



BACKGROUND

The threat of terrorism and violent extremism have worsened in recent decades, become increasingly pronounced in the Central Sahel region of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. The security challenges inherent in the sub-regional context, resulting from the increase in asymmetric threats and their various forms of manifestation as well as the outbreak of social tensions, have resulted in the advent of transitional regimes in the three countries of the Central Sahel and the creation of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) in 2023. In this context, violent extremism has become increasingly entrenched, driven by local grievances and interconnected regional dynamics, underscoring the need for community-led approaches to prevention.

COUNTRY SUPPORT MECHANISM (CSM)

GCERF in Burkina Faso is working with the government led by Ministry of Territorial Administration and Mobility, through the country support mechanism, and bilateral and multilateral donors to ensure a coordinated approach to prevention. CSM provides strategic direction for the programmes, ensure results, and progressively inherit ownership of funding community-level efforts to prevent violent extremism.

OUR INVESTMENT STRATEGY IN BURKINA FASO



Contribute to improvements in the social ecology to create conditions conducive to prevention and resilience-building.



Facilitate community-led rehabilitation, disengagement, and (re)integration, including people disengaging from criminal, non-state armed, and violent extremist groups.

2021

Burkina Faso became a GCERF partner country in 2021

USD 7 M

GCERF's total investment in Burkina Faso to date

USD 3.5 M

Active grants value

9

Current civil society partners

DRIVERS OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Competition over natural resources and climate pressure

Recurrent farmer-herder conflicts

Longstanding governance-related grievances

GCERF FOCUS AREAS AND POPULATION GROUPS IN BURKINA FASO



LOCATIONS

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1 Passoré | 2 Yatenga |
| 3 Zondoma | 4 Loroum |
| 5 Oudalan | 6 Seno |
| 7 Soum | 8 Yagha |
| 9 Komoé | 10 Léraba |
| 11 Poni | 12 Noumbiel |
| 13 Bougouriba | 14 Ioba |

POPULATION GROUPS

Pastoralists and farmers

Internally Displaced Persons, and host communities

Traditional and religious leaders

Unemployed men and women (aged 15-25)

Vulnerable children (aged 7-18)

Youth and Women (aged 26-37)

KEY RESULTS*

2,200+

Victims of violent extremism, out-of school youth and children at-risk of violence have been engaged through educational talks and counselling sessions to reduce their susceptibility to VE agendas

800+

Judicial actors, prison security officers and social workers participated in workshops to strengthen their understanding and knowledge of handling cases related to children involved in violence and child victims

500+

Community and religious leaders trained in conflict resolution and peacebuilding mechanisms to promote harmony and address grievances before VE groups can exploit them

200+

Children of former fighters, ex-combatants and out-of school have been enrolled in school to facilitate their growth and reintegration

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When I began my mechanical training, many doubted that it was a job for girls. Today, I am proud to have persisted. This training gives me skills for a stable future, and seeing other girls in my neighbourhood follow my example motivates me to keep going. With opportunities and support, young people can build their future and resist negative influences.

-young girl at risk of radicalisation who participated in a vocational training, Ouahigouya, Northern Region.

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*Cumulative figures from 2024 until December 2025

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<https://www.gcerf.org/burkina-faso/>

