

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 3.73 million in the country, with one active grant worth USD 500,000 currently supporting a local civil society organisation (CSO). The investment engages 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).

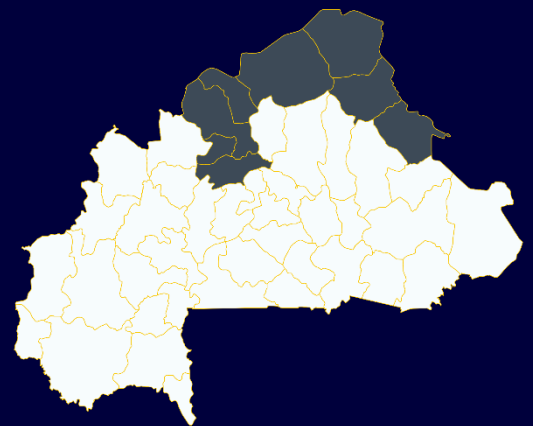
GCERF pioneers a unique model of investment designed to promote a whole-of-society approach and ensure the sustainability of our programmes. Under this model, in each partner country, we support national governments in establishing a steering committee called the Country Support Mechanism (CSM).

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:

- 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.



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)
- Youth and Women (aged 26–37)

CURRENT GRANT

 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

UPCOMING GRANTS

GCERF is currently working on signing four new grants in Burkina Faso, covering the following regions: South-West, South-East, Sahel, North, Cascades, and East.

STORY OF CHANGE

REBUILDING HOPE IN GOURCY: The story of K.O.

"My name is KO, I am 12 years old and I come from the village of Tomba, where I was a student in CMI (the equivalent of 4th grade) until the day our village was forced to flee due to the terrorist threat. That day, while we were in class, armed men arrived on motorcycles. Our teacher made us hide under the desks. I really thought I was going to die. They gave an ultimatum. After they left, we fled the village."

With his family, KO joined Gourcy, like hundreds of other internally displaced people. He found himself in an unfamiliar environment, without shelter, without school, without any points of reference. His family was temporarily housed in the town's stadium, without any resources.

"I wanted to go back to school. But my parents couldn't afford it. I started working: I carried travelers' luggage, lifted bags at the market for a few coins. I knew I had to do something," he declared.

It was in this context that KO one day came across a self-protection session organized by AJBF as part of the project "Protection of children at risk and victims of violence within the framework of the prevention of violent extremism in the North and Sahel regions of Burkina Faso," supported by GCERF. Curious, he approached, participated, and at the end shared his situation with the facilitator.

"I explained my situation to them and let them know that I wanted to learn a trade. They listened to me, gave me advice, and then supported me."

Thanks to the support he received, KO is no longer a child left to fend for himself and vulnerable to extremist groups. He is now a motivated, proud, and hopeful apprentice, on the path to self-reliance.

"Today, I am in training to become a tire repairman. That is my dream: to fix motorcycles, earn a living, and help my family"
K.O.



KO in the workshop of his master craftsman trainer. The new machine is his own, but he practises using his mentor's machine (on the right of the picture). © KEOGO

KEY RESULTS

17,099

People trained on PVE, conflict sensitivity, critical thinking, conflict resolution skills

2,822

People trained in conflict resolution, mediation mechanism, process

2,551

People receiving counselling, psychosocial support

1,231

Training on civic education, human rights, and the rule of law

862

People trained on trauma-and-violence informed care (TVIC), R&R services

179

Early warning centers/mechanisms established

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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