GCERF Bosnia and Herzegovina

GCERF in Bosnia and Herzegovina

GCERF-funded programmes aim to 1) build the capacity of national and local institutions and frontline practitioners working on Rehabilitation and Reintegration (R&R) and PVE; 2) improve strategic communications on R&R within institutions and to the public; 3) increase social cohesion and community agency to create an enabling environment for R&R of returnees.

Portfolio overview as of August 2023 Active grants

Atlantic Initiative

2022-24 | Direct Grant

- Re-establishing and strengthening mobile teams mandated to implement R&R and PVE at the federal and cantonal level;
- Encouraging constructive media coverage on R&R and PVE
 Strengthening the capacities of civil society organisations
 (CSOs).

Current Programming: Systems Approach

National: Re-establishing federal mobile teams mandated with R&R and building their capacity; revising the communications strategy on R&R and PVE.

Cantons: Establishing local mobile teams in cantons where returnees live

Community: Building the capacity of local CSOs to contribute to PVE and R&R; training journalists to report on security-sensitive topics.

Individual: individual support will be provided through additional grants.



Investment started: 2022 Investment to date: USD 0.5 million Current investment: USD 0.5 million Active grants: 1

Investment Focus

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Community-based rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees

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Cantons of Sarajevo, Tuzla, Zenica-Doboj, Una-Sana, and Central Bosnia.

R&R and PVE practitioners at the local, cantonal and federal level; local media actors, CSOs

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2022-2024



GCERF in Bosnia and Herzegovina works with the Ministry of Security.

Violent Extremism in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Drivers

Returnees from foreign conflict zones:

Over 90 people returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina from foreign conflicts, particularly from Syria and Iraq.

Post and preconflict 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.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

August 2023

Key Outputs

* January 2022 – June 2023

Total beneficiaries

January 2022 – June 2023

Direct: 385

beneficiaries
benefited from 4
meetings for the
mobile team
coordinated by the

interviews with journalists conducted to improve their reporting skills on R&R

civil society representatives were trained in local mobile teams established to address R&R at the community level

Journalists benefited from the AI training on R&R

Key achievements*

* January 2022 – June 2023



Atlantic Initiative supported the Interagency Working Group (IRRG FBiH) in refining laws aligned with the Protocol for rehabilitating individuals from Syria and Iraq.



Atlantic Initiative assisted the preparation of the Plan of strategic communication that will allow relevant stakeholders to start implementing parts of the Plan under their competence and improving internal and external communication within the R&R process.



The needs assessment was conducted in FBiH across five Cantons:
Sarajevo, Una-Sana, Tuzla, Zenica-Doboj, and Central Bosnia. Data collection occurred in March and April 2023, comprising semi-structured interviews with 26 participants in primary and secondary schools.







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

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GCERF's consortium model and capacitybuilding approach enables us to work **across the country**

Find out more about becoming an investor, our work, and the collective impact we make at: www.gcerf.org contact.wb@gcerf.org







