

### GCERF in Bangladesh

Since 2016, GCERF has **lived up to its initial commitment**, investing three times in a country. GCERF's last round of investment began in July 2022 and goes until December 2023.

This round of investment is focusing on turning the already existing activities into more **sustainable** ones, specifically the youth clubs and digital literacy.

This contributes to **increased community agency and positive sense of purpose**.

### Portfolio overview as of June 2022

#### Active grants

#### Rupantar

2016-22 | Principal Recipient with 5 sub-recipients

- ❖ Established and ran peace clubs. Provided leadership, digital, and critical thinking skills to youth (including those in university and madrassas), and raised awareness on PVE.

#### Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)

2016-22 | Principal Recipient with 3 sub-recipients

- ❖ Established and trained youth platforms; held community engagement events and fostered social cohesion, and established and ran women's courtyard platforms. Provided educational and livelihood support and public education on PVE, gender-based violence, and COVID-19 prevention measures as part of COVID-19 PVE projects.



Photo: At a women's courtyard platform



Photo: At a community engagement event

#### Current investment

- Rajshahi; Chapai-Nawabganj
- Khulna; Satkhira
- Chattogram; Cox's bazar
- Greater Dhaka; Dhaka

Investment started: 2016

Investment to date: USD 9.3 million

Current investment: USD 3.4 million

Active grants: 2

### Investment Focus



Building resilience against PVE by engaging stakeholders in dialogues both online and offline, and sensitizing and building capacity of women and youth.



Chattogram – Cox's Bazar, Greater Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna



In- and out-of-school youth (juveniles – 12-17 and young adults 18-34), women, and Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and Host Communities, Religious leaders, and local authorities.



2016-2022



GCERF in Bangladesh works in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Religious Affairs and other local government authorities, and the United Nations country team.

### Violent Extremism in Bangladesh: Drivers

**Socio-economic factors** such as poverty and youth underemployment act as the push factors for youth to join VE groups.

**Political factors** such as corruption exacerbate the lack of trust in the government by the citizens.

**Cultural factors** such as religious differences and the influx of Rohingya refugees also increase the potential of radicalization.

### 40th

On the Global Terrorism Index 2022, with 2 attacks and 6 deaths in 2021

### Current Programming: Systems Approach

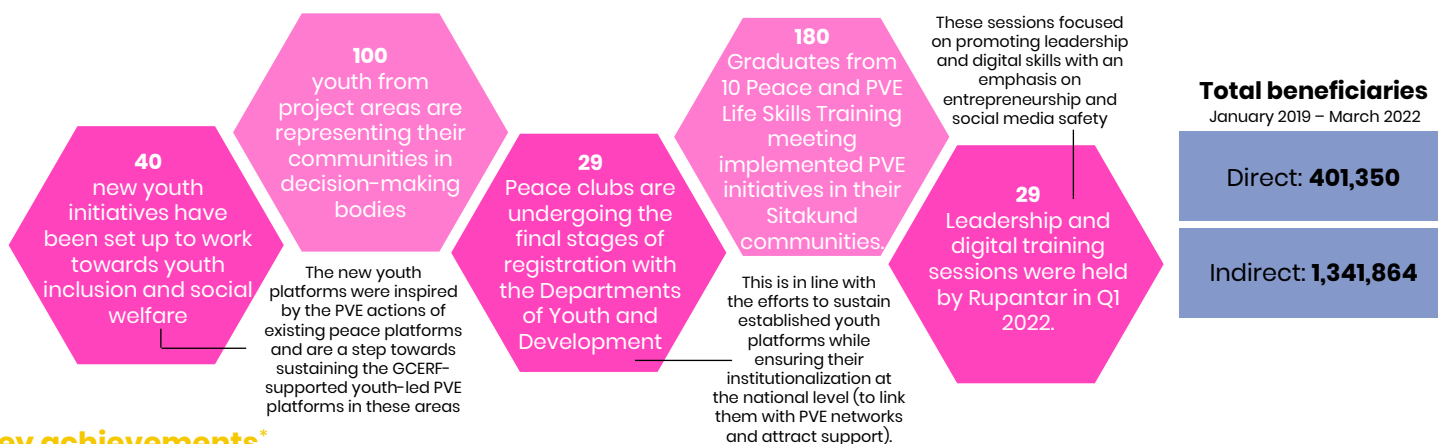
**National:** Advocating for the mainstreaming of P/CVE into national policies. Institutionalising and ensuring the sustainability of youth PVE/peace platforms.

**Community:** Promoting community-wide efforts at preventing VE through multiple community-level stakeholders' (youth, women, religious leaders, etc.) engagement and dialogue to build PVE capacity and raise awareness.

**Individual:** Building the individual's quest for social cohesion and tolerance, including youth's critical thinking and sense of purpose and increasing digital literacy.

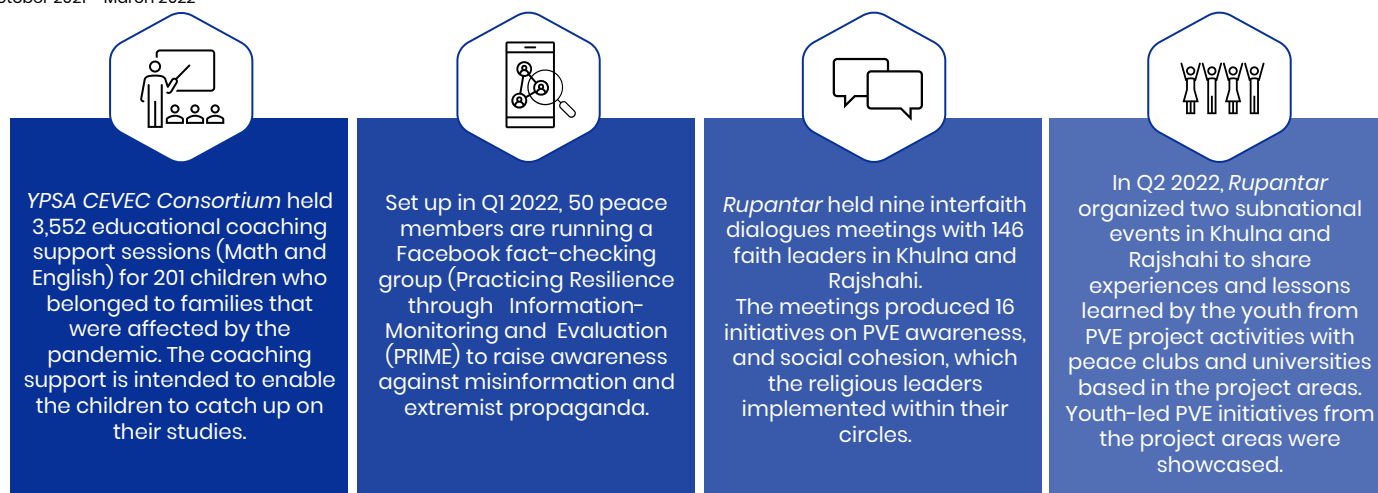
### Key Outputs\*

\* October 2021 – May 2022



### Key achievements\*

\* October 2021 – March 2022



YPSA-CEVEC Consortium, through its quarterly courtyard meetings, discusses actions for PVE at the community level:

“ In the past, I didn't know about how people got involved in violent extremism or how extremist groups were recruited ... the knowledge gained from this event will help me avoid the trap of violent extremism. I will discuss PVE with my family to make them aware.”

– Rubi Akter, Courtyard meeting participant, Cox's Bazar, May 2022

### Story of Change

Jemi Barua (pseudonym), 32, is a widow from the Ramu subdistrict in Cox's Bazar. She has two kids and her parents to care for alone. She got married when she had just finished school. She could not be able to pursue her dream of higher education due to her early marriage. Her husband died shortly after her second child was born. She laments, "I feel helpless when I think of my two children. My husband died early. I have very little education to get a job to support my kids. Many days we have nothing to eat," Jemi lamented during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Jemi's neighbour, Lima Barua, is a Youth Forum member of the YPSA-CEVEC Consortium who informed the consortium about Jemi's struggles. The YPSA consortium selected Jemi for the 90-day training as the pandemic had worsened her economic situation making her more vulnerable to VE recruitment, which has been prevalent in her Ramu community. Jemi expressed interest in computer training so that she could land a job.

She said, "After my husband's death, I grieved deeply, alone with my two kids. I had to come back to live with my elderly parents. I fell into hardship and depended on my relatives for money...Whenever I searched for a job, I was not hired because I had no digital skills. After my training, however, my computer-related skills and experience landed me a job which I am performing well."

After the successful completion of her training, Jemi got a job in an international NGO as a field facilitator. She was excited about her job and told the consortium: "I feel like I have stepped into a new life. Now I can earn and provide for myself and my family. I thank the YPSA-CEVEC Consortium for helping me out."



Photo: At a capacity development workshop



Photo: At a digital literacy training session

“

Rupantar conducts training on Digital Media Literacy and Social Media Entrepreneurship to build the capacity of the youth, and expose them to pick up soft skills in computing to increase their critical thinking competency to reduce online radicalisation. Using the digital skills they pick up through the trainings, the youth spread alternative narratives against extremism online:

*"We are still grappling with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, with lots of social contacts taking place online. We feel this training on Digital Media Literacy and Social Media Entrepreneurship could make a significant positive impact in the lives of young people."*

– Md. Kabir Hossain, Ward Councillor, Khulna City Corporation, Rupantar, March 2022

”

### GCERF's Added Value in Bangladesh



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**

Find out more about becoming an investor, our work, and the collective impact we make at: [www.gcerf.org](http://www.gcerf.org)  
[contact.bangladesh@gcerf.org](mailto:contact.bangladesh@gcerf.org)

 [@gcerf](https://www.facebook.com/gcerf)

 [@thegcerf](https://twitter.com/thegcerf)

 [GCERF](https://www.linkedin.com/company/gcerf)

 [GCERF Outreach](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGcerf)

**GCERF**  
Geneva, Switzerland