

GCERF in Albania

GCERF partners **build the capacity of governmental and non-governmental actors** in the prevention of violent extremism (PVE) and rehabilitation and reintegration (R&R); provide **direct assistance to returnees** from conflict zones covering medical, psycho-social, educational, administrative and livelihood support; contribute to **reducing the stigmatisation of returnees** and promote inter-religious tolerance and social cohesion.

Portfolio overview as of August 2023

Active grants

Counselling Line for Women and Girls (CLWG)

2021-2024 | Principal Recipient with 3 sub-recipients

- ❖ Building the capacity of religious leaders on PVE and social cohesion; operating a counselling line for violent extremism related issues; providing psycho-social, educational and livelihood support to returnees; building women's capacity on PVE.

Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM)

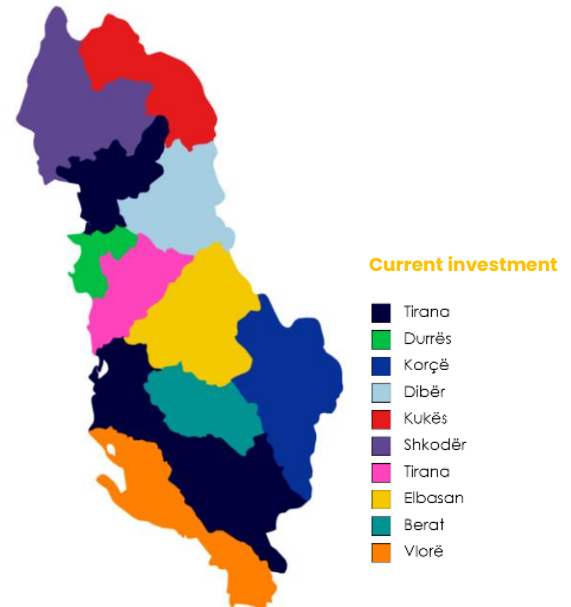
2021-23 | Principal Recipient with 2 sub-recipients

- ❖ Developing guidelines for and building capacities of central and local institutions on PVE and R&R; organising community events to reduce the stigma of returnees and improve social cohesion; providing livelihood support.

Terre des Hommes Albania

2020-23 | Principal Recipient with 1 sub-recipient

- ❖ Building the capacities of frontline practitioners in trauma-informed care; providing direct support to RFTFs and families; empowering and improving social cohesion among youth.



Investment started: 2020
Investment to date: USD 2 million
Current investment: USD 2 million
Active grants: 3

Investment Focus



Community-based rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees



Tirana, Durrës, Korçë, Dibër, Kukës, Shkodër, Elbasan, Berat, Vlorë



Returnees from conflict zones; women, men, and children in receiving communities; frontline workers, local authorities, and other R&R actors, religious leaders.



2020-2024



In coordination with the Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism and local government actors.

Violent Extremism in Albania: Drivers

Returnees from foreign conflict zones:

Over 70 people returned to Albania from foreign conflicts, particularly from Syria and Iraq.

Post and pre-conflict context:

Political instability and inadequate reconciliation caused by previous conflicts have polarised communities along ethnic, religious, and cultural lines.

Socio-economic drivers:

High unemployment, limited trust in institutions, and established crime networks contribute to violent extremist narratives.

Current Programming: Systems Approach

National: Supporting the revision of the National Strategy and development of an Action Plan on R&R and PCVE; developing the Standard Operating Procedures on R&R; building the capacity of central level R&R actors.

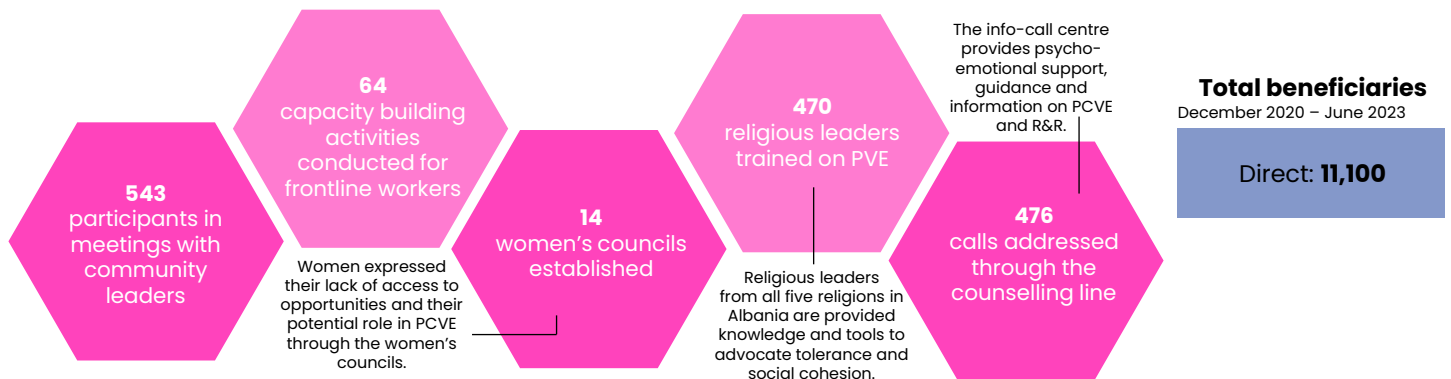
Municipality: Developing guidelines for local authorities for R&R and building capacity.

Community: Reducing the stigmatisation of returnees; increasing inter-religious tolerance; building capacity of women on R&R; providing access to a free counselling line for PVE and R&R related issues.

Individual: Providing direct support to returnees and vulnerable people including medical, psycho-social, educational, administrative and livelihood support.

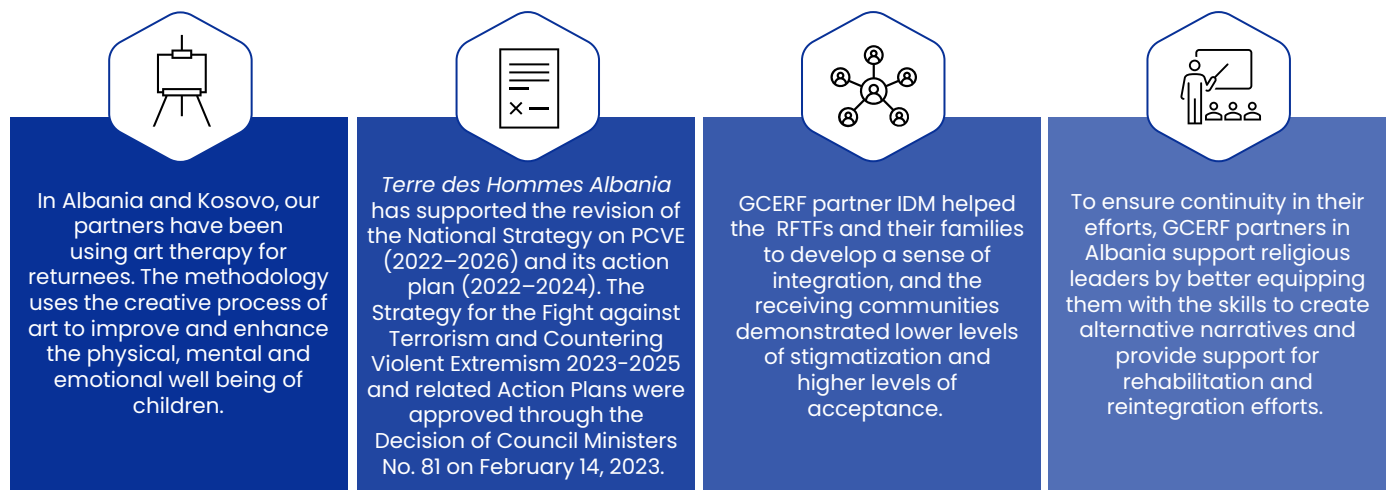
Key Outputs*

* December 2020 – June 2023



Key achievements*

* October 2021 – June 2023



The anonymous reporting [website](#) is available to the public and offers information to promote the info-call available to the public with violent extremism queries. Monthly content has been posted regularly according to the work plan. It used CLWG social media accounts to disseminate information and offer support on issues relevant to the prevention of radicalization and violent extremism.

Story of Change



Tedi Qerimaj is a teacher from Albania, part of CHPU in Administrative Unit No. 3 working with children returnees, engaged through GCERF program on the rehabilitation and reintegration of children returnees from conflict zones. While giving her feedback on children progress, she is deeply concerned with the case:

“Considering the trauma, difficulties and dynamic situations that the children could have gone through, I managed to communicate with them in a very empathetic and friendly manner, trying to avoid embarrassment and be there, whenever they needed me. I become a bridge to their needs and requirements not only as a CHPU member, but also as a human response.

Every single time I met the children, I show them empathy and positivity, so that they do not see me with fear but with LOVE. I do not want in any way to arouse upon them a shadow of doubt upon my care, while trying to help them educate, develop positive attitudes and grow. I do it with dedication and love. It can't be done otherwise. The first introduction with their mother was rigid, but through communication and by comprehension, letting her talk freely until we get on, facilitated the process. Also, the affection I showed with the children caught her attention, which made her build trust and gave her the feeling that the children were safer near me.

***The good results achieved with the children gave me confidence for proposing their mother** to enrol in the cooking course. In the beginning she considered it difficult, but having the common understanding of Woman and Mother understanding, I spoke openly with her, explaining that she had to consider it and the positive aspects of the impact that would have a profession in her life. Then I reminded her that through the course she would socialize, create a lot of more self-confidence, she would leave the routine of the house, she would cook delicious food, she would learn more and more about cooking and one day she would be able to work and be paid for her work and service.*

***YES, she did it. Mrs. KZ** has been attending the cooking course for four months from now. She is well-acclimated, determined to follow it and not to interrupt it. Recently she expressed her will to be a professional cook in the future. I am very happy to share this story with you! ”*

During the second quarter of 2023, CLWG witnessed a remarkable success story unfold during their sessions with returnee F.R. The focus of their discussions shifted towards her son's involvement in an internship, which led to an exciting new development. F.R's son, A.R, successfully secured a part-time position at a recently opened pizza restaurant. A.R eagerly embraced his new job, dedicating approximately 3-4 hours each day to become familiar with the workplace and adapt to the working hours. F.R expressed her enthusiasm upon observing her son's dedication to this part-time job. This accomplishment not only underscores the positive impact of CLWG sessions but also highlights F.R's crucial role in supporting her son's journey towards personal and professional growth.

GCERF's Added Value



GCERF focuses on **building institutional capacity** e.g., CSOs, and government agencies.



GCERF invests in building a PVE-focused **community of practice** with CSOs, government agencies, and experts



Communities are at the **forefront of project design and implementation**, and the programme works with existing community structures for sustainability



All project design and implementation are done in coordination with **nationally-aligned, locally-led** programmes



GCERF connects CSOs, communities, and other stakeholders with government and security actors, leading to **better coordination** and relationships



GCERF's consortium model and capacity-building approach enables us to work in **remote areas**