



GCERF
Preventing Violent Extremism
and Terrorism

COUNTRY SNAPSHOT

NIGERIA

MAY 2026

BACKGROUND

Nigeria has faced violent insurgencies for decades. Since 2007, over 11,000 people have been killed, with millions more displaced. These insurgencies, especially in the North-East, North-Central and North-West, have severely impacted Nigeria's local, state, and national socioeconomic fabric.

GCERF recently completed grants with Northeast Youth Initiative for Development (NEYIF) in December 2025 and with ActionAid in September 2025. As the ex-post evaluation notes, there was widespread acknowledgement that local youth were more engaged socially and economically and that violence had reduced as a result. The involvement of local actors in design was commendable, and participant selection was conducted mostly with integrity. Community Action Response Teams (CARTs) showcased their efficacy through low-cost setups and gained respect within communities, fostering occasional replication. Strengthening local ownership and facilitating external support for funding sources could enhance sustainability.

OUR INVESTMENT STRATEGY IN NIGERIA



Strengthen the institutionalisation of efforts to prevent/counter violent extremism (P/CVE) through improved coordination, change management, learning and stakeholder engagement.



Enhance community resilience and prevent violent extremism by providing sustainable socio-economic opportunities to vulnerable populations.



Create an enabling environment for P/CVE by fostering collaboration with communities, civil society organisations (CSOs), and local authorities.

2016

**GCERF's investment in Nigeria
began in 2016**

USD 13.75 M

**GCERF's total investment
in Nigeria to date**

25

Total civil society partners

COUNTRY SUPPORT MECHANISM (CSM)

In Nigeria, CSM is chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with technical support by the Office of the National Security Advisor (ONSA), and brings together relevant government agencies, civil society organisations, and donor representatives.

CSM provides strategic direction for the programmes, ensure results and progressively inherits ownership of funding community-level efforts to prevent violent extremism.

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



GCERF FOCUS AREAS AND POPULATION GROUPS IN NIGERIA



KEY RESULTS*

30,000+

Community members at-risk of radicalisation, community and religious leaders participated in dialogues and townhalls to reduce differences, strengthen cohesion and peaceful coexistence

14,000+

women, youth, security actors, national and local authorities, religious and community leaders trained in conflict management and resolution to address grievances before VE groups can exploit them

6000+

Women and young people at-risk of radicalisation equipped with vocational skills and entrepreneurship support to reduce their vulnerability to recruitment into violent extremism

1200+

CSO representatives and government authorities trained on P/CVE at local level, national PCVE framework and implementation of state action plans to create an enabling environment

LOCATIONS

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1 Sokoto | 7 Jigawa |
| 2 Kebbi | 8 Plateau |
| 3 Zamfara | 9 Nassarawa |
| 4 Katsina | 10 Kogi |
| 5 Kaduna | 11 Benue |
| 6 Kano | |

POPULATION GROUPS

Affected/Host communities and IDP camps

Rehabilitated/repentant bandits

Young women and men (19-35 years)

Religious, traditional and community leaders

Governance actors (Federal, State, and Local Governments, Security agencies and Justice Actors)

Civil society organisations and community-based organisations

Women groups

Secondary and tertiary students/teachers

Prison authorities

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For the first time, stakeholders were meaningfully engaged and assigned clear roles in preventing violent extremism during the five-day training for emergency responders in Jigawa State.

The training fostered collaboration, built trust among diverse actors, and enhanced local capacity to coordinate effective and inclusive PVE responses.

-Director, Foreign Relations, Jigawa State, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning

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*Cumulative figures from 2016 until December 2025