

About GCERF

Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) is the global fund for preventing violent extremism, based in Geneva, Switzerland. Since 2014, GCERF has invested about USD 200m to support local community-based organisations build resilience against radicalisation and recruitment, across sub-Saharan Africa including the Sahel, the MENA region, the Western Balkans, and South and South East Asia.





This includes working with communities on the rehabilitation and reintegration of former terrorist fighters and their families from Northeast Syria, in particular in Iraq. GCERF grants have reached over 3 million young people directly at risk, including online, providing better alternatives.

In every partner country GCERF works closely with national government counterparts to support implementation of national P/CVE Strategies and Plans of Action.

GCERF in Kyrgyzstan-Key Highlights

- ❖ Kyrgyzstan became the first Central Asian GCERF partner country in 2023 following a partnership request letter from the Kyrgyz government. It is also represented on the GCERF Governing Board.
- ❖ The main focus of GCERF's investment in Kyrgyzstan is to support the rehabilitation, re-socialisation and reintegration of returnees from Iraq and Syria; prevent others from becoming radicalised; and support people released from prison. These priorities were identified through an independent Country Needs Assessment conducted in 2023.
- ❖ GCERF's investment Strategy in Kyrgyzstan is guided by the principles of complementarity with existing programming in the country; responding to gender and conflict sensitivities; seeking durable solutions; and alignment with internationally recognised good practices.
- ❖ GCERF has signed grants with two civil society organisations to commence in June 2024.
- ❖ Building on its expertise and experience in other countries (particularly Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia), GCERF is facilitating support for Kyrgyz returnees. In GCERF's experience, creating an enabling environment for return is essential to reducing stigmatisation and preventing new radicalisation. GCERF is therefore investing in PVE work in at-risk communities, providing them with much-needed services to promote social cohesion and more equal access to economic and social opportunities.

Investment Focus

-  Supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration of people returning from Iraq and Northeast Syria with a special focus on women and children
-  Strengthening the capacity of frontline workers, psychologists, social workers, members of educational institutions and local authorities for sustainable R&R
-  Supporting the re-socialisation and integration of people formally charged with extremism and leaving incarceration facilities
-  Creating an enabling environment for return, rehabilitation and reintegration of people and prevent others from leaving

Areas of Investment



GCERF is planning to invest USD 8 million over four years in Kyrgyzstan.

In alignment with GCERF's comprehensive approach towards rehabilitation and reintegration (R&R), which aims to reduce recidivism, prevent new recruitment, tackle stigma towards returnees, and foster inclusion, tolerance, and social cohesion to bolster community resilience against violent extremism, our ambition in Kyrgyzstan is multifaceted. We envision addressing these challenges through targeted interventions across four key areas:

- ❖ **Enhancing Rehabilitation Centres and Government Capacities:** This involves evaluating and improving rehabilitation services, upskilling staff, and providing material support. We will also assess educational institutions' readiness to support returnees and refine security apparatus curricula.
- ❖ **Improving the Environment for Returnees:** We will map community perceptions, facilitate awareness-raising by CSOs, and provide capacity-building support to local authorities and frontline workers. Our aim is to ensure access to education for returnee children and provide continuous psycho-social support.
- ❖ **Providing Livelihood Alternatives for At-Risk Individuals:** Engaging the private sector, particularly in market-driven skills training, will be a priority. We will adopt a youth-led approach, offering integration initiatives, start-up grants, and long-term mentorship.
- ❖ **Supporting Resocialisation and Integration:** We will conduct needs assessments for probation services, collaborate with local authorities and influencers, and provide social and psychological mentorship for successful reintegration.