



BACKGROUND

For more than two decades, Iraq has experienced cycles of conflicts and wars with a full generation of young people growing up in a conflict-affected environment, exacerbating the drivers of violent extremism and the risk factors throughout the country. Iraq adopted a national strategy for preventing and countering violent extremism and has put in place action plans at the level of the governorates through the countering violent extremism sub-committees. Iraq also faces another major challenge posed by the camps in Northeast Syria (NES) containing Iraqi nationals. Beyond their threat to national, regional, and global stability, Iraq is committed to the return, rehabilitation, and reintegration of large numbers of Iraqi families coming from these camps.

COUNTRY SUPPORT MECHANISM (CSM)

In Iraq, CSM is chaired by the Chairman of the National Committee to Combat Violent Extremism (NCCVE) under the office of the National Security Advisor (ONSA). In addition to engaging NCCVE that brings together relevant government agencies and CSOs, GCERF also engages donor representatives. CSM provides strategic direction for the programmes, ensure results and progressively inherits ownership of funding community-level efforts to prevent violent extremism.

OUR INVESTMENT STRATEGY IN IRAQ



Support the implementation of the national strategy to prevent violent extremism within the defined governorate and district level plans of action.



Support the rehabilitation and reintegration of people returning from Northeast Syria.

2023

Iraq became a GCERF partner country in 2023

USD 7 M

GCERF's total investment in Iraq to date

USD 2 M

Active grants value

4

Current civil society partners

DRIVERS OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Socioeconomic marginalisation characterised by unemployment

Challenges in rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees

Inter-ethnic and religious conflicts

GCERF FOCUS AREAS AND POPULATION GROUPS IN IRAQ



LOCATIONS

- 1 Ninewa
- 2 Al Anbar
- 3 Babylon
- 4 Diyala

POPULATION GROUPS

Government entities (including security actors)

Women, boys and girls in vulnerable communities and at-risk of radicalisation

Individuals who have disengaged from VE groups and their support networks

Frontline workers (psychologists, counsellors, probation officers)

Influencers

KEY RESULTS*

12,500+

Returnee women and children supported with legal, administrative, educational, livelihood and psychological support for their effective rehabilitation and reintegration

6,500+

Returnee children supported with direct services (education, legal, psychological) to facilitate their effective reintegration into the communities

500+

Returnee women and young people at-risk of radicalisation equipped with vocational skills and entrepreneurship support to facilitate sustainable reintegration into communities

300+

Frontline workers (MHPSS service providers, social workers, teachers, local institution officials) supported to enhance preparedness and capacity to support returnees

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Every stitch I make brings me closer to my dream. In the camp I had nothing... today I have enough to dream again.

To those still living in the camps, return to your villages. Do not let the tent decide your destiny. There is always a small thread from which we can weave a larger life.

-A returnee woman trained in vocational skills to improve her livelihood and sustainable reintegration

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*Cumulative figures from 2024 until December 2025

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www.gcerf.org/iraq/

