

BACKGROUND

Tunisia ranks 43rd in the Global Terrorism Index (2025), with a shift in violent extremist tactics since 2017, now involving lone actors targeting security forces. Despite diminished extremist group capacities, ongoing socio-economic decline, worsened by COVID-19, fuels recruitment drivers, with youth unemployment reaching 30% and poverty exceeding 15%, leading to increased migration, some linked to violent extremist groups.

Tunisia became a GCERF partner country* in 2017. To date, GCERF has invested USD 4.3 million in the country, with active grants worth USD 2.4 million currently supporting three local civil society organisations (CSOs). The investment supports the active involvement of civil society organisations in the implementation of the National Strategy against Extremism and Terrorism, developed by the Commission Nationale pour la Lutte Contre Le Terrorisme (CNLCT).

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 Tunisia, the CSM is chaired by the CNLCT 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 TUNISIA

GCERF's investment strategy outlines a comprehensive approach to address the drivers of violent extremism and guides civil society organisations in designing their programmes. According to GCERF's needs assessment and consultations with relevant stakeholders, there are three main drivers of violent extremism in Tunisia:

1. Social factors such as feelings of marginalisation, exclusion and difficulty in accessing social support systems.
2. Political factors such as perceived lack of governance.
3. Unfavorable economic factors such as unemployment and lack of sustainable opportunities.

The primary objective of GCERF's investment is to strengthen trust between youth, community leaders, and governance actors, while increasing opportunities for at-risk youth. GCERF supports four local NGO consortia with skills training, mentoring, livelihoods, and tackling violence at schools, fostering collaboration and support networks. By doing so, GCERF seeks to facilitate prevention, resilience-building, and community-based integration by strengthening vertical community resilience and enhancing community agency.

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



WHERE

- **Grand Tunis**
- **Jendouba**
- **Kef**
- **Kasserine**
- **Sidi Bouzid**
- **Kairouan**
- **Siliana**






WHO

- **School-aged youth (young girls and boys between the age of 14-18)**
- **Un- or under-employed Youth (young women and men between 19 and 35)**
- **Religious, tribal and community Actors**
- **State actors (local authorities, security and justice actors)**

CURRENT GRANTS



IMPLEMENTED BY		PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	
Principal Recipient: Forum El Jahedh (FEJ)		Supporting religious and community leaders to develop sustainable peer support networks, linking these with local authorities and providing livelihood support to vulnerable youth.	
Sub-recipient: Tunisia Plus			
AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION		\$ GRANT AMOUNT	PERIOD OF THE GRANT
Tunis, Kef, Jendouba		USD 980,000	January 2022 – December 2025

 IMPLEMENTED BY		 PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES
Principal Recipient: We Love Sousse (WLS)		Strengthening coordination mechanisms between local actors for increased support of people exposed to VE, reinforcement of the civic participation of young people in public life, support and assistance to victims of VE and socio-economic support to women's groups.
Sub-recipients: ADO+, Association Tunisienne de Développement et Formation (ATDeF), Forum de la Jeunesse , Culture et Citoyenneté (FJCC), ACTED		
 AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION	 GRANT AMOUNT	 PERIOD OF THE GRANT
Tunis, Kef, Jendouba, Kasserine, Sidi Bouzid	USD 1,000,000	July 2022 – December 2025

 IMPLEMENTED BY		 PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES
<p>Principal Recipient: Friguia For Strategies</p> <p>Sub-recipients: Jeunesse et horizons, AKED, SDC</p>		Supporting vulnerable youth in developing a sense of purpose, strengthening socio-professional support and integration of young people, and helping to build trust between local authorities and communities.
 AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION	 GRANT AMOUNT	 PERIOD OF THE GRANT
Jendouba, Oued Mliz, Bousalem, Fernana, Tabarka	USD 500,000	July 2022 – December 2025

 IMPLEMENTED BY		 PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES
Recipient: Ifrikya Center for Common Ground		Tackling violence in schools by providing peace education and creating school councils for dialogue mechanisms between different stakeholders.
Sub-recipients: Organisation Tunisienne des Scouts, Union Nationale de la Femme Tunisienne à Kairouan (UNFTK)		Promoting more active participation of women in sustainable community initiatives.
 AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION	 GRANT AMOUNT	 PERIOD OF THE GRANT
Tunis, Siliana, Kairouan	USD 420,000	April 2024 – December 2025

STORY OF CHANGE

REVIVING TRADITIONS AND ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

A Caravan democratises culture in remote areas.

CARAV-ART is an innovative and inclusive community initiative, launched by the Local PVE Network and led by the Jendouba Regional Directorate of Cultural Affairs. It aims to enhance the accessibility of cultural services and foster trust between institutions and local citizens.

Thanks to the Friguia for Strategies consortium, an old bus that had been abandoned for 20 years was restored. Once owned by the Regional Directorate of Cultural Affairs, the bus was transformed into the first of its kind – providing mobile cultural services to communities living along the Tunisian-Algerian border and other underserved areas in Jendouba Governorate. The initiative has since served as a model of good governance and the democratisation of cultural activities, inspiring other regional cultural directorates to adopt similar approaches.



Before and after. Result of extensive consultations, the symbolic cultural caravan revived in the third quarter of 2024 by Friguia for Strategies now fosters meaningful dialogue on violent extremism in remote communities like that in Jendouba on the Algerian border ©Fedia Gasmî

The Regional Directorate of Cultural Affairs has successfully secured additional public funding to equip the bus with necessary materials and prepare an action plan for 2024-2025, in collaboration with the Local PVE Network. This plan outlines the organisation of a multi-service caravan offering health services, youth entertainment, information access, vocational training, employment opportunities, and more. Furthermore, the Directorate has engaged local directorates – including those for education, women and family, elderly persons, employment and vocational training, religious affairs, and social affairs – in partnership with the Jendouba Governorate. Together, they will implement large-scale, joint activities aimed at reaching and supporting vulnerable, underserved communities.

Youth Advocacy Improved Transport Conditions in Ouled Hussein.

Much in this vein, supported by the We Love Sousse consortium as part of its advocacy work, the Bou Zegam Local Youth Council (CLJ) initiated a petition in August 2024 to improve transport conditions for the inhabitants of Ouled Hussein, an isolated rural area in Kasserine. Two days later, after gathering signatures from residents, the CLJ submitted the petition to the Director of the Regional Transport Company.

This initiative was driven by the challenges faced by residents, particularly students, who struggled to reach the city due to the risks of robbery and assault along the roads, which heightened their vulnerability. In response, the transport company promptly set up a school bus service for the region's students starting in mid-September, beginning of the school year.

This intervention had a direct and significant impact: it not only improved the quality of life for young people by making travel easier but also enhanced their safety by reducing travel-related risks. This case study demonstrates how the engagement of CLJs, supported by the project, can provide sustainable solutions that strengthen community resilience.

KEY RESULTS

10

participants in awareness and sensitisation campaigns on PVE, increasing trust between security and community members

12,868

grants in five years to 19 CSOs, including principal and sub-recipients

2,047

people joining Interfaith/religious, intercommunity, intergenerational dialogues, consultation, roundtable

1,517

people trained on PVE, conflict sensitivity, critical thinking, conflict resolution skills, and early warning

969

civic and safe spaces established to foster dialogue, mental health, and well-being

202

people receiving livelihoods or economic support

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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