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 January 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 Focus

Community-based rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees

- 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

- 2022-2024

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

Current Investment

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

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 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.
**Key Outputs**
March – December 2022

- 80 R&R stakeholders interviewed on inter-institutional communications on topics of R&R and PVE
- 35 experts selected to be part of the federal and local mobile teams mandated with R&R of returnees
- 30 local CSOs identified to support R&R
- 5 local mobile teams established to address R&R at the community level
- 13 mayors of RFTF receiving municipalities took part in a FBiH Mobile Team workshop

This data collection will be used to inform a revised communications strategy supported by Atlantic Initiative.

**Key achievements**
March – December 2022

- Atlantic Initiative supported the Federation of BiH with the establishment of five R&R mobile teams at cantonal levels covering Sarajevo, Central Bosnia, Zenica Doboj, Tuzla and Una Sana. These mobile teams will coordinate the R&R process of returnees from conflicts abroad and their families.

- 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.

- Atlantic Initiative contributed to the development of SOPs in R&R process. SOPs were further developed in the following areas of intervention: women returnees, children, returnees, adolescents, and activities of the mental health centres.

**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.
- 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 across the country.

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

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