

BACKGROUND

Camps and prisons in northeastern Syria and Iraq house numerous citizens of Kyrgyzstan (men, women, and children) who traveled to the region to join violent extremist groups. Bishkek stands out as a global leader in repatriating its citizens, especially women and children, ensuring that once they return home, they undergo successful rehabilitation and reintegration into society. In Kyrgyzstan, there are a significant number of individuals serving prison sentences who are either related to violent extremism or are at risk of radicalisation.

In 2022, the government of Kyrgyzstan extended an invitation to the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) for an introductory meeting. Building upon this collaboration, GCERF has formally accepted the Kyrgyzstan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) to join the GCERF Governing Board in 2023.

Kyrgyzstan became a GCERF partner country* in 2023, with our investment beginning in July 2024. GCERF signed grants worth USD 2 million with two local civil society organisations (CSOs) as principal recipients of two consortia to implement our country investment strategy, which contributes to preventing violent extremism (PVE) as part of the country's National Action Plan (NAP).

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).

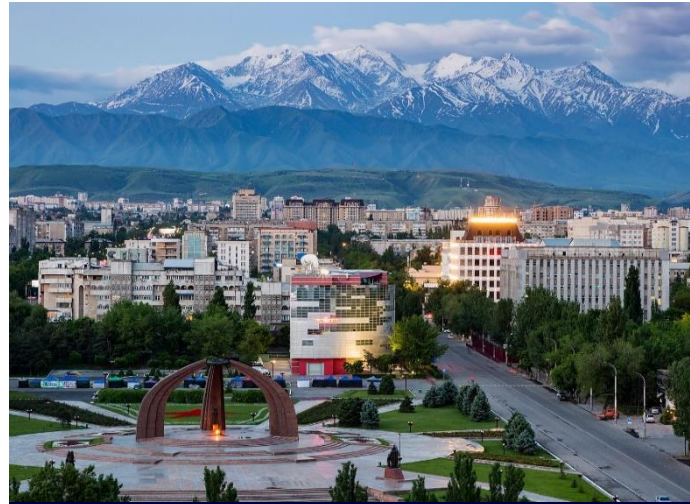
In Kyrgyzstan, the CSM is chaired by the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration, and brings together relevant government agencies, civil society organisations, and donor representatives to provide strategic direction for the programmes, ensure results, and progressively inherit ownership of funding community-level efforts to prevent violent extremism.

GCERF'S INVESTMENT STRATEGY IN KYRGYZSTAN

GCERF's investment strategy outlines a comprehensive approach to address the drivers of violent extremism and guides civil society organisations in designing their programmes.

The primary objective of GCERF's investment is to support the rehabilitation, resocialisation and reintegration of returnees from Iraq and Syria; prevent others from becoming radicalised; and support people released from prison. To achieve this, GCERF funds programmes that: promote reintegration of women and children into communities, provide economic opportunities for vulnerable women, and strengthen the capacity of frontline workers.

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








WHERE






- Jalal-Abad
- Chuy
- Osh
- Issyk-Kul

WHO

- Women and children returning from Iraq and Northeast Syria
- At-risk women: strengthening the livelihoods and economic opportunities
- Frontline workers including psychologists, social workers, members of educational institutions
- Authorities: supporting authorities to ensure institutionalisation and sustainability
- Convicts charged with violent extremism or terrorism, or those at risk of radicalisation

CURRENT GRANTS

 IMPLEMENTED BY		 PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES
<p>Principal Recipient: SOS Children's Villages Kyrgyzstan</p> <p>Sub-recipients: Childhood Institute, Center for Development and Protection of Vulnerable Population Groups</p>		<p>Addressing trauma and providing psychological support to women and children returning from conflict zones.</p> <p>Providing access to education for children returnees.</p> <p>Conducting social reintegration programmes to improve their acceptance and community resilience.</p>
 AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION	 GRANT AMOUNT	 PERIOD OF THE GRANT
Osh, Jalal-Abad, Chuy, Issyk-Kul	USD 1,000,000	July 2024 – June 2026

 IMPLEMENTED BY		 PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES
<p>Principal Recipient: Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI)</p> <p>Sub-recipients: Search For Common Ground, Mutakalim, DIA</p>		<p>Strengthen the capacity of state officials, frontline workers, and national experts to improve the rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees.</p> <p>Enhance frontline workers' understanding of peaceful Islamic narratives to counter extremism.</p> <p>Improve the skills and livelihoods of women to address economic challenges, a key driver of violent extremism.</p>
 AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION	 GRANT AMOUNT	 PERIOD OF THE GRANT
Bishkek, Osh, Chuy	USD 1,032,000	July 2024 – June 2026



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