18 governments, the European Union, and the private sector

Secretariat comprises 32 staff and interns from 17 different nationalities of whom 63% are women

RESILIENCE FACTORS

Resilience is a dynamic attribute of communities' and individuals' ability to resist and respond in a non-violent way to internal and external shocks, including violent extremism. Their resilience protects them from efforts to polarise societies and legitimise violence as a means to achieve political, religious, or social goals. If resilience is the barrier, its building blocks are what we call factors of resilience: social cohesion, community agency, access to socio-economic

opportunities, and individual sense of purpose. GCERF recognises that these factors of resilience are mutually reinforcing.

We therefore support at-risk individuals and communities through programmes that integrate interventions that work, sustainably, across those four resilience factors, and we measure our success through strengthening these factors in communities and individuals we support.



SENSE OF PURPOSE:

We work with vulnerable youth and structures around them to develop their individual sense of purpose and self-esteem, providing tools to assess information critically, manage emotions, challenge gender stereotypes, accept and tolerate divergences of opinion, and ultimately envision a better future. GCERF has:

- Engaged **58,612 participants** in PVE-related cultural and sports activities.
- Formed **1,020 youth groups** to increase youth engagement in discussions, debates and activities related to PVE, using accessible entry points such as cultural and sporting events.



EQUAL ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES:

We work with individuals, often women, who are excluded from local economies and societies to equip them with knowledge, tools, and resources to access, and benefit from, social and economic opportunities, making them and their communities less vulnerable. GCERF has:

- Improved the livelihood and employability of **27,450 people** through programming, including material **support to 2,927 youth and 4,871 women** who were given tools and seed grants to upgrade jobs skills and start businesses.
- Provided **6,248 people** with education enrolment support.



COMMUNITY AGENCY:

GCERF-funded programmes build capacities of communities, and marginalised groups within them such as minorities, women and youth, to represent themselves and advocate for their interests with local authorities. GCERF has:

- **Engaged 25,189 religious/ community leaders** in capacity-building workshops on **conflict resolution, peace advocacy, critical thinking, and leadership skills**.
- **Built the capacity of 3,417 local government officials** and relevant stakeholders.
- **Hosted 2,167 people in community policing, watch groups and early warning activities** and **459 joint youth-security actor** initiatives in Kenya.



SOCIAL COHESION:

GCERF-funded programmes enhance social cohesion by creating channels of communication and fostering tolerance and trust between diverse groups, including equipping them with tools to resolve their disputes peacefully. GCERF has:

- Drawn more than **342,771 participants to interfaith, inter-community or inter-generational dialogues**.
- Fostered community relations through **15,677 religious/ community leaders** through dialogues and consultations.
- Enabled **16,020 religious/ community leaders** to launch prevention initiatives to end violent extremism.
- Educated **37,880 people** on alternative narratives through **communication materials** including, traditional media/ radio programmes and development of alternative narratives.



WELCOME FROM BOARD CHAIR

20 years after 9/11, GCERF embarked on an ambitious campaign to rally supporters and reaffirm our global commitment to confronting violent extremism. In a year that highlighted the inadequacy of traditional counterterrorism and military responses, GCERF showed that another approach is possible. One that draws on the might of multilateralism to directly fund local communities and enables them to write a different story.

Stefano Manservigi

Chair, GCERF Governing Board



MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At GCERF, we believe in a future where violent extremism has no place in politics or society. We worked towards this vision in 2021, expanding our global footprint to 14 countries and bringing to 2.6 million the number of people GCERF has reached in communities at risk of violent extremism. In the pages that follow, you'll see the impact of GCERF's investment in people advocating for legislative change in Nigeria, rising above adversity in the Sahel and creating employment opportunities for women in Tunisia, to name a few. Each success inspires us to work harder and continue building our global network of changemakers.

Welcome to our 2021 Annual Report.

Khalid Koser

Executive Director, GCERF

PERFORMANCE AND IMPACT

Monitoring and evaluation of programmes funded are led by our Performance and Impact Unit which is responsible for evaluating programmes, providing technical capacity to grant recipients, and analysing results. Equally important, the Unit adds to growing the wider sector's knowledge on preventing violent extremism.

In 2021, an ex-post evaluation was concluded evaluating the Community-Action Response Teams (CART) established by ActionAid Nigeria. It found that GCERF-supported CARTs fostered peace between herders and farmers, serving as mediators and guarantors of agreements between the two groups. CARTs are trusted by the communities and there are indications that they also help diffuse other types of violence.

An end-of-grant evaluation for four grants in Kosovo indicated that, overall, our grants had a positive impact.

It highlighted cases such as support to children returning from conflicts abroad and the co-development of a plan to deal with P/CVE by Community Building Mitrovica, a grantee within the municipality of South Mitrovica.

The Strategic Management Plan (SMP) was developed to support our 2025 Strategy. It lays out 18 corporate objectives and provides core key performance indicators which will be reported on annually to increase transparency and accountability.

GCERF provided technical support in the areas of monitoring, evaluation and learning to grantees, in person and virtually. Staff also delivered trainings on base-, mid- and end-line data collection.

In 2021, GCERF launched the [Index on Community Risks, Vulnerability and Susceptibility to Extremism](#). Piloted for Nigeria, this tool combines different indicators to map out

community risks, vulnerability and susceptibility to extremism. This composite index has three main analytical pillars and 12 sub-pillars and uses more than 40 survey data, social media content and indicators from 15 distinct data sources to map out community risks and vulnerability. It will be used to guide a new round of investments in Nigeria.

The Local Knowledge Partner (LKP), a new grant type, was launched based on the understanding that knowledge is a fundamental factor for building resilient communities and societies. The LKP is a knowledge-based grant whereby the organisation supports the local GCERF ecosystem of grants in terms of monitoring, evaluation and incorporation of advanced research methods for knowledge-sharing, policy and research. The pilot grant started in the Philippines in December.

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR GCERF'S STRATEGY 2025

Our strategic plan is guided by clear criteria for entering and exiting both countries and communities, which will determine our rate of expansion over the next three years.

VISION

The next generation can inherit and maintain a world where violent extremism has no place in politics or society.

MISSION

To fund and sustain community resilience to combat the drivers of violent extremism supporting local priorities.

In June, the Board approved the Strategy 2025 to guide priorities, discipline decision-making, serve as inspiration for delivery, and be a springboard for engaging with partners. The SMP provides clarity on our strategic goals, metrics and targets. It is structured in six pillars:

- Scale, Reach and Efficiency
- Impact and Sustainability
- Influence, Knowledge, and Innovation
- Resources and Financial Management
- People and Culture
- Technology

STEWARDSHIP

Resource Mobilisation

In May, GCERF launched a replenishment campaign chaired by Former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair. The campaign: "A Different Story Can Be Written" aims to raise awareness of GCERF and the importance and value of preventing violent extremism. Through the campaign, GCERF aims to secure a longer-term funding horizon for the implementation of Strategy 2025 by attracting pledges and commitments up to USD 120 million for this period. Despite COVID-19 delaying the replenishment conference planned for the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, almost half of this funding goal was achieved. To support the campaign, a [Case for Investment](#) and [video](#) were developed and our social media footprint substantially increased.

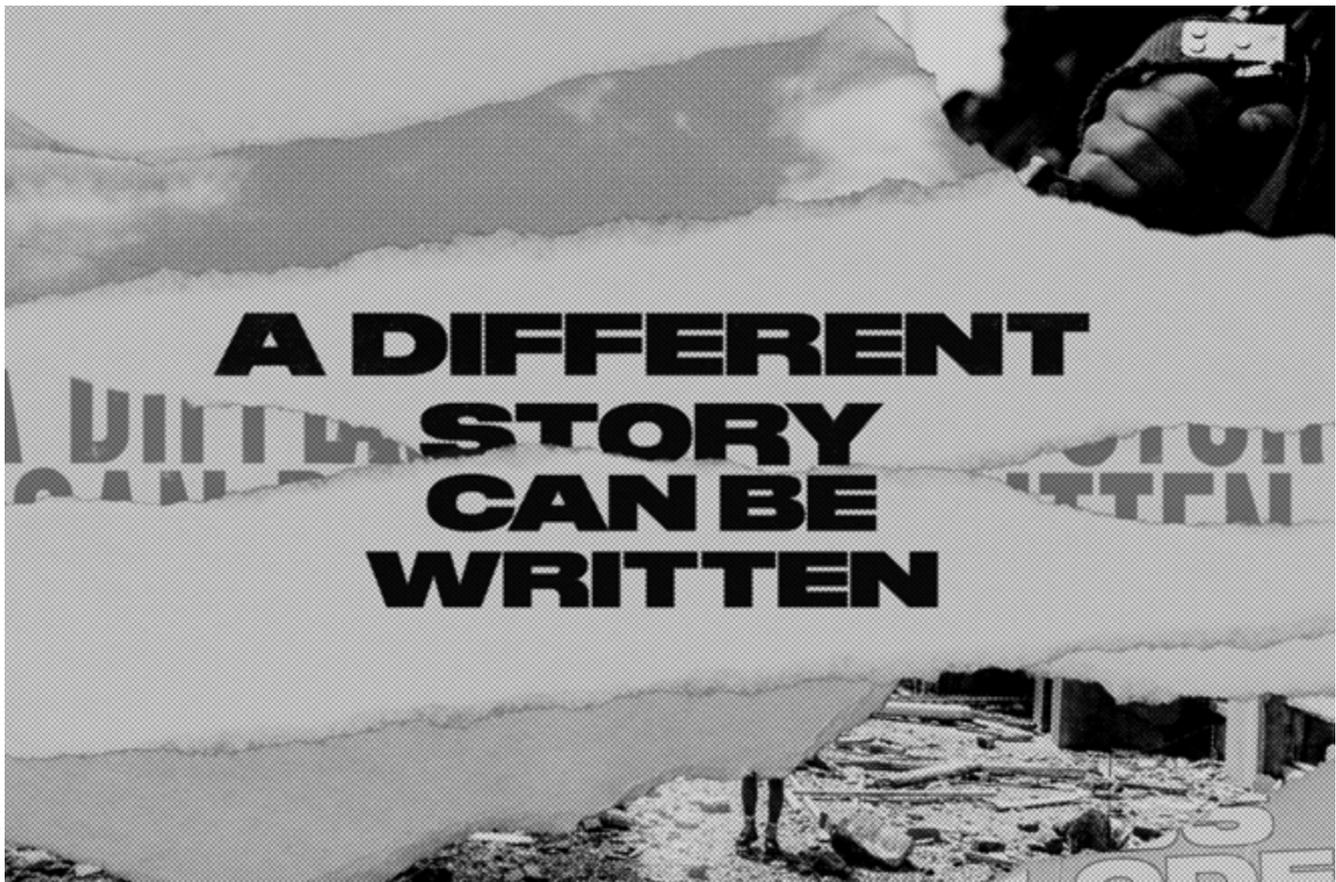
GCERF is supported by 18 governments, the European Union, and the private sector. By year end, total financial contributions received since inception in 2014, reached USD 114.2 million, including in-kind contributions.

In 2021, a total of USD 16.8 million was secured to reinvest in existing partner countries and new countries were added to our portfolio. We continue to benefit from the strong support and commitment of our current donors. Twelve new contributions were awarded from eight donors in 2021.

In parallel, engagement with potential corporate partners continued including at the global and national levels. Notably, we began a high-level, multi-year consultation to create a roadmap for corporate entities to engage in fragile contexts.

Contributions to GCERF In thousands of US Dollars (as of 31 December, 2021)

Contributors	Total confirmed	Cash	In-Kind Contributions
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	20,803	18,477	2,326
NETHERLANDS	16,829	16,829	-
EUROPEAN UNION	14,154	14,154	-
SWITZERLAND	12,416	10,447	1,969
QATAR	10,000	10,000	-
JAPAN	7,705	7,705	-
GERMANY	5,990	5,990	-
AUSTRALIA	5,693	5,693	-
NORWAY	4,622	4,622	-
CANADA	3,445	3,445	-
FRANCE	3,019	3,019	-
ITALY	2,844	2,844	-
UNITED KINGDOM	2,594	2,594	-
DENMARK	2,094	2,094	-
NEW ZEALAND	1,285	1,243	42
LIECHTENSTEIN	257	257	-
SWEDEN	167	167	-
KOFI ANNAN FOUNDATION	96	96	-
MOROCCO	62	30	32
SPAIN	34	34	-
PRIVATE SECTOR & OTHER	88	52	36
Total	114,198	109,793	4,405



GCERF Comms support for Replenishment campaign 2021

Finance

The Finance and Compliance Unit plans and organises financial resources, managing annual and project audits, while complying with international accounting standards. It also provides technical support to grant-making, grant-management, and grant-closure activities, and conducts regular financial training and support for grant recipients in-country. The Finance and Audit Committee established in 2020, oversees and advises the Secretariat on matters related to finance, audit, risk management or internal control.

An annual audit was conducted by an external company, BDO SA Ltd, in Switzerland on our financial statements. Auditors reported an unqualified opinion in their report, with no observations or findings.

During the year, a number of grant recipients in Africa, Asia, and Europe underwent financial examinations by BDO LLP, based in the United Kingdom. Internal control and risk management systems, in accordance with the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) model of internal control, continued to be strengthened. A revision of current procedures and processes, started in 2020, was completed during the first quarter of 2021.

Governance

As our decision-making body, GCERF's Governing Board has various responsibilities setting the organisation's strategic direction and priorities. Two hybrid board meetings were held on 22 June in Geneva and on 7-8 December in Paris. The Board took 18 decisions on critical issues, such as the approval of a new strategy, the 2022

budget, allocation of funding, and country and regional strategies for Kenya, Nigeria, Tunisia, and the Western Balkans.

Additionally, the Board approved Bosnia and Herzegovina and Burkina Faso as new partner countries. All Board decisions are publicly available on our website. The Governing Board membership is listed in Annex 1.

The Finance and Audit Committee held several meetings this year including the annual audit and a review of the Internal Control System.

The Governance and Ethics Committee held several meetings and did not receive any reports of cases of conflict of interest.

At the country level, individuals covered by principles related to ethics and conflict of interest are members of the Country Support Mechanisms, who are involved in the grant making process. Recipients of our funding are also bound by GCERF's Code of Conduct. During the year, no cases of conflict of interest in partner countries were reported to the Secretariat, relayed to members of Country Support Mechanisms, nor to funding recipients.

Outreach

This year, through our replenishment campaign, GCERF created messages to inspire investment in countering and preventing violent extremism. The goal was to "write a different story with a different end". GCERF continued to expand its audience, draw more practitioners, young people, prospective donors, academics, and reporters to its mission.

GCERF communicated and shared highlights via short videos, newsletters, and pushed interactivity through virtual events and a heightened presence on social media. GCERF

attracted international press mentions and featured in journals and industry publications such as the Royal United Services Institute, Just Security, Resolve Network, and World Politics Review's podcast, among others.

GCERF held speaking roles at numerous high-level conferences and organised external events, including a high-level conference on "Responding to a Rising Growing Challenge of Violent Extremism in the Sahel" jointly with the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France and the G5 Sahel.

As a PVE thought leader, GCERF started implementation of the newly launched Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Working Group Initiative on Funding and Enabling Community-Level P/CVE: Challenges, Recommendations and Emerging Good Practices. This Initiative will collate and discuss diverse experiences of preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) and enable communities to develop recommendations for fast-tracking localisation within respective national contexts and identify good emerging practices.

Relationships were strengthened and coordination enhanced with key partners, including the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), GCTF, Hedayah, the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ), and the Kofi Annan Foundation (KAF). In addition, GCERF signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the G5 Sahel.

Human Resources

In 2021, GCERF strengthened its organisational culture, focusing on collaboration and communication during the complex work environment caused by COVID-19. For example, weekly "mindfulness" sessions for staff were launched and a "[Resilience Pulse](#)" survey was conducted to improve staff resilience and agility.

Results of the survey were carefully analysed and taken onboard for further improvement.

GCERF continued to attract and retain highly qualified professionals from around the world. In 2021, seven new employees and interns were recruited. By year end, 32 staff members, including permanent and temporary employees and interns were employed comprising 17 different nationalities of which, 63 per cent were women.

Employee retention was at an all time high, with the lowest rate of voluntary turnover in the Fund's history, partially due to the hard work on enhancing culture and improving employee work experience. In addition, as part of the 2025 Strategy implementation, plans were initiated for our first Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy and Strategy which will commence in 2022.

Independent Review Panel (IRP)

GCERF's Independent Review panel is an impartial group of experts providing rigorous technical assessment of requests for funding. The panel provides advice on country assessments and ensures quality programming, PVE specificity, and alignment to national priorities. Members are appointed by the Board with four new members approved during its 15th meeting.

IRP members contributed by reviewing several portfolio investment strategies including for Kenya, Nigeria, Tunisia, and the Western Balkans. Additionally, they provided guidance in the creation of several grants for Kenya, Nigeria, the Sahel, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, and the Western Balkans. Finally, some of our Global Communities of Practice were co-facilitated by IRP members alongside staff.

In 2022, in addition to the review of strategies and grants, IRP members' expertise will be drawn upon to support enhanced capacity development on national and regional Communities of Practice and on high-level events and missions.

Unsplash/Hennie Stander



PORTFOLIO

Over the past five years, we have provided grants to over 200 local organisations, investing over USD 56 million in 14 countries. Our Portfolio Management Unit works with local partners to identify those communities most vulnerable to violent extremism. We fund those community-based organisations that are best placed to build community resilience to violent extremism and other shocks.

THE GLOBAL ACTION PLATFORM (GAP)

The Strategy 2025 outlines our intention to create an alliance of PVE partners to share experiences and exchange good practices and lessons learned across a global network. Members include current and past grant recipients, academia, and practitioners as well as members of Country Support Mechanisms, Regional Funding Panels, and our Independent Review Panel. Launched at the end of the year, the platform aims to:

- improve impact and sustainability of programming through information sharing;
- improve and coordinate provision of capacity strengthening to local partners;
- create informal relations between partners and other stakeholders;
- create a knowledge base of easily scalable and replicable initiatives; and
- contribute to an advocacy agenda for community-based approaches to violent extremism.

APPLYING A CONFLICT SENSITIVE APPROACH

This approach ensures that we, and organisations with

whom we work, are effective, accountable, and efficient. By promoting conflict sensitivity, corrective actions can be easily taken where needed and partners can respond to emerging community needs such as COVID-19.

GCERF has adopted the cycle identified by the Swiss Development Cooperation and focuses on three key principles:

Do no harm. Interventions should not contribute to more conflict, for example through the marginalisation of a specific group. Instead, it should strengthen their position in the community and the society.

Human rights-based

Part of a human rights-based approach requires working with national and local governments. As a bridge builder between duty bearers and rights holders, GCERF can help strengthen the social contract. Fostering accountability of state institutions and civil society actors is key to developing trust between these entities.

Whole of society.

Meaningful participation of relevant stakeholders throughout the resilience-building process. Stakeholders are identified through a consultative process and involve government at local, regional, and national levels, as well as the different segments of communities affected, and influencers and contributors to the programme.

THE CAROL BELLAMY WEAVE FELLOWSHIP

The Carol Bellamy Women Entrepreneurs Against Violent Extremism Fellowship (WEAVE) supported small-scale, female-led organisations working in areas affected by violent extremism. Named after the Honorable Carol Bellamy, the first chair of our governing board and an ardent supporter of women's empowerment, the fellowship strengthens female-led organisations by providing additional financial support.

In 2021, the fellowship was piloted in Tunisia using

the International Labour Organisation's *Start and Improve Your Business Programme (SIYB)* which is designed to help small-scale entrepreneurs start and grow their business. Ten female beneficiaries were selected. They were identified as having an elevated risk of radicalisation or recruitment into extremist groups, as a result of both their personal situations and local environment. Through the project, these women received support to open their own small businesses, while also receiving training on understanding and preventing violent extremism.

INNOVATION

Over the past year, despite pandemic-related restrictions, we continued to innovate. Each quarter, we brought together all of our grantees, Country Support Mechanism members and other local partners through virtual Global Communities of Practice focusing on different thematic areas; providing hybrid capacity-building sessions; and developed effective online due diligence.

SUPPORT TO NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVEL STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

Partners are increasingly engaged in consultations with national governments to developing PVE strategies and action plans, building on their in-depth, hands-on experience in delivering community-based interventions. In particular, grantees supported national strategy development in Albania and the Philippines, and provincial-level strategies in Kenya, Nigeria, and the Philippines-Bangsamoro autonomous area. In Kenya, the entire support of GCERF is dedicated to strengthening the capacity of the implementing body of the county-level action plans.

REGIONAL COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

Building on the success of the global and national communities of practice, we supported regional communities of practice in the Western Balkans and in South and Southeast Asia. The Western Balkans portfolio conducted two regional community of practice events; one focused on risk assessment and mitigation, and the other, a baseline symposium.

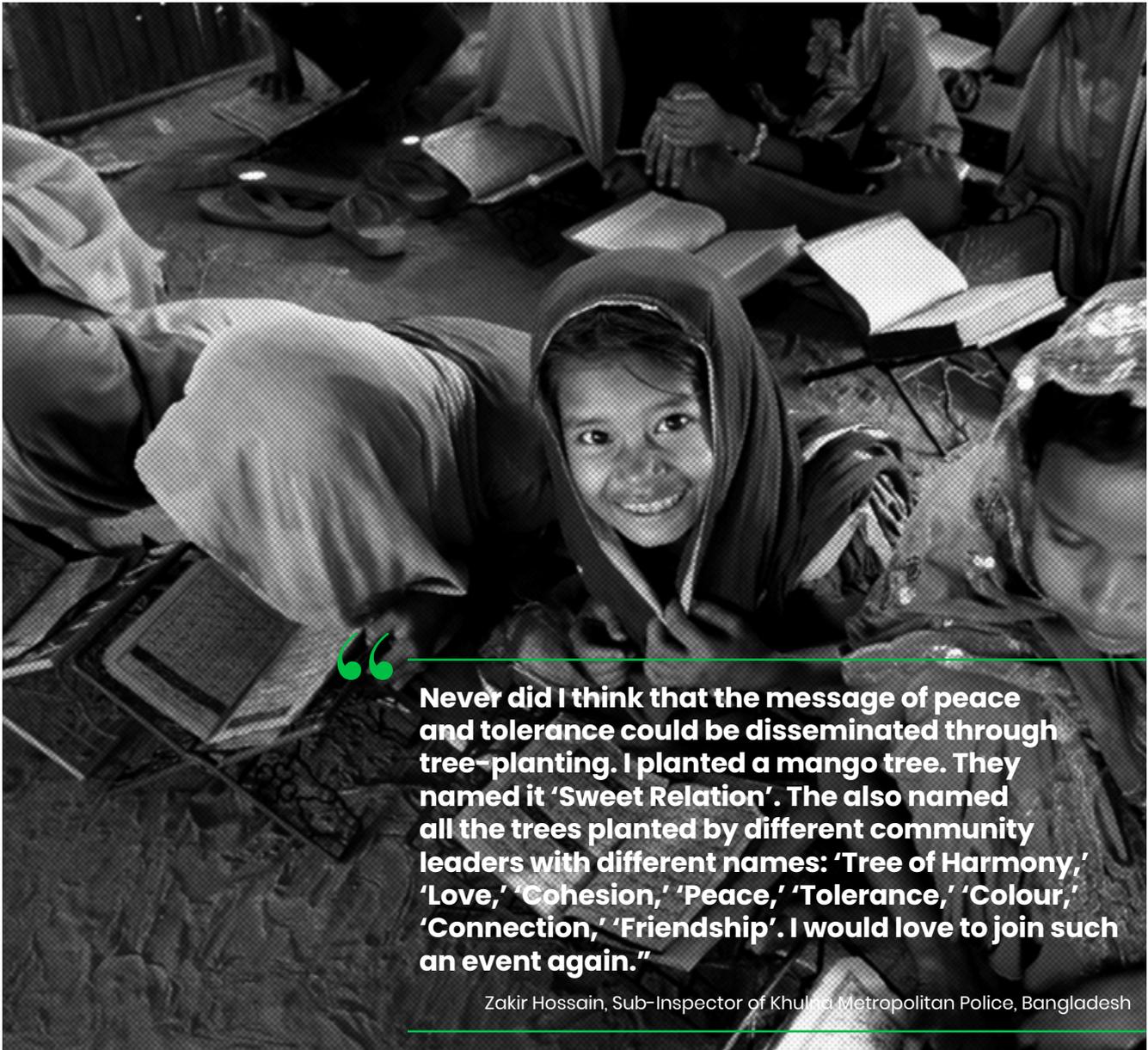
STREAMLINED GRANT-MAKING PROCESS

Grant-making processes were streamlined with potential grantees in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, and Tunisia receiving PVE and Theory of Change trainings prior to developing project proposals to increase the quality of their programming submissions. This helped reduce time required for making grants (now three to four months from an organisation's approval compared to eight to nine months previously) and increased quality of the proposals.

SUPPORT FOR LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

GCERF developed sustainability assessment tools to better review and understand the potential sustainability of activities. These tools were tested in Nigeria and Tunisia where grants were ending and will now be systematically used with all grants from the start of grant making.

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Never did I think that the message of peace and tolerance could be disseminated through tree-planting. I planted a mango tree. They named it 'Sweet Relation'. They also named all the trees planted by different community leaders with different names: 'Tree of Harmony,' 'Love,' 'Cohesion,' 'Peace,' 'Tolerance,' 'Colour,' 'Connection,' 'Friendship'. I would love to join such an event again."

Zakir Hossain, Sub-Inspector of Khulna Metropolitan Police, Bangladesh

BANGLADESH

Principal grant recipients



Key achievements

The two consortiums and one direct grantee supported youth empowerment and engagement. Around 600 youth groups, forums and clubs worked on PVE sensitisation, leadership development, and PVE actions. Many of the youth platforms gained community recognition and appreciation: local governments invited them to join local townhall meetings and government-organised events, such as COVID-19 vaccination campaigns.

Some youth groups also came together to protect their peers during sporadic inter-communal violence in October. Their actions contributed to the peaceful celebration of the Durga Puja festival by Hindu communities in some programme areas. Other youth platform members disseminated positive narratives online calling on people to protect each other’s right to thrive and live with safety and dignity .

In Khulna, Rajshahi and Dhaka, Rupantar initiated PVE capacity building for students in 25 higher educational institutions. In Dhaka, these activities were part of a two-year regional programme in partnership with the Kofi Annan Foundation and funded by the European Union to empower youth leadership in PVE and support peer-learning of good practices In Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Philippines.

In Cox’s Bazar, YPSA supported COVID-19 prevention activities combined with PVE and gender-based violence (GBV) sensitisation. This was a direct response to community concerns. Coaching of school and madrasa students who missed their classes due to COVID-19 were also held throughout year.

Lessons learned

- With the increase of online radicalisation through the spread of negative narratives, fake news, and resources in local and national media, strengthening youth’s digital and media literacy skills is critical. Grants have been adapted to address these risks and propose tailored activities for youth in the digital space.
- Leadership and capacity development activities with university students can be an effective way to institutionalise PVE initiatives. The Rupantar-led consortium succeeded in initiating and running PVE actions at over 25 universities in Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna and some are considering incorporating PVE into their regular curriculum.

The way forward

- Grants in Bangladesh will end by mid-2022 and an updated strategy will be put in place which will run until December 2023. This new strategy will enable grantees to consolidate and ensure sustainable interventions
- Both grantees and members of youth platforms will receive increased capacity-strengthening. Trainings for grantees will include gender mainstreaming, advanced PVE and M&E. Youth group members will be supported to institutionalise their platforms and link them to the local structures to ensure long-term sustainability.



■ BANGLADESH ■ RAJSHANI; CHAPAI-NAWABGANJ ■ CHATTOGRAM; COX'S BAZAR
■ GREATER DHAKA ■ KHULNA; SATKHIRA

HUMAN INTEREST STORY

Harun, a Muslim, is a member of the Youth Peace Club which is supported by the Rupantar-led consortium. When Saurav, a Hindu from a neighbouring community, approached the youth club for advice on organising Durga Puja, the annual Hindu festival, Harun called for a meeting and developed a plan to support the festival’s organisation , along with some of his peers from the club.

Young people collected donations and printed invitation cards. They designed and

printed banners and posters and helped Saurav decorate. “Together we made the guest list and invited them. We attended the programme as Saurav had invited us all. I was so happy and excited to be the presenter of the programme. I found a strong bonding between me and Saurav,” said Harun.

Later Saurav helped the youth club to organise an Islamic religious event and bought sweets from the market and helped with packaging and distribution of sweets at the event’s end.

KENYA

Principal grant recipients



Key achievements

Initial investments in Kenya were concluded by mid-2021, with 21 local organisations reaching more than 600,000 beneficiaries directly through a range of initiatives aimed at:

- empowering youth to develop, lead, and implement initiatives promoting a sense of purpose and critical thinking through sport, cultural, arts and educational activities;
- using dialogue as a tool for peaceful engagement and conflict resolution between youth, religious leaders of different faiths, community-level authorities and law enforcement agencies;
- enhancing alternative social and economic opportunities for disenfranchised and at-risk youth and women; and
- promoting social cohesion through dialogues and events.

A new programme was launched for Kenya, informed by the experiences and the lessons

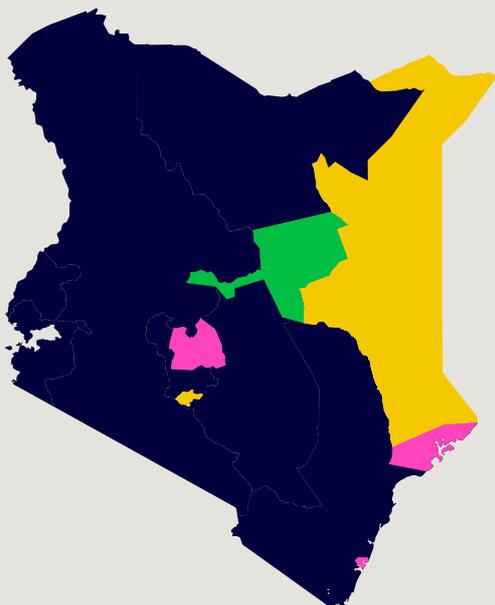
learned from GCERF’s 2018–2021 investment.

The programme focuses on strengthening the collaboration with and the capacity of local structures dedicated to P/CVE, such as the County Engagement Forums (CEF) in Garissa, Isiolo, Lamu, Nairobi, Nyeri, and Wajir counties.

ACT!, GCERF’s grantee in Kenya, will work closely with the CEFs and the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) to support capacity strengthening and coordination activities by CEFs and implementation of key pillars of County Action Plans in programme counties.

Lessons learned

- Building on past achievements such as working with counties is essential for long-term sustainability.
- To ensure programme success and local ownership, active engagement with the government at various levels is key in all phases of the programme. Current investment was co-created through active engagement by NCTC, ACT!, and local donors.
- Consultations are essential to ensure horizontal and vertical ownership of CEFs.



■ KENYA ■ ISILOLO ■ LAMU, MOMBASA, NYERI ■ GARISSA, NAIROBI, WAJIR

HUMAN INTEREST STORY

Using Visual Arts as a form of Healing Therapy for Trauma Victims of VE

GCERF piloted victim-led P/CVE strategy through an art-based methodology called body mapping. This pilot project was implemented with the Coast Interfaith Council of Clerics (CICC) Trust – a clerical organisation with clerics from different faith.

Body mapping workshops were conducted with 10 participants, who categorise as secondary victims of terrorism, which means that one of their close relatives left to join VE groups.

The methodology combines a therapeutic and transformative practice with visual arts, and provides participants a supportive, secure and non-judgmental forum in which they can express their psychosocial needs and deal with their trauma.

Participants painted a life-sized representation of their body outline onto a large surface and by utilising colours, pictures, symbols, and words to represent bodily and cognitive experiences, including individual definitions and perceptions of VE. By exploring and accounting for the past, present and future, participants elaborated on their envisioned roles in P/CVE, which included building trust among community actors and individuals.

The results of this pilot showed that body mapping is a powerful method for addressing challenges, related to understanding and trust, as part of the P/CVE processes experienced by community members and security personnel in Mombasa, Kenya. Community members noted the importance of engaging with the police through artistic initiatives, as they emphasised the extrajudicial violence and killings as factors contributing to, and inhibiting efforts to prevent and counter, VE.

The way forward

- Sub-grantees will be selected in each priority county detailed in the Kenya Investment strategy 2021-2024 to support the County Engagement Forums in the implementation of the County Action Plans.
- Symposium on Standard Operational Procedures related to the County Engagement Forums will be held.
- Annual lessons learned and good practice workshop on dealing with County Engagement Forums will be also held.
- A monitoring mission involving different donors will be organised to assess the impact of past investments.

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NIGERIA

Principal grant recipients



act:onaid

Key achievements

Programming in Benue, Kogi, Nasarawa, and Plateau states ended in 2021, after six years in total, with around 70 per cent of activities estimated to have become self-sustaining. Three grantees reported a total of 27,385 direct beneficiaries this year, along with more than 2.2 million beneficiaries reached indirectly, primarily through radio and social media. All three grantees developed holistic programming, working at individual, community, local, state, and national levels.

At the individual level, grantees ran peace camps bringing together around 500 young people from different ethnicities, religions, and communities each quarter. Participants went on to become Youth Peace Ambassadors, resolving conflicts in their local communities. They were provided with livelihoods training, and supported to set up collectives, given that poverty is a key local driver of recruitment into VE groups.

Grantees provided conflict resolution and PVE training to community leaders, bringing them together in community dialogue sessions which will continue beyond the end of the programme. The committees resolved multiple disputes, from repairing wells to re-establishing grazing routes. The Community Action Response Teams (CARTs) set up by Action Aid Nigeria in the first round of funding, continued to expand throughout the second funding round. They now link with local security stakeholders through Local Conflict Management Alliances, with state-level actors through State Conflict Management Alliances. The approach has been adopted by other communities not engaged in the project.

In November, GCERF, the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) and grantee AAN held a National Conference entitled *Localisation of Policy Framework and National Action Plan (NAP) for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in Nigeria*. The event built on a stakeholder forum held in May and brought together 200 national and state-level stakeholders to review NAP operationalisation since its introduction in August 2017.

Lessons learned

- Both AAN and Women Environmental Programme (WEP) turned their advocacy activities into policymaking, something unforeseen at the start of programming. Legislatures have now passed bills for Youth Development Commissions in Kogi and Nasarawa and this is expected also in Benue. This approach significantly increases the impact and potential sustainability of other programme activities which will be supported by the Commissions.
- Youth Peace Camp participants were also enrolled in livelihoods projects. These attracted the interest of state governments with some evidence of replication, though not to the extent needed to pull the majority of unemployed out of poverty. The livelihoods approach is, therefore, being reviewed in the next round of funding to ensure that skills training is matched against current and future needs, and links to existing government and private sector initiatives. GCERF secured private sector support to deliver IT-focused training to youth peace camp participants in 2022.

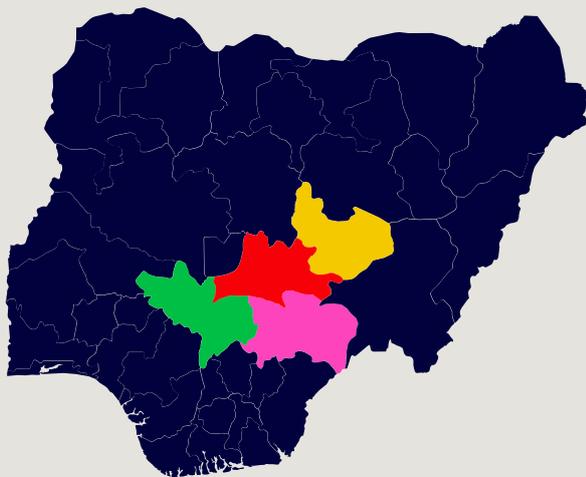
The way forward

- Based on the request of the Office of the National Security Adviser and emerging needs, GCERF shifted its investment from the Middle Belt to the northwest. This includes Kaduna, Kano, Katsina and Sokoto (2022-2024). GCERF's own assessment, the Vulnerability Index, also indicated emerging needs in the northwest, where prevention work is still possible. The total value of the new investment will be USD 3.5 million, and the approach focuses on resilience-building interventions that are high impact, require low investment, and can be sustainably replicated through information sharing and scaled through policy development at state level.



Action Aid Nigeria

HUMAN INTEREST STORY



- NIGERIA
- BENUE
- KOGI
- NASARAWA
- PLATEAU STATE

In Plateau State, Attah, 33, is an officer with one of the security companies providing community interventions. He had always felt that brute force was the best method to ensure security and had built a fearsome reputation in the community. Attah then received training on community policing and says,

“We learned about the human rights approach to policing... We learned that security was the responsibility of every community member. What struck me the most was the realisation that to be effective at my job, I needed to see community members as partners, respect their rights as human beings, and treat accused persons with dignity so as not to create grievances that

push people to unruly behaviour and violent extremist groups. It was a humbling experience. I had to apologise to community members present and individuals who I had treated badly. I also got my colleagues to change tactics and we began to cultivate a better relationship built on trust and mutual respect with community members”.

Attah is now one of the community’s favourite security personnel and stated, “I do my job better, the VE groups have their informants but I have more ... Every member of the community deserves to be treated well and with respect. That way, security agents like me will no longer be the reason a young person will join a violent extremist group.”

THE PHILIPPINES

Principal grant recipients



Key achievements

Programming in the Philippines focuses on improving inclusivity and participation in the three key areas of, governance, justice and education, particularly religious madari schools. Grantees work in many of the most marginalised areas of the BARMM, bringing together local populations with school governing boards, governance, justice, and security actors to find sustainable solutions to perennial challenges to local security and stability. Grantees worked with 15,743 direct beneficiaries (48 percent female and 52 percent male) and reached more than 1,009,000 indirect beneficiaries, primarily through radio and social media.

- In December, a year-end strategic planning event (and [short film](#)) brought together all grantees with members of the country support mechanism and other government partners. The thematic working groups on madaris, peace education, local governance, and youth recruitment drafted action plans and signed a Declaration of Commitment to ensure that coordination with all stakeholders will continue.
- Grantees continued to participate in consultations on the P/CVE National Action Plan, and a number have joined technical working groups to look at operationalising the plan.
- Through the national Communities of Practice we promoted, grantees set up local-level working groups on key thematic areas and will present a series of concrete recommendations to government actors next year.

- Other grantees worked with the Department of Education to register and recognise madaris, legitimising their certifications, and increasing opportunities for graduates.

Lessons learned

- Partnerships with local governments are essential to consolidate and sustain civil society interventions to develop P/CVE capacities. These partnerships will ensure that over the longer term, communities can be linked to existing government services, sustaining programming gains.
- The Communities of Practice have become a platform for P/CVE stakeholders in the country for dialogue. It is important that civil society owns these discussions, with GCERF providing the support necessary, such as linkages with government and international partners, in addition to resources.

The way forward

- The Local Knowledge Partner (LKP) which is a new type of grant from GCERF that aims to support monitoring capacity and related research was piloted in the Philippines. The LKP will provide capacity building to the BARMM, in coordination with UNDP and will carry out research guided by the CSM.
- With all grants due to end in late 2022, GCERF is updating its investment strategy for the Philippines, building on Round 1 experiences and on feedback from grantees, CSM members, donors, and other P/CVE stakeholders. The new strategy is expected to focus on local governance, transitional justice and education.



After the training, I was encouraged to push organisations to apply for accreditation. The activity changed my outlook on local leaders/ governance and helped us to really participate and work together with the government. The activity helped me realise the importance of working together as CSOs and as a partner in implementing programmes that will benefit the community as a whole."

Participant from a workshop conducted by Mahintana



Shutterstock/Kumpol Vashiraaskorn

HUMAN INTEREST STORY

A lack of reliable local justice mechanisms to solve land disputes remains a key source of conflict in Maguindanao and one that extremist groups have exploited in their recruitment practices and infiltration into local communities. The Barangay Justice System (BJS), designed as a “frontline” judiciary service, has been part of the Philippines’ judicial structure for decades but, in many areas, remains underdeveloped and underutilised.

Grantee surveying in early 2021 showed that not only do communities not know about the BJS, but members of the BJS themselves admit that they need more training to provide mediation, conciliation, and arbitration services to communities in conflict. The grantee has since been providing workshops to develop the skills of BJS functionaries to improve their credibility with the final aim of reducing the rate of local level conflict. One participant stated, “The workshop

provided me with insight into the need for integrity and impartiality. It taught me the procedures and differences between mediation, conciliation, and arbitration. Finally, it gave me different techniques to resolve conflicts among neighbours.”

The BJS functionaries have committed to transforming the services they provide to resolve conflicts quickly and fairly, reducing opportunities for extremist groups to gain influence in areas where there is an ongoing sense of grievance in communities. “The whole exercise strengthened the resolve of the Lupong Tagapamayapa to organise and transform the Katarungang Barangay in their communities into a functional justice structure. Moreover, it deepened their commitment to becoming the first line of defence against the entrance of extremist elements in the community,” stated a barangay council member.



- PHILIPPINES
- LANAO DEL SUR, LANAO DEL NORTE
- MAGUINDANAO, INCLUDING COTABATO CITY
- BASILAN, SULU AND TAWI-TAWI
- NORTH COTABATO

SOMALIA

Principal grant recipients



Key achievements

GCERF started its investment in 2021 focusing on the Lower Juba and Kismayo areas based on the needs for community-based P/CVE programming and the priorities of the federal and local governments. GCERF investment supports community-based rehabilitation and integration of people disengaging from non-state armed groups and returning to communities by themselves.

- 300 women and 300 youth (118 female) trained in civic education in 10 locations along the Somali-Kenyan and Somali-Ethiopian border. Twenty sets of three-day training sessions were held covering fundamentals of governance including the principles of accountability, rule of law, rights and responsibilities of citizens, and the separation of powers. They also covered the basic structures of government in Somalia. The sessions promoted knowledge and engagement of women and youth in governance processes, and identified women and youth with strong leadership potential for the second phase of the project, advocacy groups. Regular follow-up meetings were held with 180 trainees, of whom 110 were women.
- Restructure of the Somali Wellness and Economic Recovery Consortium (SWERC) ended with the signing of a grant agreement with the new consortium lead. Following successful procurement and due diligence processes, GCERF worked with the Horn of Africa Peace Network (HAPEN) to adjust and adapt the SWERC programme with the existing sub-recipients.

- Conducted tailored capacity building activities for partner organisations were conducted with grant recipients including an in-person Hostile Environment Awareness training course.

Lessons learned

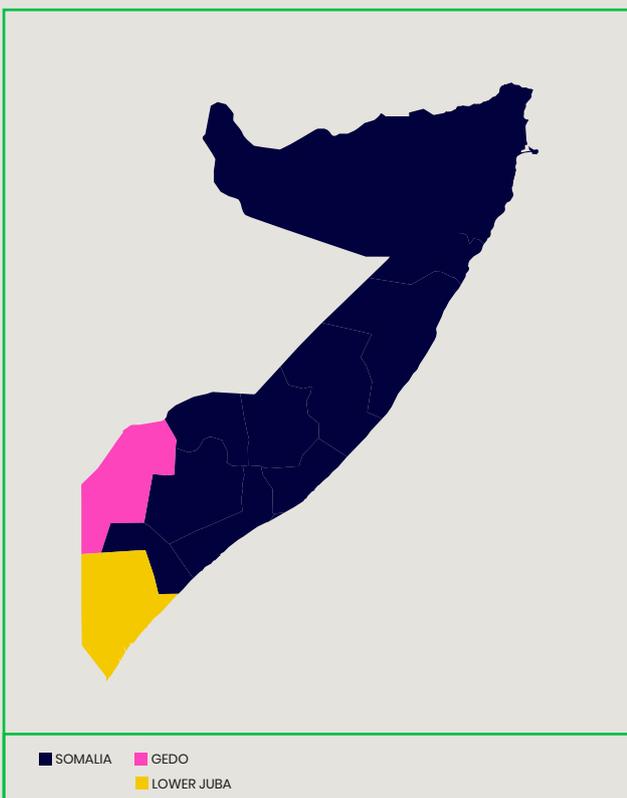
- Creating a feedback mechanism for both principal and sub-recipients on performance can help anticipate, mitigate, and address issues. Well-timed feedback can support progress assessments of partner organisations to aid decision-making in the programme management cycle. GCERF is piloting a feedback process for early 2022.
- The challenge with physical access requires alternative methods of due diligence. Conducting complementary field visits through overt or covert commissions, when feasible, can help overcome the limitations of virtual due diligence and build a more comprehensive profile of partners' capacities.

Way forward

- HAPEN will focus on providing social, economic and civic support for people disengaging from non-state armed groups and those at-risk of radicalisation and recruitment.
- The second phase of BHWP's project will begin in 2022, with advocacy trainings with selected high-potential trainees. This will enable the setup of advocacy organisations whose sustainability and capacity building will be the focus of the remainder of the project.



Ismail Salad Osman Hajji dirir



HUMAN INTEREST STORY

Hassan Ma'alim Ahmed is a 24 year old man from Tulla Amin village. He dropped out of school in his last year of secondary education because his parents were no longer able to afford the fees. He became demoralised and, since then, has been living at home and helping his parents. He was selected to participate in civic education training by Beled Hawa Women for Peace. During the trainings, facilitators noticed that Hassan was a hard worker, open to learn, and possessed leadership qualities.

Throughout the training, he actively participated in sessions and was a group presenter who was always ready to lead. After the training, Hassan started community volunteer service. He developed a desire to support local youth and encourage

them towards positive activities. Hassan says,

"Many youth get recruited into Al-shabaab because they do not understand their rights as citizens and they hardly get a chance to be involved in decision-making at social and political platforms. The civic education training helped me understand my rights as citizen and the platforms available for me to participate for the welfare of my community. I will use the knowledge and skills gained from the training to do my best in civic engagement and be active in community activism."

As part of the second phase of the programme, Hassan is a likely candidate for further advocacy training and to be involved in the setup of a youth-led organisation.

SRI LANKA

Principal grant recipients



Key achievements

Programming focuses on enhancing community cohesion and the sense of purpose of youth and adolescents from 15 to 29 years old in six districts of the island: Ampara, Batticaloa, Colombo, Kalutara, Kandy and Kurunegala. The thematic areas include:

- promoting communal harmony and PVE by engaging with religious institutions;
- working with role models to promote mediation and setting positive examples;
- providing youth leadership roles in community-based reconciliation and decision-making;
- enhancing dialogue between youth and community-level government authorities; and
- promoting critical thinking of youth in educational institutions.

A grant agreement was signed with Helvetas Sri Lanka in March which coincided with increasing restrictive pandemic measures. Despite challenges posed by COVID-19, Helvetas embarked activities and conducted a baseline

study in programme districts from July to September on youth perception of VE. Regular guidance and support were provided on financial, and monitoring and evaluation management.

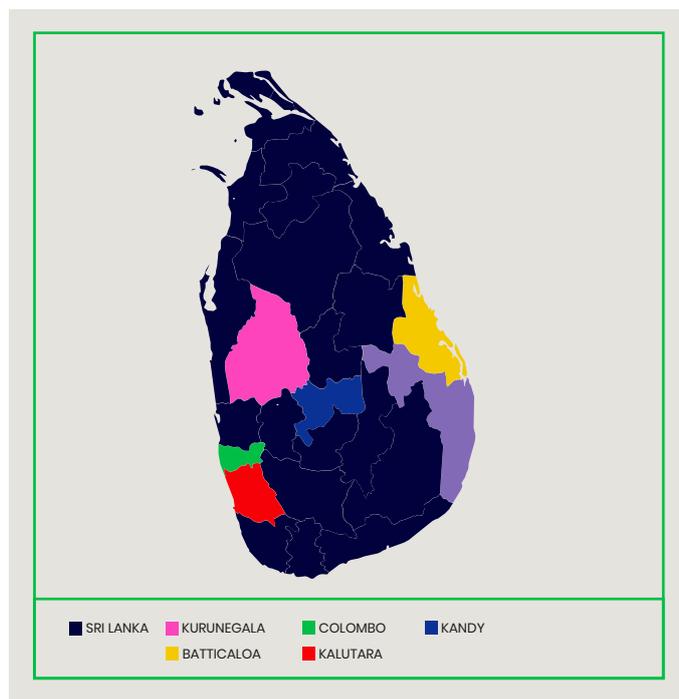
The Accelerated Funding Panel, which formed to coordinate and support key programmatic decisions, approved three sub-grantees by the end of the year. The selection process will be finalised in 2022 where grants between USD 20,000 to 100,000 will be given to grassroots community-based groups.

Lessons learned

- Building trust between CSOs, the national government and GCERF is time-consuming. Transparency and proactivity are essential to ensure buy-in and ownership at all levels. GCERF instigated several formal and semi-formal meetings during the lockdown.

The way forward

- Additional sub-grants will be created in 2022.
- Sri Lanka's Helvetas will participate with Kenyan and Bangladeshi grantees on gender and PVE trainings.
- Recruitment of a National Advisor for Sri Lanka is underway to enhance local monitoring and evaluation as well as to support grant making and grant management tasks.



TUNISIA

Principal grant recipients



Key achievements

Engagement continued with Country Support Mechanism (CSM), with the first joint Community of Practice, held in March with grantees and donors. The CSM also provided detailed input to strategy development for 2022 – 2025, and the selection of grantees for the next round of funding, ensuring alignment with national priorities and other programming.

The first round of funding ended in December, with more than 14,300 direct beneficiaries (6,800 men and 7,500 women) and nearly 60,000 indirect beneficiaries (29,600 men and 30,300 women). The five initial projects targeted young people vulnerable to radicalisation and recruitment through development of protective peer, parental and religious leader networks.

By the end of 2021, as a result of ongoing training and engagement, 38 small businesses and collectives had been set up by grantee beneficiaries, with GCERF providing additional mentoring support to female beneficiaries through the Carol Bellamy Fellowship. Three local youth councils were set up, an online toolkit for tackling extremism was created and

shared with high school and university students, and 11 community support projects developed by religious leaders. GCERF also launched the Carol Bellamy Fellowship in Tunisia, to increase support to women entrepreneurs.

Lessons learned

- Income-generating activities are one of the most effective ways to consistently engage vulnerable young people in PVE programming. The activities selected need to be assessed for regulatory and licensing issues from the beginning to make sure that businesses will be technically viable. Training needs to be provided early on to allow adequate mentoring time as the business starts and beneficiaries are supported to address challenges.
- Trust-building between local communities, authorities, and the security sector is key to addressing recruitment drivers in Tunisia. This requires time to become embedded in communities. GCERF will, therefore, fund four-year grants in the next cycle to increase the potential for sustainable and impactful interventions in this domain.



The project allowed me to identify indicators of violence in religious discourse, to develop my critical sense, and to understand the benefits of diversity of viewpoints.”

Ahmed*, 22 year old workshop participant (*not his real name)



■ TUNISIA ■ MEDENINE, LE KEF, MONASTIR ■ BIZERTE, SOUSSE
■ MAHDIA, TUNIS, MANOUBA ■ SIDI BOUZID, BEN AROUS, ARIANA

HUMAN INTEREST STORY

Yousri is a 24-year-old young man from a VE recruitment hotspot in Medenine. In 2020, he began to go to a mosque with a group of friends in his neighbourhood. Very quickly, however, the religious sermons were replaced with messages of hate and intolerance and the young men were encouraged to travel to Syria. Yousri's cousin, who was part of the group, progressively radicalised and left the country to join a VE group. The two cousins remained in contact through social media, where they would discuss VE issues. As a result, Yousri was arrested and de-

trained for three months on the grounds of association with a VE group. After his release, he met with Tunisia Plus staff through the Centre Intégré pour la Jeunesse et l'Enfance in Ben Gardane. The TANFIDH programme provided him with group and individual coaching to support his deradicalisation and reinsertion. He also received training and financial support to set up his own business in Medenine. He has since become one of the most proactive members in his community to raise awareness on the risks of radicalisation and recruitment.

REGIONAL PROGRAMME

GCERF launched its second regional programme after the Western Balkans in the Sahel in 2021. Regional programmes can be more efficient than single country programmes while focusing on addressing similar drivers of radicalisation and recruitment. Neighbouring national governments are part of the regional coordination mechanism that ensures a holistic multi-country approach to resilience building against VE.

SAHEL REGION

Principal grant recipients



GCERF delineates the Sahel within the context of the Group of Five Countries for the Sahel (G5 Sahel), the intergovernmental body to promote regional cooperation in development and security matters. In 2021, our focus is on the central Sahel region (Liptako Gourma) covering Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. Our engagement in the region will directly bolster the implementation of National Action Plans of the three countries working in partnership with local, national, regional, and global partners. GCERF's work began in Mali in 2016 followed by Burkina Faso and Niger during 2021.

The main drivers of violent extremism GCERF identified are: youth unemployment, farmer/herder conflicts and governance-related grievances. VE groups exploit these tensions and insecurities by communicating narratives of injustice and by providing protection in exchange for loyalty.

Key achievements

In February, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the G5 Sahel on joint activity in the Liptako-Gourma region. Investment in the Sahel aims to support local organisations in designing and implement community-led solutions for drivers of violent extremism. Programming includes strengthening existing conflict resolution and resource management platforms and creating new community-level structures to improve social cohesion. Local organisation programming includes sustainable rehabilitation and integration of former members of non-state armed groups, improving pastoralism to reduce

conflict, and introducing platforms for improving management of natural resources.

The Regional Funding Mechanism that is co-chaired by the G5 Sahel manages operations and guides project implementation, monitoring, and sharing of good practices and lessons learned among existing mechanisms in the Sahel. It ensures that proposed grant investments are aligned, coordinated, and complementary to other initiatives in the region.

Organisations UFC Dori and Réseau Afrique Jeunesse from Burkina Faso, Think Peace and ICD from Mali and the Association of Scouts in Niger were approved for the first round of funding. The programmes aim to facilitate community-led rehabilitation, disengagement, and (re)integration. Four of the five grants were signed in 2021, with the fifth to be signed in early 2022.

With the Malian government, and in collaboration with the African Union Commission Youth for Peace, a forum on peace and prevention of violent extremism was organised. The event put the community at the forefront of peace and PVE discussions. The two-day event brought together 200 people from all regions of Mali including from the northern areas heavily affected by violent extremism. Participants included youth, traditional community leaders, internally displaced persons, victims of modern slavery and violent extremist groups, ethnic-based defence groups, community workers, government officials, donors, African Union Youth Ambassadors for Peace and delegations from Burkina Faso and Niger.

Emmanuel Ikwuegbu



Lessons learned

- A “whole-of-Community” approach: Activities that bring together and foster regular engagement between communities and their leaders in both times of tensions and peace are essential. A flexible approach is necessary given the evolving realities of VE and the needs of communities to maximise the impact of activities.
- Grantee mentorship in design phase: Working with low-capacity grantees requires time and adapted assistance during the programme design phase to ensure ideas are articulated and explored. This can require involvement of an experienced local consultant to work with them through each step of the grant-making phase.

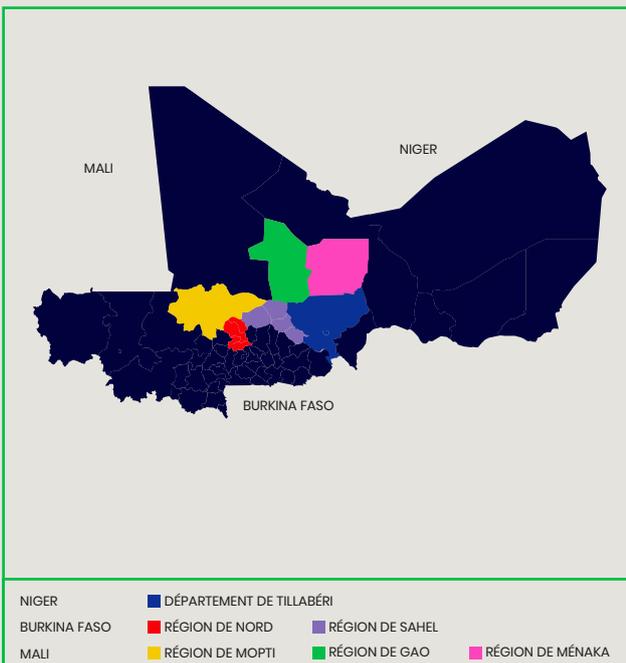
The way forward

- Niger grants: Grants with two Nigerien organisations will be signed early 2022 as selected by the Regional Funding Panel: Association Scouts du Niger (ASN) and Mouvement des Jeunes pour le Développement et l’Éducation Citoyenne (MOJEDEC). The signing will bring the total number of new programmes in GCERF’s Sahel programme to six with about USD 7 million in committed funding.
- Sahel programme extension to Mauritania: In collaboration with the G5 Sahel, GCERF will extend the Sahel programme to Mauritania working in close coordination with local authorities. A scoping mission and expression of interests to Mauritanian civil society organisations will be take place in the first quarter of 2022.



The awareness-raising campaign has allowed me to speak out and engage on issues that are undermining the life of my community, including the importance of dialogue in conflict resolution.”

A young tradesman in Diema



HUMAN INTEREST STORY

Sory is a 23-year-old man from a small village in the Mopti region of Mali. He lost his father when he was a child and had to financially support his family. When confronted with the region’s growing insecurity due to the presence of VE groups, Sory decided to flee his village. Subsequently, he studied carpentry for four years. Unfortunately, Sory never managed to set up his shop due to a lack of equipment. In April 2021, Action Mopti identified him as a beneficiary for technical and financial support for income-generating activities. He received materials and opened a carpentry shop. “I

have lived in difficult conditions since I lost my father at the age of four. I had completely given up on my hope to open my own business. Since the day I saw my name on the list of beneficiaries for the income-generating activities, I feel like I can finally live my dream,” he said.

The young man can now regularly support his family. Sory provides carpentry services to the village thus reducing movement of community members who are often subjected to extremists’ attacks and robbery when travelling to nearby villages.

WESTERN BALKANS REGION

Principal grant recipients



Returnees from conflicts abroad, also known as returning foreign terrorist fighters (RFTFs), are the predominant manifestation of violent extremism in the Western Balkans. Countries in the Western Balkans have had some of the highest number of returnees per capita in the world. Individuals who travelled, and in some cases fought in Syria and Iraq had various motives, usually a mix of personal drivers and justifying ideological objectives.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) became a partner country and is now part of the Western Balkans grant portfolio. Returnees have thus far received very little assistance and have been self-reintegrated into their immediate families and local communities.

Our grant portfolio aims to provide reintegration, rehabilitation, and resocialisation (RRR) support to returnees and their families, while working to strengthen the capacity of frontline workers and nurture an enabling environment for RRR throughout the country.

Key achievements

Our partners have contributed significantly to national strategies and action plans on P/CVE and rehabilitation and reintegration (R&R). Terre des Hommes Albania has supported the government in reviewing and revising the national strategy and action plan for 2022-2026 under the leadership of the CVE Coordination Centre. In Kosovo, led by the Division on Prevention and Reintegration, the Community Development Fund (CDF) and Advocacy Training and Resource Centre (ATRC) are part of the working group drafting the new strategy and action plan. Through their support, partners ensure that the civil society perspective on rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees and their families is included.

During an alumni event of their Civic Education Schools (CES), Community Building Mitrovica (CBM) brought together 53 youth from the ethnic-Serbian and ethnic-Albanian community in Mitrovica for a three-day event. CBM's civic education school events aim to foster inter-ethnic dialogue and friendship. This year has produced another round of young change makers, who have already organised various community events by themselves since the last CBM activities.

ATRC partner, Balkan Investigative Reporting

Network (BIRN), Kosovo, organised and broadcast debates for mayoral elections in both Kosovo (30) and North Macedonia (eight). Through questions on P/CVE and RRR, BIRN Kosovo ensures that these issues are on the local political agenda. Mayoral candidates make public statements on their P/CVE and R&R plans and this, in turn, enables BIRN to make public officials accountable once in power.

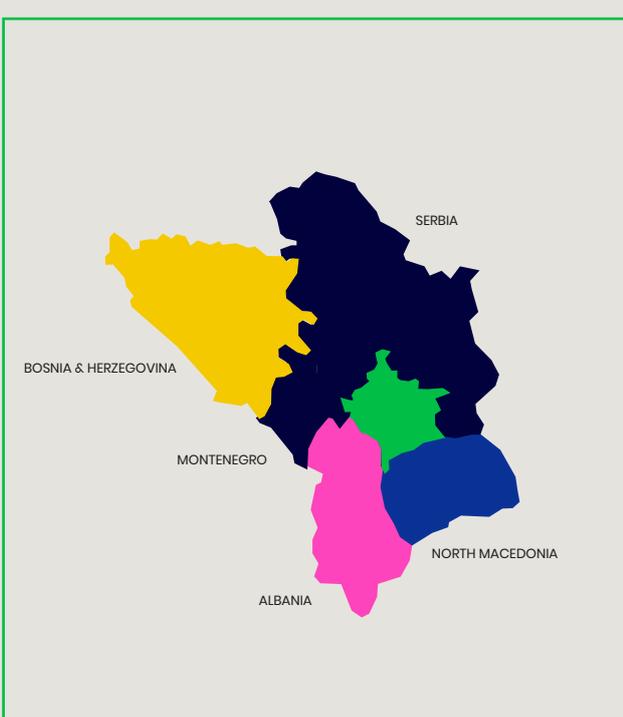
The government of North Macedonia granted direct access to GCERF partners to people returning from conflicts abroad. Previously no CSOs could work with them directly.

Lessons learned

- A changing situation on the ground due to unscheduled returns or unanticipated needs of returnees necessitated both partners and staff to demonstrate conflict sensitive programming and amend workplans and budgets.
- Working on RRR required very close coordination of our partners with governments to avoid duplication of activities, ensure safety and privacy of returnees, and avoid doing harm. To avoid delays of activities due to this increased communication, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the partners and the relevant government bodies mandated with the RRR process to clarify coordination and communication. It will take time for trusting relationships to be developed between grantees and government frontline workers. However, we act as a conduit to strengthen government and civil society cooperation on such delicate issues.
- Many child returnees never learned the language of their home country, which makes their reintegration and resocialisation with other children more difficult. Language barriers inhibit school teachings and limit interaction with children their age. In coordination with relevant government institutions, several partners will be supporting these children with Albanian language classes, after-school tutoring, and workshops/events that encourage skills and self-expression.

The way forward

- The first funded programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina is expected to start implementation in the first quarter of 2022.
- A quantitative monitoring tool will be piloted to be implemented during monthly field visits of the Regional Advisor.
- The regional community of practice approach will be advanced to include in-depth training for grantees and frontline workers on R&R.
- A high-level conference on reintegration and rehabilitation will be held in June 2022 in Albania.



■ ALBANIA ■ NORTH MACEDONIA
■ KOSOVO ■ BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

HUMAN INTEREST STORY

When Violeta* first participated in one of the Women’s Council meetings in Yzberisht, Albania, she immediately stood out from the group, open-heartedly sharing her story and her motivation for participating. For her, and many women, Women’s Councils provide a safe space for women from different backgrounds to discuss community issues. IDM partner, Woman Center for Development and Culture Albania (WCDCA), set up 10 women’s councils across the country to empower women to increase their community engagement. The aim is to improve social cohesion and community agency of women, with the larger purpose of increasing community resilience and increase the level of acceptance for re-

turning foreign terrorist fighters and their families.

Violeta, a mother of two, was particularly drawn to the purpose of the programme because she empathised with the challenges of women and children who have undergone trauma. She realised that the challenges of women returnees from Syria were not much different than what she had experienced herself when attempting to start a new life, leaving behind the trauma of her past. Being able to exchange ideas with like-minded women made Violeta feel finally seen. Through the Women’s Council she wants to support other women and encourage their community agency.

*not her real name

INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL MEMBERS 2021

- Mr Keneshbek B. Sainazarov (IRP Chair), Central Asia Program Director, Search for Common Ground
- Mr Christian Leke Achaleke, 2018 Luxembourg Peace Prize Laureate for Outstanding Youth Peaceworker, African Union Peace Ambassador
- Sir Malcolm Evans, Professor of Public International Law, University of Bristol Law School; Chair, United Nations Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture
- Dr Andrew Glazzard, Professor, Coventry University, United States Institute for Peace
- Ms Humera Khan, Executive Director, Muflehun; Adjunct Professor, The George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs
- Dr Medinat [Abdulazeez](#) Malefakis, Fellow, Collegium Helveticum
- Dr David Malet, Associate Professor of Justice, Law and Criminology, American University
- Ms Mossarat Qadeem, Executive Director, PAIMAN Alumni Trust
- Ms Maud Roure, Programme Manager, Kofi Annan Foundation
- Dr Lisa Schirch, Senior Advisor on Policy, Alliance for Peacebuilding on Human Security
- Mr Thomas Wuchte, Executive Secretary, International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IJ).

We thank Mossarat Qadeem and Thomas Wuchte for their contribution as their mandates closed at the end of the year.

BOARD MEMBERS

(AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2021)

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Alternate Board Member: Mr Adrien Frier, Head of the Suppression of Terrorism and Organized Crime Department, Strategic, Security and Disarmament Directorate, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France.

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Alternate Board Member: H.E. Mr Mamadou Henri Konate, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mali to the United Nations Office in Geneva.

POLICY, THINK AND DO TANKS

Board Member: vacant

Alternate Board Member: Mr Eelco Kessels, Executive Director, Global Center on Cooperative Security.

PRIVATE SECTOR

Board Member: Ms Jessica Long, Managing Director, Strategy and Sustainability, North America Lead, Accenture

Alternate Board Member: Mr Anthony Carroll, Founding Director, Acorus Capital; Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, D.C.

QATAR

Board Member: H.E. Dr Mutlaq Majed Al-Qahtani, Ambassador and Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar for Counterterrorism and Mediation.

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Alternate Board Member: Mr Alexander Macario, Assistant Secretary, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Peace and Security, Department of the Interior and Local Government of the Republic of the Philippines.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THE NETHERLANDS, NORWAY AND GERMANY

Board Member: Mr Irfan Saeed, Deputy Coordinator (Acting) for Prevention & Detention, Bureau of Counterterrorism, U.S. Department of State.

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