



## BACKGROUND

While domestic terrorist activity is low, the country faces potential threats from ISIS-Khorasan, active in neighbouring Afghanistan. The group has targeted Central Asian populations and seeks to expand its influence in the region. Uzbekistan has also pioneered successful, community-based short-term repatriation and reintegration of its citizens from conflict zones in Northeast Syria and Iraq. Between 2019 and 2021, the government conducted five "Mehr" humanitarian operations, successfully repatriating 531 individuals. The comprehensive rehabilitation programme ensured that repatriates spent minimal time in closed facilities and were quickly integrated into communities. However, there are significant opportunities and gaps in ensuring long-term reintegration of women and children.

## COUNTRY SUPPORT MECHANISM (CSM)

In Uzbekistan, CSM is chaired by the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies. 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 UZBEKISTAN



Strengthen the local capacity for community resilience and sustainable reintegration of women and children returning from Iraq and Northeast Syria.



Enhance youth resilience against online radicalisation.



Enhance rehabilitation of former offenders in correctional facilities and post-release reintegration support.

**2024**

**Uzbekistan became a GCERF partner country in 2024**

**USD 1.8 M**

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

**USD 1.8 M**

**Active grants value**

**5**

**Current civil society partners**

## DRIVERS OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM

**Psychosocial vulnerability and unaddressed trauma of citizens repatriating from conflict zones**

**Discrimination, marginalization, and financial hardship experienced by Uzbek labor migrants abroad, increasing their vulnerability to radicalization**

**Online extremist narratives and transnational propaganda**

## GCERF FOCUS AREAS AND POPULATION GROUPS IN UZBEKISTAN



### LOCATIONS

- |                |                            |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Bukhara      | 6 Tashkent region and city |
| 2 Samarkand    | 7 Namangan                 |
| 3 Kashkadarya  | 8 Andijan                  |
| 4 Surkhandarya | 9 Fergana                  |
| 5 Sirdarya     |                            |

### POPULATION GROUPS

Women and children repatriated from Iraq and Northeast Syria

Vulnerable women, children and youth in the immediate communities, where returnee women and children reside

Community and family members in targeted mahallas

Frontline workers (government social workers, educators, psychologists, religious leaders, healthcare providers, parents, mahalla activists)

Youth and labour migrants

Media professionals and social media influencers

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The establishment of the Country Support Mechanism is not only a justified but also a necessary initiative. It will contribute to a more sustainable and ethically oriented approach to the issues of resocialisation of repatriates and prevention of violent extremism, while serving as an important tool for promoting systemic, coordinated and intersectoral work between state and non-state actors

-Director of the Tashkent office of Barqaror Hayot, GCERF's local civil society partner in Uzbekistan

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