

## BACKGROUND

Mauritania is considered an island of stability in a rough neighbourhood. Spillovers from latent and manifest conflicts threaten at its northern, southern, and eastern borders. The manifest conflicts at the eastern and southeast borders with Mali connect Mauritania to hubs of violent extremist groups, transnational crime, and illicit trafficking networks spanning across the Sahel and North Africa. The country experiences profound social, economic, and demographic mutations that rejuvenate generational conflicts and tensions. The depths of existing social fissures and socio-political tensions, pose conjugated challenges to Mauritania's relative immunity to violent extremist attacks since 2012.

Mauritania became a GCERF partner country\* in 2023. GCERF signed grants worth USD 3 million with four local civil society organisations (CSOs). The investment notably supports inter and intra-community mediation of existing and emerging conflict; access to training and seed-funding; digital literacy against radicalisation online and on-air; as well as organisational and institutional capacity building for CSOs.

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).

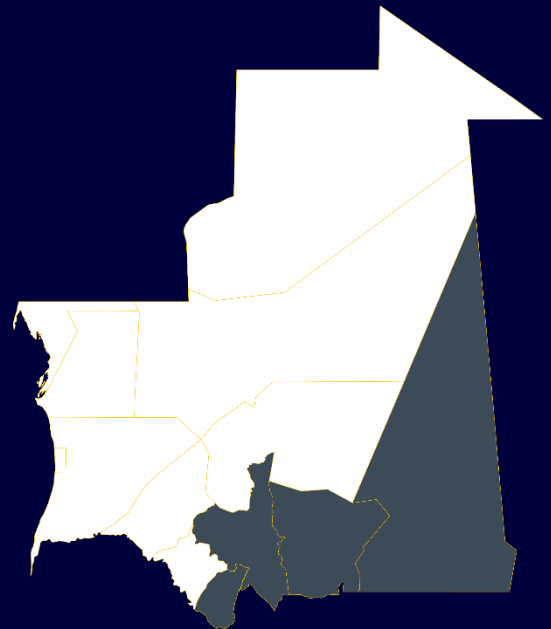
GCERF in Mauritania is working with the government, through the CSM, and bilateral and multilateral donors to ensure a coordinated approach to prevention. GCERF works with the Mauritanian government to support the implementation of its national action plan and invests in local organisations that design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

## GCERF'S INVESTMENT STRATEGY IN MAURITANIA

GCERF intervention in Mauritania 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 covers 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 Mauritania is built around three strategic objectives:

1. Promote preventive approaches to radicalisation and violent extremism;
2. Create enabling environments for de-radicalisation;
3. Support the incubation of coordinated local PVE communities championing the Mauritanian model.

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



## WHERE






- Assaba
- Guidimakha
- Hodh ech Chargui
- Hodh el Gharbi






## WHO






- **Youth groups (age 15 to 25):** from rural areas, from minorities, from formal and informal Islamic schools, street children
- **Women (26 and older):** rural women, widows, single mothers, displaced women
- **Local Authorities:** religious leaders, traditional leaders, community council members, opinion leaders
- **Socio-professional groups:** herders, farmers






# CURRENT GRANTS



 IMPLEMENTED BY		 PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	
<b>Principal Recipient:</b> Appui au Développement Intégré des Communautés Rurales (ADICOR)  <b>Sub-recipients:</b> Union pour le développement, Centre Tafa		Improving economic resources for subsistence  Strengthening the community resilience mechanism  Improving the socio-political inclusion of young people	
 AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION		 GRANT AMOUNT	 PERIOD OF THE GRANT
Hodh ech Chargui, Hodh el Gharbi		USD 900,000	January 2024 – June 2026

 IMPLEMENTED BY		 PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	
<b>Principal Recipient:</b> Eco-Développement (ECODEV)  <b>Sub-recipients:</b> CellRAD, SOS Exclus		Promoting the national PVE system  Providing training and financial support to Mahadra graduates  Providing economical support to women and agropastoralists  Supporting CSOs and consultation bodies	
 AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION		 GRANT AMOUNT	 PERIOD OF THE GRANT
Hodh ech Chargui		USD 990,000	November 2023 – April 2026

 IMPLEMENTED BY		 PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	
<b>Principal Recipient:</b> Initiatives pour le Développement (ID)  <b>Sub-recipients:</b> RERAJ, ADRES, AMPEF		Changing people's mindset regarding hate speech to ease tensions  Offering equal access to productive opportunities and living conditions for young people in formal and non-formal education have improved  Improving inter-community, socio-economic and political conditions	
 AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION		 GRANT AMOUNT	 PERIOD OF THE GRANT
Guidimakha		USD 610,000	January 2024 – February 2026

 IMPLEMENTED BY		 PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	
<b>Principal Recipient:</b> Bienfaisance sans frontières (BSF)  <b>Sub-recipients:</b> LCPSCV, AFVD		Setting up community-driven alert systems on PVE; financial support & economical training for vulnerable groups; framework for exchange and discussion between CSOs  Engage religious leaders to promote peace and sionsion; the population to ease intra and inter-community tensions	
 AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION		 GRANT AMOUNT	 PERIOD OF THE GRANT
Touil ville, Tachott 1, 2 and 3, Tenaha, Hamoud, Aioun		USD 503,000	December 2024 – July 2026

# STORY OF CHANGE

## MUNICIPAL YOUTH COUNCILS: YOUTH BECOMES AN AGENT OF CHANGE

Hadramy Saleck, 31, is a recent graduate from the town of Boughadoum. Although he is currently looking for work, this has not prevented him from being actively involved in the voluntary sector for the past four years. This experience has enabled him to better understand the social realities and needs of his community.

When he discovered the call for applications for the SELAM project, an initiative to combat radicalization and violent extremism, he saw it as a valuable opportunity. Aware of the difficulties faced by young people in rural areas, particularly in terms of recognition and access to opportunities, he decided to apply in order to contribute to constructive change. His application was accepted, and he was elected president of the Boughadoum Municipal Youth Council (CCJ) at the forum organized for this purpose. He was very proud of this election, as it reflected the trust of his peers and marked a step towards greater involvement of young people in local life.

In this role, Hadramy is committed to representing the aspirations of young people, to promoting their ideas and to initiating concrete actions for the development of his municipality. He advocates participatory democracy and works to strengthen community resilience. Thanks to the SELAM project, he and other young people benefit from training and acquire skills that enable them to become agents of change. The program responds to a long-ignored expectation by finally valuing the potential of young people, who are often perceived only as beneficiaries.

Aware of the issues specific to rural areas, Hadramy positions itself as a driving force for raising awareness, mobilization and support for sustainable development. He sees this role as a unique opportunity to actively contribute to the future of his community.

**“ I would like to sincerely thank all the partners and promoters of the SELAM project for their vision and commitment. They have provided us with a platform that not only equips us, but also enables us to participate fully in the construction of a more inclusive and resilient society.”**

Hadramy Saleck



# KEY RESULTS

Cumulative from 2024 till June 2025

## 6,520

community members reached through awareness-raising campaigns on violent extremism

## 4,480

young people participated in cultural and sporting events to promote tolerance and solidarity

## 2,900

individuals engaged through interfaith dialogues, intergenerational dialogues and consultations to strengthen solidarity, resolve conflicts and improve trust between government agencies and community members

## 370

individuals received professional training and livelihood support to strengthen their economic resilience against violent extremism

## 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.