



BACKGROUND

Albania has registered one of the highest per capita rate of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) in Europe that joined the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS). GCERF has successfully supported the rehabilitation and reintegration (R&R) of 38 female and youth returnees from Northeast Syria, while strengthening the capacity of frontline workers (government and non-governmental) to provide specialised case management support.

COUNTRY SUPPORT MECHANISM (CSM)

In Albania, CSM is chaired by the Director of The Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism – Albania 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.

OUR INVESTMENT STRATEGY IN ALBANIA



Establish a National Referral Mechanism to identify at-risk individuals and returnees and refer them to service providers through established pathways.



Strengthen the capacity of multi-agency local bodies, first responders and government institutions to deliver effective R&R services.



Create an effective, self-sustainable system for P/CVE while ensuring the successful reintegration of individuals previously involved in extremist activities.

2019

Albania became a GCERF partner country in 2019

USD 4 M

GCERF's total investment in Albania to date

USD 1.4 M

Active grants value

5

Current civil society partners

DRIVERS OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Security challenges from domestic and external sources; ethnic driven tensions in neighbouring areas

Limited economic opportunities and social exclusion

Online dissemination of extremist narratives

GCERF FOCUS AREAS AND POPULATION GROUPS IN ALBANIA



LOCATIONS

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1 Shkoder | 6 Elbasan |
| 2 Kukës | 7 Korçë |
| 3 Dibër | 8 Berat |
| 4 Durrës | 9 Vlorë |
| 5 Tirana | |

POPULATION GROUPS

Women and child returnees from conflict zones

National and local institutions

Frontline workers (psychologists, social workers, members of educational institutions)

Local authorities, local and community based civil society organisations

KEY RESULTS*

400+

Frontline workers trained to facilitate effective rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees

350+

Community members, religious leaders and young people engaged through initiatives aimed at increasing awareness on preventing violent extremism

38

Women and children returning from Iraq and Syria received comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration support

20+

Returnees received legal and administrative support to facilitate their reintegration process

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By providing technical assistance to national and local governance institutions – coordinated through the Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism – GCERF has offered strategic support to civil society organisations and contributed significantly to promoting social cohesion and strengthening community resilience across the country. This comprehensive collaboration has helped position Albania as a regional model of effective, community-based approaches that can be shared with other countries.

-Ms. Lejdi Dervishi, Director of the Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism, Albania

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Scan the QR code for additional information or visit our website: www.gcerf.org/albania/



*Cumulative figures from 2020 until December 2025