



BACKGROUND

Mauritania is often regarded as an island of relative stability in a volatile region, having largely contained violent extremist activity within its borders since 2012 through a combination of robust security measures and innovative prevention approaches, including dialogue and de-radicalisation initiatives. However, this stability masks underlying structural vulnerabilities. Deep-rooted social inequalities, exclusion, and limited access to opportunities continue to generate grievances that can be exploited by violent extremist groups. The growing presence of groups such as ama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM) and Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) along the country's borders, coupled with porous frontiers, regional conflict spillovers, and increasing pressures from refugee inflows, heightens the risk of infiltration and radicalisation.

COUNTRY SUPPORT MECHANISM (CSM)

GCERF in Mauritania is working with the government, through the CSM, 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 MAURITANIA



Promote preventive approaches to radicalisation and violent extremism



Create enabling environments for de-radicalisation



Support the incubation of coordinated local PVE communities championing the Mauritanian model

2023

Mauritania became a GCERF partner country in 2023

USD 3 M

GCERF's total investment in Mauritania to date

USD 2.3 M

Active grants value

9

Current civil society partners

DRIVERS OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Socio-economic pressure and limited economic opportunities

Refugees pressure and resource constraints

Regional instability and cross-border dynamics

GCERF FOCUS AREAS AND POPULATION GROUPS IN MAURITANIA



LOCATIONS

- 1 Guidimakha
- 2 Assaba
- 3 Hodh el Gharbi
- 4 Hodh ech Chargui

POPULATION GROUPS

Youth groups (age 15 to 25): from rural areas, minorities, formal and informal Islamic schools, street children

Local Authorities: religious leaders, traditional leaders, community council members, opinion leaders

Women (26 and older): rural women, widows, single mothers, displaced women

Socio-professional groups: herders, farmers

KEY RESULTS*

900+

community members participated in dialogues and townhalls to reduce differences, strengthen cohesion and peaceful coexistence

800+

community members, government authorities engaged through campaigns to increase their understanding of PVE and strengthen community resilience against violent extremism

400+

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

300+

community members trained in conflict management and resolution to address grievances before VE groups can exploit them

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In June 2025, after completing the training, I continued with practical internships on construction sites back in my home village. Today, I am known as 'Issaga* the electrician', a name that gives me pride and a place in this community. I earn a decent living independently, so I have no reason to seek money or recognition through other, more dangerous means. Having a skill, a reputation, and an income here is what keeps me rooted, and keeps others like me from looking elsewhere for purpose.

-Young man at-risk of radicalisation in Cheleykha

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



*Cumulative figures from 2024 until December 2025