

BACKGROUND

Kosovo has been a leader in the rehabilitation and reintegration (R&R) of returnees from foreign conflicts, repatriating large numbers of Kosovar citizens and offering comprehensive support, including psycho-social and economic reintegration initiatives.

Previous GCERF-funded support has demonstrated that the needs of returnees are difficult to predict and can encompass a broad spectrum of assistance, including medical, psycho-social, educational, economic, financial, administrative, and legal support. Young people in Kosovo are particularly vulnerable to radicalisation to violent extremism.

Structural polarisation in education, high unemployment rates, challenging labour market conditions, identity crises, and widespread access to technology further contribute to an environment conducive to radicalisation.

Kosovo became a GCERF partner country* in 2017. To date, GCERF has invested USD 7.4 million in the country, with three active grants worth USD 2.9 million.

GCERF's grantees in Kosovo work to ensure the sustainable R&R of returnees from conflicts abroad, as well as general prevention efforts within majority ethnic communities. They focus on building the capacity of local governmental R&R actors, advocating for the local role in Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) and R&R, and improving the accountability and financial sustainability of PVE and R&R initiatives.

The programmes aim to reduce the stigmatisation of returnees, monitor the National Strategy for PCVE, increase inter-ethnic tolerance, strengthen the capacity of community-based civil society organisations in PVE and R&R, and improve the civic engagement of youth.

GCERF'S INVESTMENT STRATEGY IN KOSOVO

GCERF's investment focuses on the capacity building of relevant P/CVE and R&R actors at the local level and reinforcing local mechanisms and institutions to mitigate polarisation of children and youth. According to GCERF's needs assessment and consultations with relevant stakeholders, there are the following main drivers of violent extremism in Kosovo:

1. Lack of trust in institutions, limited dialogue between central and local government.
2. Economic factors including high rates of poverty and unemployment, difficult labour market conditions.
3. Political unrest and mis/disinformation.
4. Social factors including sense of isolation and marginalisation in rural areas and of minority groups.

*Partner countries are those in which GCERF funds civil society organisations to implement initiatives aimed at preventing violent extremism.



WHERE

- All the seven (7) provinces of Kosovo, in addition to 30 municipalities

WHO

- National/local institutions and frontline workers
- Local and community based CSOs/grassroots groups
- Children and youth, including returnees but also other minority groups including Serbian, Roma Ashkali, Egyptian, Turkish, and Bosniak youth
- Returnees and their family members or legal guardians

CURRENT GRANTS



IMPLEMENTED BY		PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	
Principal Recipient: Advocacy Training and Resource Centre (ATRC) Sub-recipients: Community Building Mitrovica, Balkans Investigative Reporting Network, Rin'On		Build capacity of governmental and non-governmental actors in R&R and PVE. Support the implementation and monitoring of the national strategy for PCVE and CT. Coordination of PVE and R&R relevant stakeholders. Improvement of media coverage on PVE and R&R.	
AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION		\$ GRANT AMOUNT	PERIOD OF THE GRANT
Municipality of Mitrovica North, Municipality of Mitrovica South, Mitrovica region, Prishtina Region, Ferizaj region, Gjilan region		USD 1,450,000	January 2023 – June 2026

IMPLEMENTED BY		PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	
Principal Recipient: Community Development Fund Sub-recipients: Integra, Atifete Jahjaga Foundation, Institute of Psychology		Comprehensive training for municipality teams to proficiently identify and address VE vulnerabilities related to violent extremism. Education support within schools and capacity building of frontline workers and partners. Improve the personal capacities and socio-emotional development of RFTF and vulnerable children and their parents/caretakers.	
AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION		\$ GRANT AMOUNT	PERIOD OF THE GRANT
Prishtina, Fushe Kosova, Podujeva, Viti, Gjilan, Mitrovica, Peja, Han i Elezit		USD 700,000	March 2024 – August 2026

IMPLEMENTED BY		PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	
Principal Recipient: Syri I Vizionit Sub-recipients: NGO Aktiv, Edutask Institute		Strengthen community mechanisms to address PVE and community safety and security. Strengthen existing multi-stakeholder actors (local leaders/councils, religious/village leaders). Facilitate inter ethnic and inter religious dialogue.	
AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION		\$ GRANT AMOUNT	PERIOD OF THE GRANT
North Mitrovica, Zubin Potok, Zvecan, Leposavic, South Mitrovica , Vitia, Peja		USD 750,000	October 2023 – September 2026

STORY OF CHANGE

STUDENTS TAKE A STAND AGAINST BULLYING – JAHJAGA FOUNDATION

CASE STORY: Students Take a Stand Against Bullying

Between April and June 2025, the Jahjaga Foundation led an inspiring educational programme for Pupils' Councils in Fushë Kosovë, equipping over 100 students with the tools to counter radicalisation and embrace diversity. The sessions sparked not only engagement but also initiative.

At “Bajram Curri” School, students transformed learning into action. Inspired by discussions on inclusion and the consequences of violence, a group of participants produced a powerful short video addressing bullying. The video, entirely student-led, portrays real-life scenarios and the emotional impact of peer aggression, sending a clear message that bullying is not tolerated.

What began as a training ended as a campaign, proving that when empowered, young people do more than learn; they lead.

Information sessions organized by the Community Development Fund – April 2025, Fushë Kosovo

The Community Development Fund (CDF) continues today with an informational session for the teachers of the “Mihal Grameni Anex1” school in Fushë Kosovë, as part of the Prospero Program, aimed at raising awareness about the risks of violent extremism. The activity, funded by the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, is carried out in cooperation with the Division for the Prevention and Reintegration of Radicalized Persons of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, and experts Shpresa Shala and Afërdita Jaha.



KEY RESULTS

Cumulative from 2017 to July 2025

6,957

community members, judges, prosecutors, media professionals, municipal, staff, youth trained in conflict resolution, PVE to address grievances and foster solidarity

1,427

returnee and non-returnee children and community members participated in art-based healing, psychosocial support activities to foster recovery, inclusion and reduce stigma towards returnees

1,021

Youth participating in awareness raising events to promote tolerance in the community

812

professionals trained in referral mechanism for returnees, trauma- and-violence informed care, essential for effective rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees

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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