

BACKGROUND

The threat of terrorism and violent extremism have worsened in recent decades, become increasingly pronounced in the Central Sahel region of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. The security challenges inherent in the sub-regional context, resulting from the increase in asymmetric threats and their various forms of manifestation as well as the outbreak of social tensions, have resulted in the advent of transitional regimes in the three countries of the Central Sahel and the creation of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) in 2023.

Burkina Faso became a GCERF partner country* in 2021. To date, GCERF has invested USD 3.75 million in the country, with active grants worth USD 3.75 million currently supporting four local civil society organisations (CSOs). The investment 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).

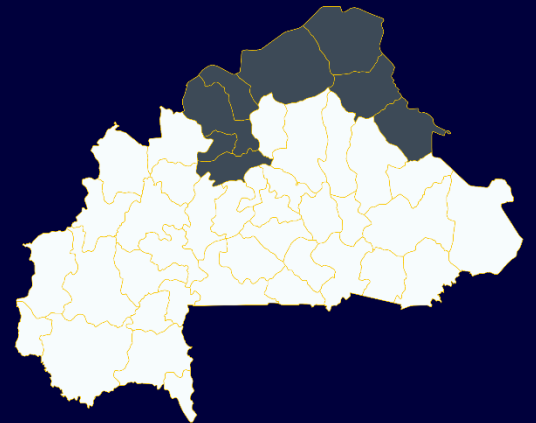
GCERF pioneers a unique model of investment designed to promote a whole-of-society approach and ensure the sustainability of our programmes. Under this model, in each partner country, we support national governments in establishing a steering committee called the Country Support Mechanism (CSM).

GCERF in Burkina Faso is working with the government, through the country support mechanism, and bilateral and multilateral donors to ensure a coordinated approach to prevention. GCERF works with the Burkinabe government to support the implementation of its national action plan and invests in local organisations that design and run programmes contributing to stability and resilience.

GCERF'S INVESTMENT STRATEGY IN BURKINA FASO

GCERF intervention in Burkina Faso is part of the wider Sahel strategy that engages with intergovernmental bodies to promote regional cooperation in the nexus of development and security. Our programming in the region cover Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, and our engagement 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:

- Contributing to improvements in the social ecology to create conditions conducive to prevention and resilience-building,
- Facilitating community-led rehabilitation, disengagement, and (re)integration, including people disengaging from criminal, non-state armed, and violent extremist groups.



WHERE

- Lorum
- Passore
- Yatenga
- Zondoma
- Ouadalan
- Seno
- Soum
- Yagha

WHO


- 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).

CURRENT GRANTS



IMPLEMENTED BY		PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	
Principal Recipient: KEOOGO		Strengthen the protective ecosystem for children against recruitment and exploitation by violent extremist groups.	
Sub-recipients: Association des Jeunes pour le Bien-être familial (AJBFB) Centre pour la Qualité du Droit et de la Justice (CQDJ)		Support the social protection system to provide specific services for children at risk or survivors of terrorism.	
		Set up formal channels for children to share their complaints and vulnerabilities.	
AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION		\$ GRANT AMOUNT	PERIOD OF THE GRANT
North and Sahel regions		USD 600,000	January 2023 – June 2025

IMPLEMENTED BY		PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	
Principal Recipient: Réseau de Communication sur le Pastoralisme (RECOPA)		Reduce the increasing inter-community conflicts caused by natural resources (NR) scarcity.	
		Provide support to vulnerable youth and women by facilitating access to socio-economic opportunities.	
AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION		\$ GRANT AMOUNT	PERIOD OF THE GRANT
North and Sahel regions		USD 500,000	January 2023– December 2025



STORY OF CHANGE

AN APPRENTICESHIP FOR A GLIMMER OF HOPE

My name is M. So, and I come from Youba, a village in the Ouahigouya commune. It's a village where I grew up and spent my entire childhood. I lived there with my parents, and I also went to primary school there. Everything changed on the day that individuals came to my village and demanded that the population leave as soon as possible.

That day was the worst day of my life, the schools were set on fire, the communication pillars destroyed, every compound searched thoroughly for I don't know what, too many things happened. I was forced to flee my home, leaving behind my memories and my dreams, not knowing where to go. We ended up in Ouahigouya, where an uncle welcomed us in his courtyard while we waited.

My parents couldn't make ends meet any more, because we'd left everything behind in our village in search of shelter, and now we couldn't go back. So, I offered to help my parents by looking for work. That's how I went to the social services for help. They then referred me to AJBF for help. AJBF reached out to me and, thanks to their support, I was placed on a car mechanics apprenticeship scheme.

Thanks to GCERF, I was able to receive support to improve my apprenticeship. Since then, I've been working hard so that one day I can open my own apprentice car mechanic workshop to help my parents. I'm deeply grateful for this opportunity, which has changed the course of my life after the terrible events I went through.

I also want to be able to get a driving licence, and I'm counting on AJBF and its technical and financial partner to help me get one, to give my apprenticeship an even bigger boost. I can't finish without thanking AJBF and its partner for believing in me. I won't let you down.



A young girl trained in car mechanics apprenticeship programme
© KEOOGO

KEY RESULTS

Cumulative from 2021 till April 2025

14,790

individuals at risk of radicalisation by extremist groups trained in conflict sensitivity, critical thinking, conflict resolution and early detection of signs of radicalisation.

8,600

community members engaged through interfaith, intercommunity, intergenerational dialogues to foster solidarity and reject false narratives often used by violent extremist groups.

4,050

community leaders, pastors and farmers trained in conflict resolution or mediation mechanisms to resolve grievances that made them vulnerable to recruitment by violent extremist groups.

1,980

returnees and/or survivors of violent extremism received counselling and psychological support to help them recover and reintegrate into society.

GCERF'S VALUE PROPOSITION

GCERF'S UNIQUE MODEL OF INVESTMENT PRIORITISES:

Community-ownership and localisation: We invest in trusted grassroots civil society organisations that prioritise the needs and grievances of communities most affected by violent extremism. Many of these organisations have never received international funding before.

Sustainability: Our programmes involve all groups of society and strengthens trust between government, civil society and community members to build stronger, more resilient societies. This ensures that initiatives and structures continue to be relevant and effective.

Robust monitoring and evaluation processes: Our multi-layered monitoring and evaluation system, operating locally and globally, provides continuous feedback on programme effectiveness, identifies areas for improvement, and ensures objectives are consistently met.

Knowledge sharing: Our global network of civil society organisations working on PVE facilitates the exchange of good practices and lessons learned, fostering collaboration and enhancing the effectiveness of interventions. We also share our experiences through our participation in various conferences, publishing of articles and research papers in reputed journals to advance the understanding of PVE.

Capacity strengthening: We strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations to manage large-scale grants and implement effective initiatives, while also enhancing government capacity to develop comprehensive, holistic strategies to prevent violent extremism.



GCERF

Preventing Violent Extremism
and Terrorism

Find out more about becoming an investor, our work, and the collective impact we make at:
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GCERF Outreach

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