

GCERF

Global Community Engagement
and Resilience Fund

Annual Report 2019



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Welcome to GCERF's 2019 Annual Report

I hope you will join me in applauding the hard work of local communities around the world in turning the corner from violent extremism to more positive futures. We can all be inspired by the efforts of students in Bangladesh to promote debate on university campuses, by the entrepreneurship of women previously on the path to radicalisation in Kenya, by sports events bringing together rival factions in Kosovo, by land-sharing arrangements with herders in Nigeria, and more. GCERF is proud to have supported such efforts.

Such results can only be achieved through sustainable funding; many GCERF grants last for three years, providing long-term support against a long-term challenge. They also depend on building trustful relationships with community-based organisations, and our efforts to do so have been bolstered during 2019 by the appointment of national advisors in partner countries. GCERF is also grateful for the continued support of our donors, the positive engagement of governments in partner countries, and critical friends to push our organisation to higher standards.

Novel coronavirus will change the way we work; it will be instructive to compare this report with next year's. But what is already clear is that the threat of violent extremism remains and has even increased this year. We need to continue to invest in results and positive change so as not to lose the valuable ground we have gained over the last few years. Local communities remain our best allies in ensuring that part of the 'new normal' is less, not more, violent extremism.



Dr Khalid Koser

**Executive Director, Global Community
Engagement and Resilience Fund**

“I was struck by two key factors in combating terrorist radicalisation and recruitment in Nasawara State (Nigeria), both of which GCERF is helping to advance. First, trust between communities and their local authorities is critical in efforts to curb terrorism. Second, young people diverted away from a violent agenda can become our strongest allies for peace.”

Mr Chris Harnisch

Deputy Coordinator, Bureau of Counterterrorism,
United States Department of State, October 2019

Introduction

GCERF celebrated five years in 2019 and took the opportunity to recall its successes. GCERF has helped build resilience to violent extremism in seven countries, investing in the work of local NGOs who know best the needs of their communities. This has enabled us to directly reach more than a million people vulnerable to violent extremism and generate lasting change.

One of the legacies of a GCERF investment is the improved capacity of NGOs to continue the work we help to start. GCERF trains local organisations in preventing violent extremism, project management, finance, advocacy and other skills critical to growing the movement globally.

Our investments have supported the peaceful resolution of inter-communal disputes in Nigeria, the enhanced earning capacity of women in Mali and the ability of communities in Kosovo to reintegrate foreign terrorist fighters and their families from warzones in Syria and Iraq.

We invite you to join us in reflecting on 2019 as we look forward to extending our portfolio in the Philippines, Somalia and Sri Lanka.



Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of programmes funded by GCERF is conducted by the Performance and Impact unit of the Secretariat. The team is responsible for evaluating programmes, providing technical capacity to grant recipients, analysing results and adding to the growing body of knowledge on preventing violent extremism for the wider community.

In 2019, independent evaluations were conducted for the end of grants in Bangladesh and Mali. The end-of-grant evaluations are an important tool for GCERF to independently assess funded programmes for their relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability on preventing violent extremism. These generate lessons for GCERF on funding future projects and more broadly, for the field of preventing violent extremism. In addition, a third-party monitoring exercise was completed in Kosovo.

The GCERF Secretariat hosted a two-day international learning event called the GCERF Forum in November in Geneva, Switzerland. The event was attended by more than 35 participants, including grantees from Bangladesh, Kenya, Kosovo, Mali, and Nigeria; international PVE experts and practitioners; Secretariat staff; and representatives from Global Affairs Canada. The 2019 GCERF Forum focused on three topics within preventing violent extremism: gender, education, and working with local authorities.

GCERF presented lessons learned in 2019 in several international fora and conferences, such as the Amman Forum on Measuring, Monitoring and Assessing PVE in Jordan, where GCERF shared its experiences on monitoring and evaluation, including applying the BRAVE-14 standardised research measure; and the International CVE Research Conference 2019 in Australia, where GCERF presented the learnings generated by its funded projects on preventing violent extremism in educational institutions.

Performance and Impact staff and consultants hosted monitoring and evaluation clinics and communities of practice in Bangladesh, Kenya, Nigeria, the Philippines and Tunisia throughout the year. The clinics were important to help grantees to refine their results frameworks, build their overall capacity on monitoring and evaluation, and discuss lessons learned. We also provided technical support for creating baselines to GCERF grantees. For the first time, GCERF supported a joint baseline for multiple grants. In Nigeria, grantees decided to commission a joint baseline on people knowledge, perceptions and behaviours on PVE in Benue, Kogi, Nasawara, and Plateau States. The baseline was conducted in the second half of 2019, surveying 3,317 individual respondents, ensuring adequate samples by age, gender, and state. The study also included focus group discussions and key informant interviews.

Independent Review Panel

GCERF's international Independent Review Panel is an impartial group of 11 experts appointed by the GCERF Governing Board to provide a rigorous technical assessment of requests for funding received by GCERF. At the same time, the panel provides expert advice on specific country assessments and GCERF's investment strategies.

In 2019, the terms of reference of the Independent Review Panel was reviewed and updated after five years to better capitalise on the knowledge of its world-class experts. GCERF aims to engage the IRP members during the grant management process and contribute to the organisation's capacity-building efforts for grantees. The panel is an essential component of GCERF's funding mechanisms. It ensures quality programming, PVE specificity, and alignment to national priorities. Members are institutionally independent of the GCERF Secretariat and Governing Board. Each serves in a personal capacity with no link to their employer, government, or other entity.

In 2019, the panel reviewed grant proposals from Mali, Nigeria, the Philippines, and Tunisia and assisted in the development of the investment strategy in the Philippines. GCERF maintained close communications with the panel, involving them in its work, including at a side event, Preventing Violent Extremism in Universities, at the 74th United Nations General assembly in New York. The panel discussion introduced a new audience – primarily university administrators and students – to the field of countering and preventing violent extremism, exchanged policy lessons in preventing violent extremism in universities across global contexts, and provided a platform for further research and programming by GCERF and partners.

Members of the Independent Review Panel in 2019

- **Mr Christian Leke Achaleke**, 2018 Luxembourg Peace Prize Laureate for Outstanding Youth Peaceworker
- **Ms Hamsatu Allamin**, Founder, Allamin Foundation for Peace and Development; member of the global Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL) and Federation of Muslim Women in Nigeria
- **Mr Richard Barrett**, Senior Advisor, The Soufan Group
- **Sir Malcolm Evans**, Professor of Public International Law, University of Bristol Law School; Chair, United Nations Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture
- **Ms Humera Khan** (IRP Chair), Executive Director, Muflehun; Adjunct Professor, The George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs
- **Ms Phyllis Muema**, Executive Director, Kenya Community Support Centre (KECOSCE)
- **Ms Mossarat Qadeem**, Executive Director, PAIMAN Alumni Trust
- **Ms Maud Roure**, Programme Manager, Kofi Annan Foundation
- **Mr Keneshbek Sainazarov**, Central Asia Program Director, Search for Common Ground
- **Dr Lisa Schirch**, Senior Advisor on Policy, Alliance for Peacebuilding
- **Mr Thomas Wuchte**, Executive Director, International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ)

Governance

As GCERF's decision-making body, the GCERF Governing Board has various responsibilities.

The Board:

- **Guides GCERF's strategic direction**
- **Promotes GCERF's mission and engagement with partners**
- **Mobilises resources**
- **Manages country investment strategies, budgets, and internal control systems**
- **Monitors performance, ensures compliance with ethics and conflict of interest policy, and oversees the Secretariat**

In 2019, GCERF held two face-to-face board meetings on 11-12 June 2019 in Ottawa, Canada, and on 21-22 November 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Board took 28 decisions on critical issues, such as allocation of funding, strategy implementation plans, internal control measures, and also conducted a self-assessment.

In 2019, the Board welcomed the Federal Republic of Somalia and Sri Lanka as new partner countries. All Board decisions are publicly available on the GCERF website. A full list of our board membership can be found in Annex 1A.

Another important development was the creation of a Governance and Ethics Committee responsible for overseeing governance arrangements and ethical standards defined by GCERF's Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest. By the end of 2019, the Committee consisted of six members and held several meetings. In 2019, the Committee did not receive any reports of cases of conflict of interest.

At the country level, individuals covered by principles related to ethics and conflict of interest are members of the Country Support Mechanisms (CSMs) involved in the grant making process. Recipients of GCERF funding are bound by GCERF's Code of Conduct. During 2019, no cases of conflict of interest in partner countries were reported to the GCERF Secretariat, either related to CSM members or to funding recipients.



Photo by Lisa Oriot Scappaticci



Outreach

In 2019, GCERF actively implemented its new Communications Strategy promoting the Fund's mission and highlighting the impact of its grantees on the ground. GCERF launched regular newsletters and video diaries, offered real-time coverage of PVE news and GCERF events and increased its presence on social media, including Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube and Facebook. GCERF was also featured in numerous industry publications.

In addition, GCERF organised several external events and had a speaking role in numerous high-level conferences. It increased engagement with the private sector, hosting multiple roundtables with private sector representatives in partner countries including Nigeria, and beginning discussions about formal partnerships with a few of these representatives. The Fund strengthened its relationship with key partners, including the Global Counterterrorism Forum and its institutions, and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. This new partnership framework creates a practical and action-oriented collaboration between UNOCT and GCERF, and aims to promote a balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as well as the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.



Finance

The finance unit is actively engaged in planning and organising the Fund's financial resources, managing annual and project audits, while complying with international accounting standards. The team also provides technical support to the Fund's grant management activities and conducts financial training for GCERF grant recipients in-country.

An audit report was conducted by an external company, BDO Ltd, in Switzerland on GCERF's financial statements in 2019. During the year, a number of GCERF grantees in Asia, Africa, and Europe underwent financial examinations by BDO LLP in the UK.

As during previous years, the Secretariat continued strengthening its internal control and risk management systems, in accordance with the COSO model of internal control. GCERF proposed a new cost structure providing more relevant and transparent information about the Fund's performance. The proposal was approved by the Board in 2019.

Human Resources

GCERF continued to attract highly qualified professionals from around the world. In 2019, seven new employees joined GCERF, as well as two short-term interns. At year end, the GCERF Secretariat had 25 staff members, including permanent and temporary employees, one outsourced staff and interns. The team was 64 percent women and comprised 18 different nationalities.

GCERF restructured its Secretariat in 2019 to adjust staffing to its optimal level of performance. The Executive Director worked with external consultants to conduct a review of the organisation and to help facilitate internal interviews for positions. The process was finalised in May 2019 and the new structure was effective as of 1 June 2019. A staff survey, assessing staff perceptions of the GCERF work environment, was conducted at the end of 2019.

The Secretariat continued developing internal regulations and processes, including implementation of a new competency framework and a review of its performance management system.

In addition, the team implemented a new HR system and oversaw the migration of the Secretariat to Office 365. In line with these changes, the Secretariat developed and implemented new cybersecurity regulations and best practices in this area.

Resource Mobilisation

GCERF is supported by 16 governments and the private sector. As of the end of December 2019, total financial contributions received since GCERF's inception in 2014 reached USD 78.7 million, including in-kind contributions. In 2019 alone, GCERF secured a total of USD 18.7 million in order to reinvest in existing partner countries and to add new countries to its portfolio.

GCERF continues to benefit from the strong support of its current donors, which have renewed their commitments to its mission.

In 2019, GCERF welcomed both Denmark and Spain as new donors and look forward to building relationships with them. In parallel, GCERF increased its engagement with potential new partners, including the private sector and foundations, which remains a long-term goal. In addition to organising events and bilateral meetings to raise the fund's profile, GCERF also began a series of strategic discussions with engaged private sector actors to discuss formalised partnerships.



Financial Contributions to GCERF:

<i>In thousands of US Dollars (as of 31 December 2019)</i>	Confirmed	
	cash (B)	in-kind (A)
Australia	4,610	-
Canada	3,445	-
Denmark	2,094	-
European Union	11,238	-
France	2,028	-
Japan	6,900	-
Liechtenstein	202	-
Netherlands	9,340	-
New Zealand	246	42
Norway	4,622	-
Private sector & Other	2	36
Qatar	10,000	-
Spain	12	-
Sweden	167	-
Switzerland	5,723	1,969
United Kingdom	2,305	-
United States of America	11,202	2,326
Total	74,218	4,405

On the left

GCERF Executive Director Khalid Koser and United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov sign a memorandum of understanding.

Bangladesh

Context

The government of Bangladesh reaffirms its commitment to PVE and in 2019, started exploring the possibility of formulation of a guideline on PVE.

In August, Amaq, the Islamic State (IS) news agency released a video calling security forces and government offices legitimate targets of militant operations. The video was published a day after Bangladeshi authorities announced the arrests of five suspected members of Neo-JMB, a local militant group aligned with IS.

Violent extremist activities were reported in areas where GCERF funds activities. IS claimed credit for a crude bomb explosion near a police station in Khulna in December.



Key Achievements

GCERF concluded its first round of funding in Bangladesh in April 2019. This closed grants to three consortia and one direct implementing partner, worth USD 4.2M.

The following results were recorded:

- 30 madrassas introduced nation building events for their students, such as observing international mother language day, to build social cohesion and a sense of belonging
- 96 per cent of targeted students became aware of their role in preventing violent extremism within the student community
- 14,653 adolescents from 10 to 14 learned to identify signs demonstrated by individuals who are in the process of becoming radicalised

In September 2019, GCERF began its second round of funding to two grant recipients, Rupantar and Young Power in Social Action.

The Rupantar-led consortium launched its programme in September. In the first three months of a three-year grant, 61 out of 180 planned youth clubs were formed with the participation of 1,281 young people, including 503 women and 778 men. Youth clubs aim to promote youth engagement in issues of community concern and preventing violent extremism.

The consortium also began creating positive narratives on preventing violent extremism through cultural activities intended to raise awareness on PVE and support community resilience using local dialects and themes.

The Young Power in Social Action-led consortium launched its programmes in December in Cox's Bazar with the participation of 49 people, including nine women and 40 men. The consortium formed 27 youth clubs and groups with the participation of 432 young people, including 187 women and 425 men. It also organised 22 courtyard meetings with 449 women, where they discussed their role in preventing violent extremism in their families and communities.

In response to a major study on the drivers of violent extremism, GCERF concluded in 2019 a programme for students to prevent violent extremism in universities and madrassas. The programme reached 53,614 young men and women. Grant recipients trained 289 imams from 55 mosques on how they can prevent violent extremism and provided soft skills to more than 5,000 youth to promote a sense of purpose.



Kenya

Context

Strained relations between security actors and the public remain a primary driver of radicalisation in Kenya. Kenya shares land and coastal borders with Somalia, which is home to the Al-Shabab violent extremist group that claims responsibility for almost all terror attacks in Kenya. The porous border between Kenya and Somalia makes those living in border counties especially vulnerable.

President Uhuru Kenyatta established a National Counter Terrorism Centre to coordinate prevention and countering violent extremism across Kenya's security actors. Under the leadership of the centre, all 47 counties prepared county action plans that outline localised contexts for violent extremism and propose programming.



Key Achievements

GCERF supported three grant recipients under the core funding mechanism with grants totalling USD 5 million. They are the Coast Interfaith Council of Clerics, I Choose Life Africa and Kenya Red Cross Society. Grant recipients are implementing 12 distinct initiatives to reach more than 500,000 people, focusing on youth, religious leaders, women, security actors, educators, and media.

In 2019, the grant recipients were trained on preventing and countering violent extremism and security management. GCERF also built their financial capacity by engaging the global accounting firm, Mazars, to help address compliance challenges and increase the efficiency of GCERF Secretariat staff visits.

Under the accelerated funding mechanism, GCERF funds a further six grants. GCERF disbursed the first tranche of funds to these grantees in October.

So far, they have:

- **Provided business skills training to 187 women from Mombasa and informal settlements of Nairobi**
- **Trained 40 women in preventing and countering violent extremism, including mothers, teachers, and women faith leaders from Nyali in Mombasa, and Kamukunji and Bombolulu in Nairobi**
- **Engaged 840 young people in sporting events under the banner, “Play for Peace.” Youth participated in football, traditional boat races, swimming competitions, donkey races, and dance performances**
- **Facilitated free access to health and identity cards to villagers in Matondoni**
- **Trained 30 paralegals in Mombasa on preventing and countering violent extremism, propaganda, the stages of radicalisation and recruitment in prison facilities**

- **Produced a magazine article and radio talk shows raising the awareness of host communities, prison officers, and penal institutions on the importance of access to justice and human rights to reduce the risk of prisoners joining violent extremist groups**

Overall, GCERF:

- **Promoted social cohesion among 15,246 people through activities including interfaith dialogues and safe spaces for women to discuss challenges and opportunities in society**
- **Enhanced community agency for 7,289 people through the establishment of community watch groups and facilitating community and county-level discussions on preventing violent extremism**
- **Improved access to opportunities to 3,471 people through vocational and livelihood support, including training in entrepreneurial skills for women and out-of-school youth**
- **Increased sense of purpose among 20,444 people through training for peace ambassadors and mentorships on how to prevent violent extremism**



“ My main objective of starting this business was to upgrade or meet my primary needs and be able to support my children. However, the business went down due to the lack of knowledge on an effective business plan. I did not select the right location for my business. I did not have a record-keeping logbook to track my expenditure and cash flow. Thanks to the training I received from the Arigatou team (funded by GCERF), I have learned the importance of having a business plan before starting a business. In the future, I would like to have a pastry shop that will serve my family well. I will be able to independently take care of my children, and also, if the business is successful, I would create job opportunities for other young women like me.”

– Female participant in business skills training organised by Arigatou International

Kosovo

Context

The reintegration of returned foreign terrorist fighters and their families from Syria and Iraq remained a priority for the government of Kosovo in 2019. The country has the highest rate of foreign fighters per capita in Europe, with 355 Kosovars traveling to Iraq and Syria between 2012 and 2015.

In April, Kosovo brought back 110 of its citizens from Syria, including people who had gone to fight in the country's civil war and 74 children. The government welcomed the involvement of civil society organisations in the rehabilitation and reintegration process of foreign terrorist fighters and their families.

GCERF grantees produced six articles, three public service announcements, and two documentaries on the reintegration of RFTFs and their families, sensitising the public and promoting support for the process.

These media activities involved RFTFs and their families, teachers of repatriated children, and representatives from local and central authorities to discuss challenges that returnees face to reintegrate and re-socialise in their communities.

“Children haven’t lost the feeling of giving love despite the bitter memories of fleeing from one camp to another, the dangerous survival, bombs, grenades, weapons and tanks. They need love and acceptance to move on.”

– A teacher of repatriated children of foreign terrorist fighters



Key Achievements

In 2019, GCERF directly reached 46,450 people with programming to prevent violent extremism in Kosovo. The programmes also indirectly reached 105,091 men and women.

In total, GCERF grant recipients conducted:

- 16 interfaith and inter-community dialogues
- Four psychosocial activities to provide support for reintegration
- Five programmes to develop critical thinking and promote conflict resolution skills
- 19 leadership trainings for religious leaders, women, youth group leaders, journalists and members of local government

GCERF promoted social cohesion through activities for 2,319 men and 1,863 women aimed at enhancing their sense of belonging to an inclusive and positive community.

Highlights include:

- 83 young people participated in sports and creative activities at a youth summer camp
- 240 students from different schools participated in out-of-school activities such as basketball and traditional dance
- Technical skills training to youth in Kacanik on graphic design and software to promote critical thinking

GCERF strengthened community agency through:

- PVE training for municipal assembly members and community safety councils in Kacanik, Kamenica, and Lipjan
- Training for 17 journalists from national media platforms in Kosovo in reporting P/CVE cases. Stigmatisation of returning foreign terrorist fighters and their families had previously impeded the reintegration process. Vocational training for 63 young men and 71 women aimed at improving access to social and economic opportunities

GCERF funded activities designed to enhance a sense of purpose in 399 men and 456 women.

These included:

- Activities for 90 students from north and south Mitrovica to engage in discussions on ethnic and religious tolerance, inter-cultural understanding, and community activism. Results showed youth who had previously displayed problematic behaviours were equipped with skills to resolve problems through non-violent communication
- Advocacy training for 26 young women and 16 men to raise issues important to them at a national level. Participants succeeded at raising topics such as unemployment, freedom of movement, education and youth activism onto a national stage using various forms of media, including radio and video
- Jobs training for more than 70 students from north and south Mitrovica in web-applications for e-commerce
- Small grants for 20 youth in Kacanik to develop innovative business ideas. Lack of employment opportunities and ability to influence policy lead to perceptions of an unjust society. Bringing young people and their parents into discussion with local authorities was shown to be a useful tool in addressing this concern
- Career coaching for 65 students from Ferizaj and Kacanik in a two-day workshop

Mali

Context

Stalling peace processes increased inter- and intra-communal violence and mounting political pressure in 2019 threatened to reverse gains made in preventing violent extremism. In the north, implementation of the peace accord faced multiple obstructions, with continued disagreement between signatories suspending work.

In March, the Ogossagou massacre, an ethnically-charged killing of more than 157 Fulani, marked an escalation in the scale and brutality of inter- and intra-community violence. Growing popular discontent prompted the government to establish inclusive national dialogues in a bid to develop a consensus roadmap for resolving the multi-dimensional crises. The dialogues produced sensitive recommendations, including direct negotiations with home-grown violent extremist groups.



Key Achievements

In December, GCERF closed the second round of funding to three consortia in Mali. The programmes engaged 141,923 direct beneficiaries and 979,603 indirect beneficiaries. Outcomes showed behavioural change at a community level (67%) and individual behavioural change (60%), with two thirds of beneficiaries also reporting a change of perception (67%).

Throughout the programmes, 70,670 community members directly participated in activities to enhance social cohesion.

Most of the activities aimed at raising awareness on violent extremism and spreading messages of peace, forgiveness, and mutual understanding between local communities. Interreligious dialogues were hosted to address the role of religious leaders in the prevention of violent extremism. Discussion sessions were also organised to raise awareness amongst local communities on drivers of violent extremism.

Between April 2017 and the December 2019, the three consortia engaged 43,426 direct beneficiaries in activities designed to promote community agency (26,256 men and 17,170 women). Advocacy meetings were organised to promote access to property rights for women. Training sessions for young people on non-violent conflict

management allowed participants to identify types of conflicts and resolution mechanisms. One grantee organised an awareness-campaign through a series of theatre representation in the national language (Dogon). The theatre troupe travelled through the Mopti region to promote community agency and peaceful cohabitation. Participants used the opportunity to share their views on the crucial role of women in preventing violence.

Vulnerable individuals (5,936 men and 14,018 women) benefited from economic empowerment and livelihood activities, designed to help lift the barriers that limit access to social and economic opportunities. Beneficiaries received training on vocational skills, such as forestry product processing or gardening, as well as entrepreneurship training. Participants received kits to develop their own businesses.

Throughout the three years of funding, a total of 7,873 beneficiaries (5,358 men and 2,515 women) directly participated in activities designed to provide individuals with confidence, critical thinking, and other life skills. Thanks to these activities, talibés, vulnerable women and girls, and out-of-school young boys increased their sense of purpose. Face-to-face follow-up meetings were organised with beneficiaries on a regular basis.

Resisting Violent Extremism in Kendé

When violent extremist groups came to Kendé, seeking to recruit, mother of three, Agna,* felt vulnerable. "Some people in the village, like me, are very susceptible to these preachers of radicalism," she said.

Her household income was dependent on crops and her family didn't have enough fertile land to cultivate. At times, she resorted to selling her belongings to make ends meet.

*Not her real name

Then, the 25 year-old was connected to 18 other women in Kendé through a vocational training for 240 young men and women supported by GCERF.

"The programme taught me to participate in income-generating activities to improve my quality of life." She started cattle fattening and increased her household income.

"I am filled with hope," she said. "Actually, I now share my experience with other women in the group and encourage them to be more entrepreneurial."

Nigeria

Context

An upsurge in violent confrontations, including armed robbery, kidnapping, and communal violence between nomadic herdsman and farmers followed the inauguration of the government in February.

In Kogi State, clashes between supporters of opposing political parties led to the killing of the Democratic party leader in Ochadamu Ward. In Benue State, there was an increase in armed robbery, kidnapping, and violent confrontations between communities. In Nasarawa State, suspected armed robbers attacked the convoy of Nasarawa State Deputy Governor in August, killing three policemen and a civilian. In Plateau State, several incidents were reported in communities where GCERF funds operations. These include tussles over land, farmer-herder conflicts, armed robbery, rape and killings by unknown gunmen.



Photo by Lisa Oriot Scappaticci



Key Achievements

GCERF closed its first round of funding in Nigeria after directly reaching 169,149 beneficiaries over a three-year period. Key results from grants to five civil society organisations – The CLEEN Foundation, Women Environmental Programme, Adolescent Health and Information Projects, ActionAid Nigeria and the Institute of Governance and Social Research – include:

- **8,913 targeted women reported improved social and economic conditions that reduced their vulnerability to violent extremism**
- **1,556 young people graduated for a trade**
- **120 workshop participants demonstrate improved skills in conflict resolution and ADR**
- **Six warring communities or factions restored peace**

The second round of funding built on lessons learned from the first round. In line with GCERF's reinvestment strategy, grant agreements were signed in 2019 with ActionAid Nigeria, Women Environmental Programme and the Institute of Governance and Social Research. Already, these programmes have directly benefitted 57,000 people.

Interfaith dialogues were organised by the Women Environmental Programme-led consortium on peace and preventing violent extremism in six local government areas in Benue. Over 310 religious leaders came together to discuss how to build peaceful coexistence in their communities.

Youth peace camps were organised by the Institute of Governance and Social Research in August and November in Plateau, engaging 480 and 461 young people, respectively. Through various intellectual, sporting and cultural activities conducted over seven days, participants learn peaceful coexistence and tolerance for one another's values. Participants are equipped with the skills to create Youth Peace Corps in their communities to encourage conflict resolution and advocacy against violent extremism.

The ActionAid Nigeria-led consortium held 24 town hall meetings in November 2019, to strengthen community agency. More than 1,400 community members participated in the meetings on tolerance, peace and conflict resolution which promoted the inclusion of diverse community members in conflict resolution processes. The meetings contributed to the resolution of conflicts in a number of communities. For example, Uzaria farmers and herders settled their disputes through peaceful dialogues without resorting to violence or involving the police. In Kurudu and Gadabuke, community members agreed to share their land with herders for cultivation and livestock, which helped relieve tension and promote tolerance among farmers and herders.

GCERF hosted a high-level visit to Nigeria in September. Australia, Norway, Switzerland and the US donor representatives visited activities run by the ActionAid Nigeria-led consortium in Nasarawa and met community leaders and youth participants of a peace camp.

Community Agency: A story of security collaboration

When life-threatening attacks such as armed robbery and kidnapping became commonplace in the Osaragada and Aku communities in Kogi State, the community took action. GCERF had helped to establish a Community Action and Response Team there, which serves as a community watch group. The team wrote to the Commandant of Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC),

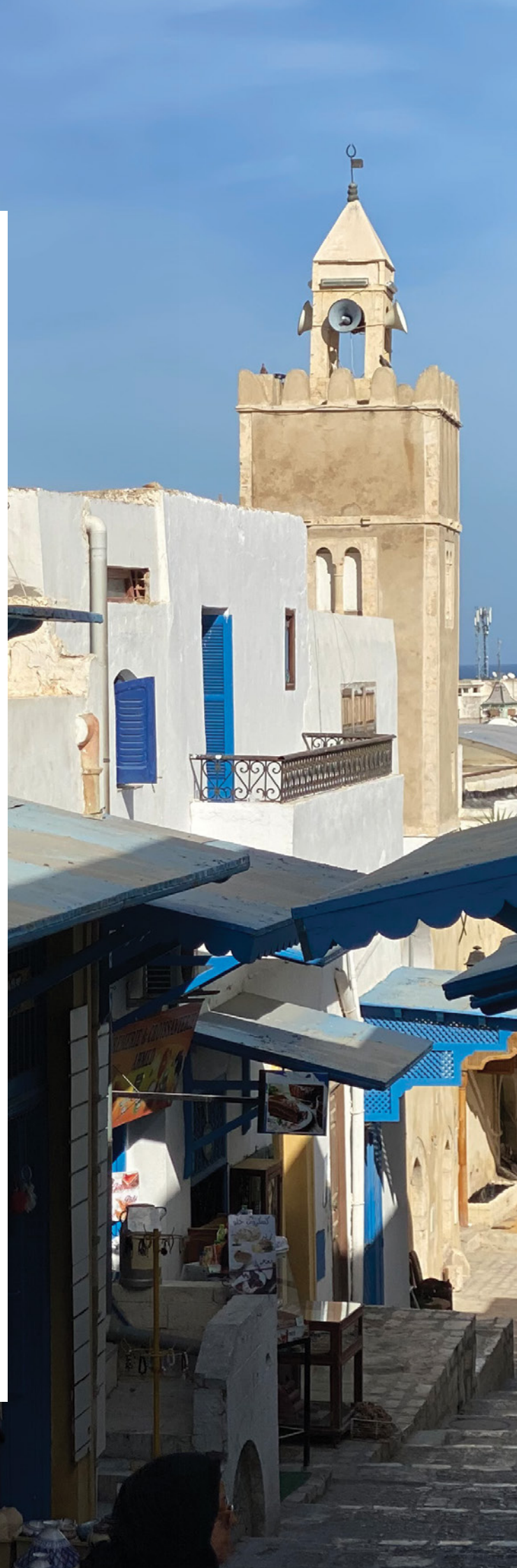
requesting a security office in their communities. Insecurity was plaguing the communities and endangering residents. Through grant recipients, ActionAid Nigeria and PIBCID, the Community Action and Response Team was guided through this process. The communities were given approval from NSCDC to set up a security office to address both the drivers and perpetrators of violent extremism.

Tunisia

Context

The political context was marked by the death of President Beji Caid Essebsi in July. His successor, Kaïs Saïed, was elected on October 13 and presides over rising unemployment, limited access to social services and ongoing security challenges.

On June 27, a police officer was killed and eight people were wounded following a double terrorist attack in Tunis, claimed by ISIS. Community resilience to violent extremism is expected to be further challenged by returning foreign terrorist fighters. About 1,000 are believed to have returned from since 2017. According to official data, 196 children are still in Libya, Syria, and Iraq.



Key Achievements

Tunisia's national application for core funding was approved by the GCERF Board in June for a total amount of USD 1M. GCERF signed five grant agreements with Applied Social Sciences Forum, Forum El Jahedh, Mobdiun-Creative Youth, Tunisia Plus, and We Love Sousse.

GCERF developed the capacity of grant recipients through a four-day inception workshop for 20 participants in Tunis in August. The workshop provided an introduction to GCERF's grant management process, created a strong network among grant recipients in Tunisia and trained grantees in monitoring and evaluation.

Programme implementation began in July in direct support of the prevention pillar of Tunisia's National Strategy Against Extremism and Terrorism. GCERF-funded programmes will reach over 20,000 beneficiaries across multiple governorates.

Between July and December 2019, GCERF supported:

- **Social cohesion activities for 185 men and 175 women that helped to develop a sense of belonging to an inclusive community**
- **94 young men and 83 young women attended two-hour social awareness programmes that teach citizenship rights and allow the airing of taboo subjects such as gender-based violence**
- **80 young beneficiaries selected to develop micro income-generating projects**
- **Community agency development for 18 men and 56 women who were engaged in activities including training for young people to address a key issue of public concern such as violence, the environment or corruption**
- **Enhanced sense of purpose for 1,083 men and 1,095 women engaged in activities to promote critical thinking skills and a more positive sense of self, including training on the use of social networks to prevent violent extremism and legal definitions of hate speech**



Firas* is a 21-year-old Tunisian. In 2015, a relative encouraged him to join a combatant group in Syria. However, he was arrested by police officers and detained before he was able to leave the country.

Since then, Firas has been unemployed. His father is helping him to develop a professional career and stay away from violent extremist ideologies. Firas is pursuing his dream to open up his own business with the support of GCERF grant recipient, Tunisia Plus.

*Not his real name

New Countries



Philippines

In the Philippines, GCERF signed five grant agreements for a total amount of USD 2.5 million. These grants will engage 23 local partners in the prevention of violent extremism, focusing on youth, local authorities, and creating an enabling environment for the return of ex-combatants. Activities are set to start in the Philippines in January of 2020.

GCERF launched a second call for Expressions of Interest in December, with the plan to fund another USD 1.5 million in grants. GCERF launched a request for proposals for a joint baseline study for all grantees to be conducted in the first quarter of 2020.

Somalia

GCERF's Governing Board approved Somalia as a partner country in June 2019. GCERF launched an in-country security assessment by a third-party provider to better understand the risks related to grants and operations. At the same time, GCERF launched a country needs assessment to gain a thorough insight into the context, stakeholders and drivers of violent extremism specific to Somalia. Both assessments contributed to the Country Investment Strategy due for completion in early 2020.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka became a partner country in 2019. GCERF has committed to making an initial investment of USD 1 million using the accelerated funding mechanism and engaged in negotiations with the government. Although elections and changes in the political landscape delayed processes slightly, a country needs assessment was launched.

Annex 1A

Board Members (as of Dec 31, 2019)

The current voting Board Members and Alternate Board Members of the Governing Board are set out below:

Australia, Japan, and New Zealand

Board Member: Mr Chitaru Shimizu, Director, International Safety and Security Cooperation Division, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Alternate Board Member: H.E. Mr Paul Foley, Ambassador for Counter-Terrorism, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia

Bangladesh

Board Member: H.E. Mr Md. Shahidul Haque, Senior Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Canada and United Kingdom

Board Member: H.E. Ms Miriam Shearman, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva

Alternate Board Member: Ms Michelle Cameron, Director, Counter-Terrorism and Anti-Crime Capacity Building Programs, Global Affairs Canada

Civil Society

Board Member: Mr Fulco Van Deventer, Vice-Director, Human Security Collective

Alternate Board Member: Ms Selena Victor, Director of Policy & Advocacy, Mercy Corps Europe

European Union, France and Denmark

Board Member: Mr Olivier Luyckx, Head of Unit, Stability, Security, Development and Nuclear Safety, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), European Commission

Alternate Board Member: Mr Adrien Frier, Head of the Suppression of Terrorism and Organized Crime Department, Strategic, Security and Disarmament Directorate, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France

Foundations

Board Member: Mr Matthew Lawrence, Executive Director, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change

Kenya

Board Member: H.E. Dr Cleopa Kilonzo Mailu, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva

Kosovo

Board Member: Mr Fatos Makolli, National CVE Coordinator of the Republic of Kosovo

Mali and Nigeria

Board Member: H.E. Mr Audu Ayinla Kadiri, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Alternate Board Member: H.E. Mr Mamadou Henri Konate, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mali to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Policy, Think and Do Tanks

Board Member: vacant

Alternate Board Member: Mr Eelco Kessels, Executive Director, Global Center on Cooperative Security

Private Sector

Board Member: Ms Jessica Long, Managing Director, Strategy and Sustainability, North America Lead, Accenture

Alternate Board Member: Mr Tony Carroll, Founding Director, Acorus Capital; Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, D.C.

Qatar

Board Member: H.E. Dr Mutlaq Majed Al-Qahtani, Ambassador and Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar for Counterterrorism and Mediation

Switzerland

Board Member: H.E. Mr Thomas Gass, Ambassador, Vice-Director and Head of the South Cooperation Department of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Alternate Board Member: Dr Daniel Frank, Deputy Coordinator for International Counter-Terrorism, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland

Tunisia and the Philippines

Board Member: Mr Mokhtar Ben Nasr, President of the National Counter Terrorism Commission of Tunisia

Alternate Board Member: Mr Alexander Macario, Assistant Secretary, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Peace and Security, Department of the Interior and Local Government of the Republic of the Philippines

United States of America, the Netherlands and Norway

Board Member: H.E. Mr Nathan Sales, Ambassador and Coordinator for Counterterrorism, U.S. Department of State

Alternate Board Member: Mr Huib Mijnders, Head Counterterrorism & National Security Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Non-Voting Members

Chair: Ms Carol Bellamy

Executive Director: Dr Khalid Koser

Trustee: vacant



Photo by Lisa Oriot Scappaticci





Geneva, Switzerland

gcerf.org
info@gcerf.org

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