

BACKGROUND

Returnees from conflicts abroad are a manifestation of violent extremism in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), exacerbated by the complex socio-political landscape, marked by the nineties conflict, ongoing national and ethnic divisions, and socio-economic challenges. These factors have highlighted the urgent need for an effective response to prevent violent extremism.

Over the past years, GCERF's work in BiH has made significant progress through the grant to the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Atlantic Initiative (AI) to establish and strengthen mobile teams working on rehabilitation and reintegration (R&R) at the state, federal and local level. The partnership with the Atlantic Initiative concluded in March 2025. The endline evaluation report underlines that case management played a crucial role in supporting returnee families by providing structured, continuous, and personalised assistance throughout their reintegration process. AI recommends that across all stages, it is critical to center returnee perspectives in the adaptation and evaluation of reintegration programming. Long-term investments must target structural reform and public awareness efforts, ensuring that reintegration is not only a professional responsibility but also a socially supported process.

KEY RESULTS*

88%

Frontline workers reported that their institutions are at least somewhat prepared to work with returnees after the programme's capacity strengthening and SOP rollout

18

Multi-level network of mobile and multidisciplinary teams and equipped them with agreed protocols and SOPs to coordinate and standardise reintegration support

2021

BiH became a GCERF partner country in 2021

USD 0.7 M

GCERF's total investment in BiH to date

“ I now have a much deeper understanding of the challenges faced by returnee children and the importance of providing them with emotional and psychological support. The capacity strengthening training helped me better navigate the legal procedures involved and gave me practical guidance on how to respond to the situations these children may face. Most importantly, it strengthened my empathy and reinforced the need to create a supportive, inclusive classroom environment where diversity is accepted, and every child feels safe.

-An educator in the workshop for teachers, pedagogues, and psychologists from primary schools

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