



BACKGROUND

Kosovo has been a leader in the rehabilitation and reintegration (R&R) of returnees from foreign conflicts, repatriating large numbers of Kosovar citizens and offering comprehensive support, including psycho-social and economic reintegration initiatives.

Young people in Kosovo are particularly vulnerable to radicalisation to violent extremism. Structural polarisation in education, high unemployment rates, challenging labour market conditions, identity crises, and widespread access to technology further contribute to an environment conducive to radicalisation.

COUNTRY SUPPORT MECHANISM (CSM)

In Kosovo, CSM is chaired by the Director of The Department of Public Safety in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kosovo 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 KOSOVO



Strengthen the capacity of relevant actors working at the local level on preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) and rehabilitation and reintegration (R&R).



Reinforce local mechanisms and institutions to mitigate polarisation of children and youth.



Monitor the implementation of the Kosovo National Strategy and Action Plan for P/CVE and R&R, assessing progress, identifying gaps, and providing recommendations.

2017

Kosovo became a GCERF partner country in 2017

USD 7.4 M

GCERF's total investment in Kosovo to date

USD 2.9 M

Active grants value

10

Current civil society partners

DRIVERS OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Lack of trust in institutions, limited dialogue between central and local government

Ethnic tensions associated with ethnonationalist mobilisation

Political unrest and mis/disinformation

GCERF FOCUS AREAS AND POPULATION GROUPS IN KOSOVO



LOCATIONS

- 1 Kosovska Mitrovica District
- 2 Peja
- 3 Gjakova
- 4 Prizreni
- 5 Ferizaji
- 6 Gjilani
- 7 Prishtina

POPULATION GROUPS

Children and youth, including returnees but also other minority groups including Serbian, Roma Ashkali, Egyptian, Turkish, and Bosniak youth

National and local institutions

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

Returnees and their family members or legal guardians

KEY RESULTS*

3800+

High school students, young people, parents, teachers and village council members engaged through initiatives aimed at increasing awareness on preventing violent extremism

1,500+

Youth at-risk of radicalisation and returnees trained in vocational skills and provided with entrepreneurship support to strengthen their economic resilience against violent extremism

300+

Frontline workers trained to facilitate effective rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees

86

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

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When I returned to Kosovo, I was afraid – of judgment, of starting over, of what my children’s future might look like. But thanks to the civil society organisations specialised in the reintegration of returnees, I found hope again. They helped me access vocational training, psychological support, and slowly, I began to rebuild my life. Today, I am not just surviving, I am contributing to my community and raising my children with peace, not fear. Reintegration is not easy, but with the right support, it is possible.

-Returnee woman in Kosovo

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



*Cumulative figures from 2017 until December 2025