





GCERF partners **build the capacity of governmental and non-governmental actors** of Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) and Rehabilitation and Reintegration (R&R); **provide direct assistance to returnees** from conflict zones covering psycho-social, educational, and livelihood support; contribute **to reducing stigmatization** of returnees and promote inter-ethnic tolerance and social cohesion.

**Investment Focus**

 Community-based rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees.

 More than 30 municipalities of Kosovo (regions of Ferizaj, Gjakova, Gjilan, Mitrovica south and north, Peja, Pristina, Prizren).

 Returnees from conflict zones; women, men, and children in receiving communities; frontline workers, local authorities and other R&R actors, CSOs, youth.

 2017-2026

 Ministry of Internal Affairs' Prevention and Reintegration Division (DPR)

**Current investment**

-  Gjakova
-  Pristina
-  Gjilan
-  Peja
-  Prizren
-  Mitrovica
-  Ferizaj



Investment started: 2017  
Investment to date: USD 7,4 million  
Current investment: USD 2,9 million  
Active grants: 3

**Portfolio overview as of June 2024**

**Advocacy Training and Resource Centre (ATRC)**

2021-22 | *Principal Recipient with 3 sub-recipients*

- ❖ Build capacity of governmental and non-governmental actors in R&R and PVE
- ❖ Support the implementation and monitoring of the national strategy for PCVE and CT
- ❖ Coordination of PVE and R&R relevant stakeholders
- ❖ Awareness Raising on R&R processes
- ❖ Improvement of media coverage on PVE and R&R

2023-24 | *Principal Recipient with 3 sub-recipients*

- ❖ Build capacity of local P/CVE and R&R stakeholders including government institutions and actors, CSOs, youth.
- ❖ Support the R&R of returnees and their families.

**Community Development Fund (CDF)**

2021-2024 | *Principal Recipient with 3 sub-recipients*

- ❖ Trauma-informed educational and recreational support for children
- ❖ Capacity building of frontline workers and partners

2024-2025 | *Principal Recipient with 3 sub-recipients*

- ❖ Comprehensive training for municipality teams to proficiently identify and address VE vulnerabilities related to terrorism
- ❖ Education support within schools and capacity building of frontline workers and partners
- ❖ Publication with the University of Pristina of the research "From Syria to Home: A Comprehensive Analysis of Repatriation, Resettlement, Reintegration, Rehabilitation, and Mental Health of Kosovo's Returned Citizens".

**Syri I Vizinot (Siv)**

2023-2026 | *Principal Recipient with 2 sub-recipients*

- ❖ Improved inter-ethnic communication- collaboration and trust among communities
- ❖ Inter-ethnic and inter-religious exchange
- ❖ Inter-ethnic dialogues sessions with community members (in northern municipalities of Kosovo).

**Violent Extremism in Kosovo: Drivers**

**Returnees from foreign conflict zones**

Over 250 people returned Kosovo from foreign conflict, particularly from Syria and Iraq.

**Post and pre-conflict context:**

Political instability and inadequate reconciliation caused by previous conflicts have polarised communities along ethnic, religious, and cultural lines.

**Socio-economic drivers:**

High unemployment, limited trust in institutions, and established crime networks contribute to violent extremist narratives.

**89th**

On the Global Terrorism Index 2024

**Current Programming: Systems Approach**

**National:** Monitoring of the National PVE and CT strategy and improve accountability and financial sustainability of PCVE and R&R work; contribute to drafting the Civil Society approach to R&R in the Western Balkans, Global Action Platform.

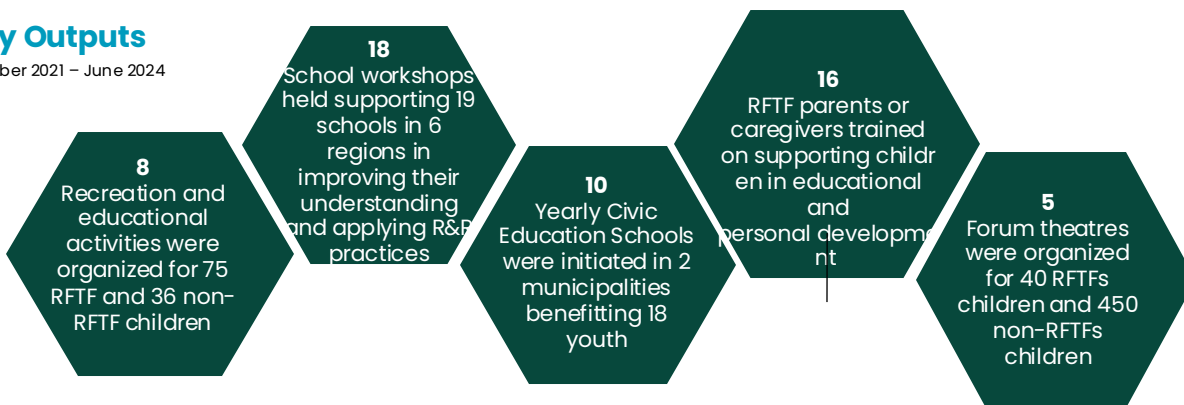
**Municipality:** Build capacity of local governmental R&R actors; advocate for the local role in PVE and R&R; improve accountability and financial sustainability of their PCVE and R&R work.

**Community:** Reduce stigmatisation towards returnees; Increase inter-ethnic tolerance; Build capacity of community based CSOs in PVE and R&R; improve capacity and civic engagement of youth.

**Individual:** provide direct support to returnees and vulnerable people including psycho-social, educational and livelihood support.

**Key Outputs**

October 2021 – June 2024



**Total beneficiaries**  
January 2017 – June 2024

**55,369**

**Key achievements**

October 2021 – June 2024



ATRC developed individual capacity-building plans for all five CSOs. The plans cover 1) Governance and human resources, 2) Project cycle management, 3) sustainability and resource mobilisation and 4) external relations and outreach, 5) administration and procurement and 6) finance.



ATRC conducted 87 psycho-social sessions trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy to address the psychological effects of trauma, anxiety or distress related to specific situations to strengthen beneficiaries' skills in communication, and emotional control.



CBM continued providing psycho-social counselling for returnees/their family members and caregivers as well as vulnerable youth in the Mitrovica region. The clinical psychologist conducted a total of 23 sessions of 60 minutes with 7 beneficiaries.



SiV is expanding its network through new partnerships, notably with the municipality of Peja, and has formed strategic collaborations with civil society organizations focusing on divided communities.

// The outcomes of extracurricular courses for RFTF children include immediate improvements in educational skills, particularly in language and mathematics. Engaging in activities like basketball training enhances social engagement, contributing to a broader knowledge base. The positive experiences derived from these courses foster increased confidence and a sense of inclusion, especially as these children integrate into new environments. The structured routine established through participation may promote discipline and time management skills. //

On May 9-10, 2023, ATRC and CBM representatives participated in a two-day workshop titled "Managing the Needs of Child Returnees" in Paris, organized by the Radicalisation Awareness Network. The workshop covered various aspects, including an overview of France's institutional framework for Return and Reintegration (R&R). This framework encompassed elements such as the justice system, mental health support, national and local mechanisms. Additionally, the workshop featured interactive sessions, including roundtables with frontline workers and a reflection period on how the practices observed in France could be applied in the context of the Western Balkans.

**Story of Change**



**Parental Capacity Building and Training**

Capacity-building activities and trainings for RFTF parents/women have successfully conveyed the importance of their children's development and well-being. The enthusiastic response and requests for more activities demonstrate a keen interest in acquiring skills and knowledge. RFTF parents actively engaged in sessions, expressing a strong willingness to apply concrete strategies for better understanding their children's development. By expanding their network, enhancing parenting skills, and fostering empowerment, these activities contribute to reducing vulnerability to violent extremism, redirecting focus towards improving the quality and well-being of both parents and children.

Token of appreciation for the CDF trainer that reads: "We are happy to have been part of this training that will help us to reach our goals and sustainable success" Thank you – we appreciate your professional and tireless work.

**Inclusive Extracurricular Activities**

The participation of RFTF children in extracurricular and informal educational activities has brought positive changes to both the children and their parents. This involvement has enhanced resilience, reduced susceptibility to negative influences, and strengthened their sense of belonging. By providing opportunities for socialization and community engagement, these activities empower RFTF children, fostering inclusiveness and reducing feelings of isolation. The active support of parents in their children's participation further builds community and shared purpose.

**GCERF's Added Value**

	<p>GCERF focuses on <b>building institutional capacity</b> e.g. CSOs, government agencies,</p>		<p>GCERF invests in building a PVE-focused <b>community of practice</b> with CSOs, government agencies, and experts</p>		<p>Communities are at the <b>forefront of project design and implementation</b>, and the programme works with existing community structures for sustainability</p>
	<p>All project design and implementation are done in coordination with <b>nationally-aligned, locally-led</b> programmes</p>		<p>GCERF connects CSOs, communities, and other stakeholders with government and security actors, leading to <b>better coordination</b> and relationships</p>		<p>GCERF's consortium model and capacity-building approach enables us to work in <b>across the country</b></p>