

### GCERF in Burkina Faso

GCERF works with the government of Burkina Faso and the G5 Sahel to **implement joint strategies** by investing in local organisations that design and run programmes that support stability and resilience.

GCERF-funded activities **engage local stakeholders** to support and **strengthen the capacity of communities** to mobilise, organise and effectively engage with their members and local authorities on resilient pastoralism, sustainable economic opportunities, conflict prevention, child protection, and psychosocial support to victims of violent extremism (VE).

### Portfolio overview as of August 2023

#### Union Fraternelle des Croyants de Dori (UFC-Dori)

2022-24 | *Principal Recipient with 2 sub-recipients*

- ❖ Addressing farmer-herder conflicts through local conflict prevention and dialogue mechanisms strengthening, and awareness-raising of land regulations among communities. Improved resilience through the promotion of alternative discourses, the creation of socioeconomic opportunities, and psychosocial support to victims of VE groups.

#### Réseau Afrique Jeunesse (RAJ)

2022-24 | *Principal Recipient with 2 sub-recipients*

- ❖ Improving the management of natural resources to reduce local conflicts; strengthening local conflict resolution and dialogue mechanisms; IGPs to improve socio-economic opportunities for young pastoralists and IDPs. Monitoring cases of discrimination and early signs of radicalization.

#### Réseau de Communication sur le Pastoralisme (RECOPA)

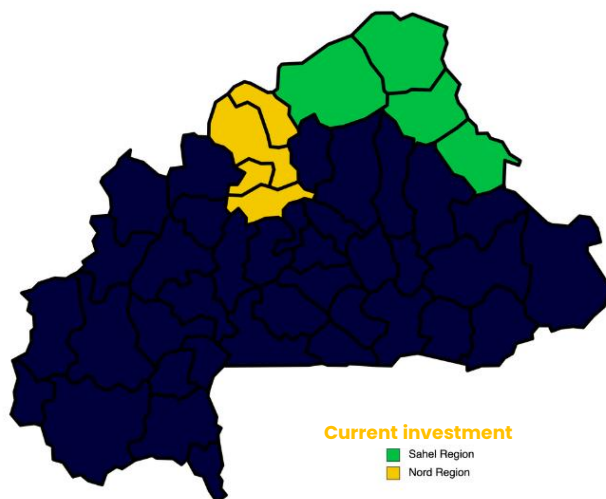
2023-25 | *Principal Recipient with 1 sub-recipient*

- ❖ Support agropastoral communities in the Sahel and the North in the prevention of inter-community conflicts; improving social cohesion through spaces for dialogue and support youth and women in socioeconomic opportunities.

#### KEOOGO

2023-25 | *Principal Recipient with 2 sub-recipients*

- ❖ Engaging with judicial actors and local leaders to strengthen the protective ecosystem of at-risk children and victims of violence and increase their resilience to violent radicalization; supporting the socio-professional reintegration of girl and boy victims of violence; establishment of communication channels to facilitate children's complaints.



Investment started: 2022  
Investment to date: USD 3.75 million  
Current investment: USD 3.75 million  
Active grants: 4

### Investment Focus



Increase resilience of youth and women to the risks of violent radicalisation and extremism, strengthen local conflict resolution mechanisms



Lorum, Passoré, Yatenga, Zondoma provinces (Northern region)  
Ouadalan, Seno, Soum, Yagha provinces (Sahel region)



Pastoralists and farmers, Internally Displaced Persons and host communities, traditional and religious leaders, unemployed men and women (aged 15-25), vulnerable children (aged 7-18)



2021-2025



We work with the government, through the Country Support Mechanism, and bilateral and multilateral donors to ensure a coordinated approach to prevention of violent extremism in Burkina Faso.

### Violent Extremism in Burkina Faso: Drivers

#### Youth unemployment and radicalisation

Lack of sustainable economic opportunities and radicalisation make children and young people vulnerable to violent extremist groups, which offer alternative material incentives.

#### Farmer/herder conflicts

These conflicts over land, access and exploitation of natural resources, lead to increased tensions within communities

#### Governance-related grievances

Violent extremist groups exploit an institutional vacuum resulting from the political context to increase their presence on the ground

**2<sup>nd</sup>**

On the Global Terrorism Index 2023, with 310 attacks and 1,135 deaths in 2021

### Current Programming in Sahel: Systems Approach

GCERF delineates the Sahel within the context of the Group of Five Countries for the Sahel, also known as G5 Sahel, the intergovernmental body to promote regional cooperation in development and security matters. Our focus is on the central Sahel region covering Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. Our engagement in the region will directly bolster the implementation of National Action Plans of the five countries working in partnership with local, national, regional, and global partners.

GCERF's strategy for engagement in the Sahel region is built around two strategic objectives:

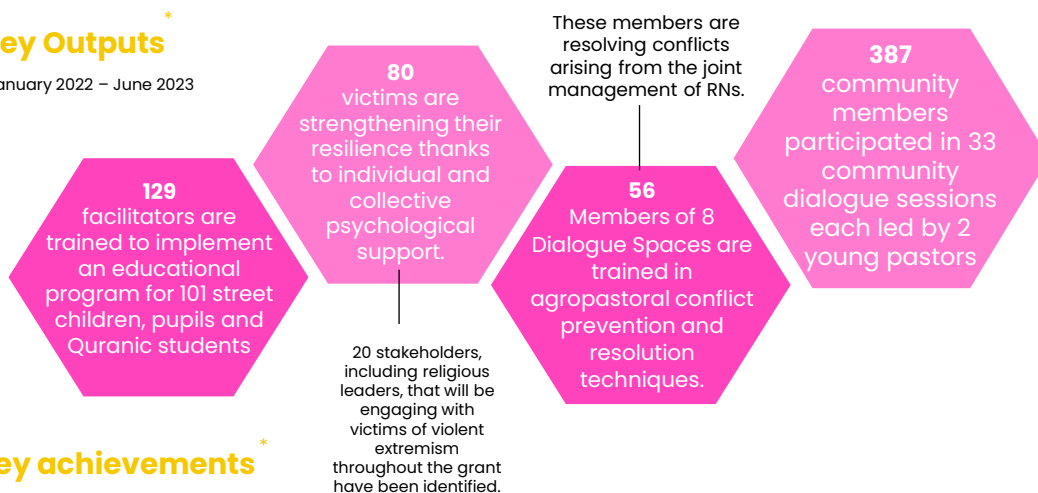
To contribute to improvements in the social ecology to create conditions conducive to prevention and resilience-building.

To facilitate community-led rehabilitation, disengagement, and (re)integration, including people disengaging from criminal, non-state armed, and violent extremist groups.

GCERF will mobilise and invest up to USD 10 million – in the Sahel region – to meet these objectives in a minimum period of three years. GCERF will prioritise resilience and prevention programming, including cross-border projects, that meet these objectives – all within the scope of regional and national NAPs and equivalents in order to achieve its overarching objective of supporting stability and resilience.

### Key Outputs

\* January 2022 – June 2023

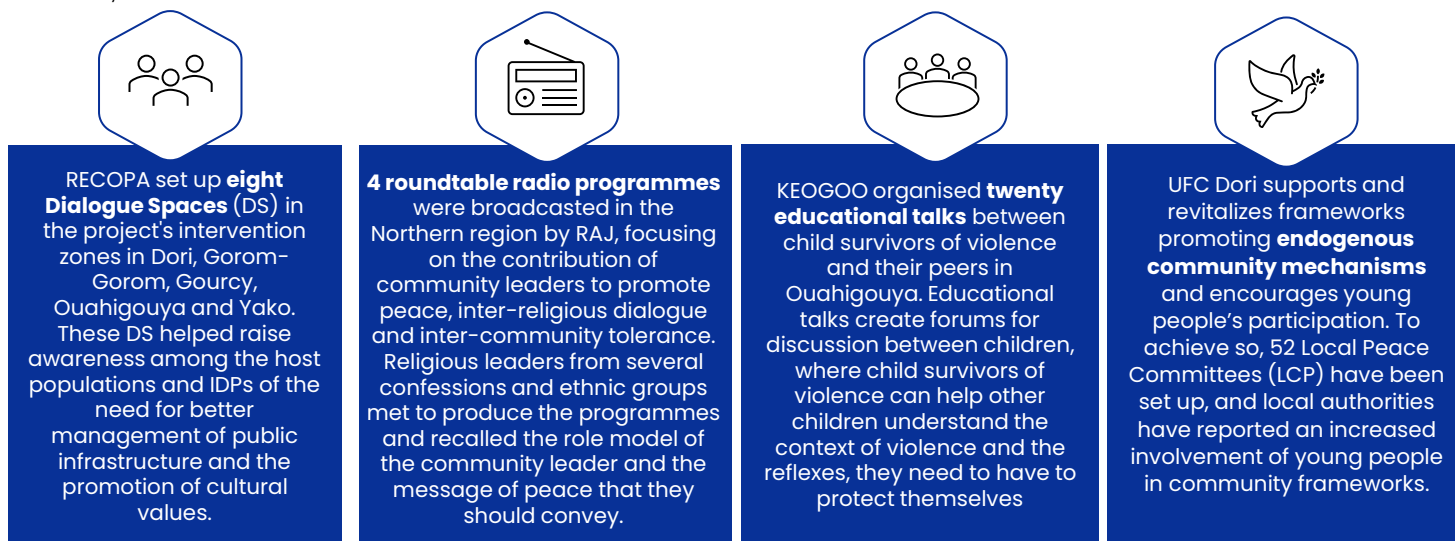


**Total beneficiaries**  
January 2022 – June 2023

**Direct:** 11,426

### Key achievements

\* January 2022 – June 2023



*"I realised that solving problems between communities can be done without violence. Promoting inter-community dialogue and sensitizing young pastors about radical discourse are aspects that all family leaders must develop."*

– Participant in a session on preventing radicalisation of young pastors

### Story of Change

Pastor David N. is the secretary of the Local Peace Committee (LPC) of a village in the Séguénéga commune. In this northern region of Burkina Faso, violent extremism is widespread, and pastoralists are often a prime target, which encouraged David to get involved in this activity.

From the first awareness-raising activity on the importance of setting up an LPC in villages, to the holding of the general assembly to appoint the members of these councils, David was strongly involved in the process. He was the victim of an attempted kidnapping by an armed group, which further motivated him.

He says: "The LPC initiative is something very much appreciated and very beneficial for the village. Its noble mission of working towards good understanding between community members and the internal and peaceful management of conflicts meets current needs; that is why it has obtained the support of the various communities."

Although some communities were reluctant to join the LPC because they were suspicious of the intention, they finally understood the importance of coming together in a space for dialogue thanks to the awareness-raising sessions. In addition to the mobilisation of village elders who promote mutual respect between members, community members have now strengthened their ties.

As David notes, "when we met at the chief's house, at the end of the meeting, the fifteen members of the LPCs didn't even want to leave because their discussions were so fruitful. In order to prevent radicalisation into violent extremism, respect and trust are paramount, because without them we will not be able to solve problems and they can get out of hand."

For David, these LPC activities have been beneficial because previously some people were on the margins of the community and social dialogue. This marginalisation makes them vulnerable to the discourses of violent extremist groups and makes them easy targets for radicalisation to take hold.

He underlines the importance of the LCPs: "This committee, beyond bringing communities together, will lead to social cohesion and peace in the village and in this sense, will contribute to reducing vulnerability to radicalisation and violent extremism. The dialogue initiated thanks to the LPC will strengthen unity and mutual understanding in the village."



A representative of the special regional delegation of Ouahigouya during advocacy with local authorities for the participation of young people in consultation frameworks:

*"Involving the youth in consultation frameworks is not enough, young people must also be involved and trained politically, because it is through their political and civic engagement that their voice and concerns will be taken into account in local public policies".*



### 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 NCTC, leading to **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**

