



BACKGROUND

Ghana's northern regions face growing vulnerabilities to violent extremism, despite the country's overall stability. Both internal and external factors contribute to this risk, with the rise of extremist groups in the Sahel – particularly in Burkina Faso – significantly heightening the threat. Burkina Faso, ranked 1st on the Global Terrorism Index in 2025, shares a border with Ghana, raising concerns over the potential spillover of violence. This is further compounded by the influx of refugees and displaced victims of violent extremism into vulnerable northern communities. Porous borders also allow the discreet movement of armed groups across countries, increasing Ghana's exposure to regional instability.

COUNTRY SUPPORT MECHANISM (CSM)

In Ghana, CSM is chaired by the National Security Council Secretariat 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 GHANA



Strengthen the economic security of vulnerable populations to reduce their susceptibility to recruitment into violent extremism.



Strengthen community resilience through the promotion of traditional conflict resolution and peacebuilding mechanisms.



Create an enabling environment for the prevention of violent extremism within communities, CSOs and local authorities.

2023

Ghana became a GCERF partner country in 2023

USD 3 M

GCERF's total investment in Ghana to date

USD 2.7 M

Active grants value

11

Current civil society partners

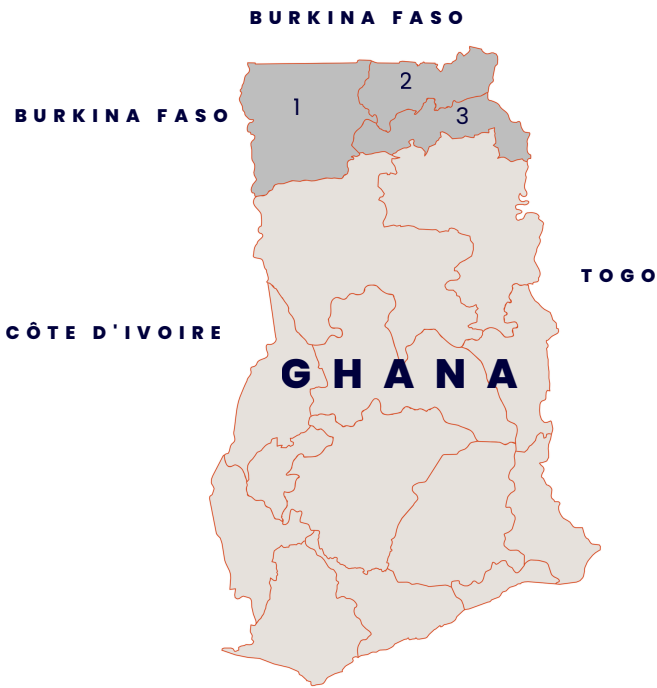
DRIVERS OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Increased flow of refugees from Burkina Faso placing growing pressure on existing social infrastructure

Escalating tensions between farming and herding communities over access to natural resources

Absence of effective screening mechanisms to prevent infiltration and recruitment by violent extremist groups

GCERF FOCUS AREAS AND POPULATION GROUPS IN GHANA



LOCATIONS

- 1 Upper West
- 2 Upper East
- 3 North East

POPULATION GROUPS

Youth (men and women aged 15-35) who are:

- unemployed or underemployed
- from rural settings
- from ostracised minorities

Local authorities, traditional and religious leaders and Queen Mothers

Refugees and migrants with a specific focus on women with limited access to socio-economic opportunities

Ethnic minorities including Fulanis

KEY RESULTS*

13,000+

refugees, women, and youth at risk of violent extremism equipped with vocational skills and alternative livelihoods to reduce their vulnerability to recruitment into violent extremism

6,500+

traditional leaders, refugees, community members, and youth engaged through campaigns to increase their understanding of PVE and strengthen community resilience against violent extremism

2,500+

youth at-risk of radicalisation trained in critical thinking and digital literacy to combat misinformation and online radicalisation

450+

district authorities, community & religious leaders, media personnel trained in conflict resolution and peacebuilding mechanisms to promote harmony and address grievances before VE groups can exploit them

*Cumulative figures from 2023 until December 2025

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Our partnership with GCERF has been instrumental in advancing Ghana's prevention-focused approach to violent extremism. By empowering communities, strengthening local institutions, and aligning with national strategies, GCERF has become a trusted ally in our pursuit of resilience, inclusion, and long-term peace.

-National Security Council Secretariat, Ghana

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