

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. 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 provides a comprehensive framework to counter the drivers of violent extremism, guiding civil society organizations in program design. Based on needs assessments and stakeholder consultations, Tunisia faces three primary drivers:

1. Social factors: Feelings of marginalization, exclusion, and limited access to social support systems.
2. Political factors: Perceived governance deficits.
3. Economic factors: Unemployment and lack of sustainable opportunities.

The core goal is to build trust among youth, community leaders, and governance actors while expanding opportunities for at-risk youth. GCERF funds four local NGO consortia focused on skills training, mentoring, livelihoods, and addressing school violence—creating collaboration and support networks.

Three grants concluded in December 2025, with the Ifrikyia Center for Common Ground (ICCG) wrapping up in January 2026. GCERF is currently working with in-country-based donors to ensure program continuity during 2026 and beyond.



WHERE

- Grand Tunis
- Jendouba
- Kef
- Kasserine
- Sidi Bouzid
- Kairouan
- Siliana
- Sfax
- Sousse

WHO

- School-aged youth (young girls and boys between the ages of 14–18)
- Unemployed Youth (young women and men between 19 and 35)
- Religious, grassroots organisations, community actors
- State actors (local authorities, social workers, educators, youth and culture center)
- Universities (Young researchers, Clinics)

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

CURRENT GRANTS

 IMPLEMENTED BY		 PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	
Principal Recipient: Ifriky Center for Common Ground Sub-recipients: Organisation Tunisienne des Scouts, Union Nationale de la Femme Tunisienne à Kairouan (UNFTK)		Tackling violence in schools by providing peace education and creating school councils for dialogue mechanisms between different stakeholders. Promoting more active participation of women in sustainable community initiatives.	
 AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION		 GRANT AMOUNT	 PERIOD OF THE GRANT
Siliiana, Kairouan		USD 419,991	April 2024 – January 2026

TAKAMUL: Linking Research, Religious Leadership, and Youth Engagement

STORY OF CHANGE

Linking Research, Religious Leadership, and Youth Engagement

The TAKAMUL, led by Forum El Jahedh, operates through a strategic value chain that transforms academic research into community-led resilience. By bridging the gap between practice and research, the initiative fosters a sustainable ecosystem for resilience and social cohesion in Tunisia.

TAKAMUL begins with a rigorous evidence base. By partnering with a social science research clinic of the Human and Social Science of Tunis, the project produced Tunisia’s first comprehensive study on the role of religious actors in violence prevention. This research serves as the catalyst for all subsequent interventions, ensuring they are grounded in local realities.

Collaboration: Co-Developing Local Solutions

The project facilitates a unique synergy between young researchers and religious figures. Together, they co-develop locally tailored tools and strategies. This collaborative phase extends to digital innovation, utilising platforms like TikTok to open fresh dialogue channels on peace—a method that has proven exceptionally effective in engaging the youth demographic.

Implementation: Strengthening Moderate Voices & Local Action

Through the efforts of Forum El Jahedh, TAKAMUL strengthens moderate religious voices and promotes inclusive public participation. In the Kef Governorate, this has sparked eight diverse community-led initiatives, including:

- Cultural Spaces & Mobile Caravans: Bringing dialogue to remote areas.
- Family Support Centers: Addressing the root causes of social instability.
- Storytelling Podcasts & Prison Arts Rehabilitation: Humanizing the process of reintegration and cohesion.

Impact: Legitimizing Initiatives & Expanding Roles

The deep involvement of religious leaders provides the necessary legitimacy to root these efforts in the community. Notably, 50 leaders from Kef and Jendouba co-created an inclusive religious discourse model focused on peace, tolerance, and stability.

These efforts culminate in evidence-based policy recommendations for youth engagement, drafted through participatory workshops. As religious leadership roles evolve beyond tradition to meet modern societal needs, TAKAMUL establishes a lasting framework for community resilience and peace.

KEY RESULTS

cumulative from 2018 to June 2025

4,700

young people, educators, religious members and community members engaged through training to strengthen local prevention efforts and build resilience to violent extremism

4,165

community members joining Interfaith/religious, intercommunity, intergenerational dialogues, consultation, and roundtable discussions to strengthen social cohesion

3,600

Youth, religious leaders and community members participating in PVE initiatives, peace clubs and awareness activities

970

community members engaged through civic and safe spaces established to foster dialogue, mental health, and well-being

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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