




GCERF works with the Malian government to **implement its national action plan** by investing in local organisations that **design and run programmes that contribute to prevention-related outputs** of the plans. GCERF-funded activities **engage local stakeholders** to support and **strengthen the capacity of communities** to mobilise, organise and effectively engage with their members and local authorities on topics such as inter-community conflicts and socio-economic reinsertion of ex-combatants and prisoners.


Investment Focus

 Strengthening community mobilisation and engagement with local authorities on inter-community conflicts, socio-economic reinsertion of ex-combatants and prisoners, promotion of women and youth leaders in community-based conflict management mechanisms.

 Kayes, Mopti, Koulikoro, Timbuktu, Bamako, Gao, Sikasso, Kidal, Segou

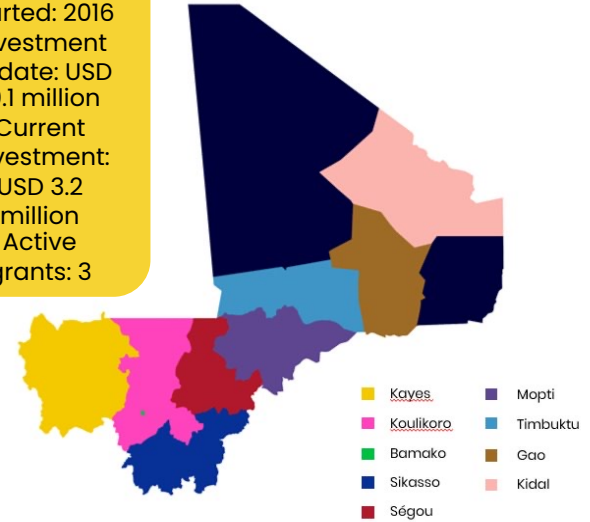
 Women, youth, religious and traditional leaders, farmers and herders, students, and local authorities.

 2016-2024

 GCERF in Mali works with the government, through the country support mechanism, and bilateral and multilateral donors to ensure a coordinated approach to prevention.

Current investment

Investment started: 2016
Investment to date: USD 10.1 million
Current investment: USD 3.2 million
Active grants: 3



Portfolio overview as of February 2024

Think Peace

2022-24 | Principal Recipient with 2 sub-recipients

- ❖ Conflict resolution structures, reintegration of ex-detainees and ex-combatants; creating community action plans for PVE; improving political participation and economic opportunities for youth and women and improving access to basic services for communities; emergency programme.

Initiatives Conseil Développement Mali (ICD-Mali)

2022-24 | Principal Recipient with 2 sub-recipients

- ❖ Improving pastoral resilience through infrastructure investment, local management mechanisms for natural resources and conflicts, and establishment of a credit and savings collective.

Femmes et Développement, Mali

2023-24 | Principal Recipient with 3 sub-recipients

- ❖ Capacity building of community mechanisms to strengthen social cohesion; information and communication campaign through local radio stations to overcome the lack of knowledge about extremist ideology; support the economic insertion of women and youth.

Violent Extremism in Mali: Drivers

Youth unemployment: 17.4% of youth aged 15-24 are unemployed, making them vulnerable to material incentives from VE groups (ILOSTAT data for 2020)

Human trafficking and modern slavery are on the rise in Mali. Victims of these human rights abuses are more vulnerable to radicalisation (Sourced from grantee reports)

Governance-related grievances: VE groups thrive on the weakened state power, acting as a replacement for legitimate authorities by offering protection and essential services (sourced from donor report)

3rd

On the Global Terrorism Index 2024

Current Programming: Systems Approach

GCERF delineates the Sahel within the context of the Group of Five Countries for the Sahel, also known as G5 Sahel, the intergovernmental body to promote regional cooperation in development and security matters. Our focus is on the central Sahel region covering Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. Our engagement in the region will directly bolster the implementation of National Action Plans of the five countries working in partnership with local, national, regional, and global partners.

GCERF's strategy for engagement in the Sahel region is built around two strategic objectives:

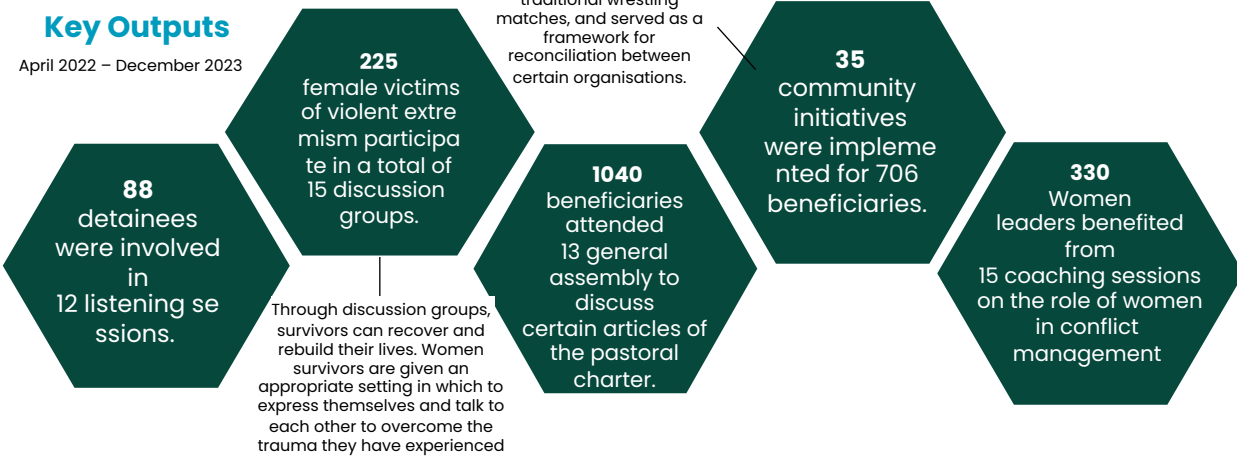
To contribute to improvements in the social ecology to create conditions conducive to prevention and resilience-building.

To facilitate community-led rehabilitation, disengagement, and (re)integration, including people disengaging from criminal, non-state armed, and violent extremist groups.

GCERF will mobilise and invest up to USD 10 million – in the Sahel region – to meet these objectives in a minimum period of three years. GCERF will prioritise resilience and prevention programming, including cross-border projects, that meet these objectives – all within the scope of regional and national NAPs and equivalents in order to achieve its overarching objective of supporting stability and resilience.

Key Outputs

April 2022 – December 2023



Total beneficiaries

January 2017 – June 2023

Direct
680,183
Indirect
4 m

Key achievements

January 2023 – December 2023

ICD-Mali has set up 12 Dialogue Spaces (DS) composed of 134 members, using endogenous mechanisms to resolve conflicts. The DS conduct negotiation and mediation missions for the prevention and peaceful management of conflicts linked to the management of natural resources.

Following the IGA identification workshops set up, which enabled the beneficiaries to identify the types of activities they will be supported in, Think-Peace conducted 20 entrepreneurial training sessions for 500 ex-combatants and ex-detainees. The long-term objective is to help them to build the entrepreneurial capacities so that they are better prepared to manage their Income Generating Activities (IGAs) effectively.

Through meetings organised with various stakeholders in the community, FEDE has gathered information on the economic, social and cultural context as well as the growth sectors in each of the project's municipalities. 15 case studies were carried out by 228 participants to identify profitable economic activities and 400 future beneficiaries have completed their project files.



"I didn't have anyone to talk to and I didn't trust anyone either. But in the discussion group I found women like me who supported and understood me".

- A young women participant of the discussion groups for women survivors.



Story of Change

Two women, beneficiaries of two different programmes, share the story of their resilience and how the actions implemented enabled them to rebuild their lives.

"Before I discovered the JRA-JAC programme, I felt lost after spending time in prison. Reintegration seemed an insurmountable challenge, and I was afraid of being judged by society. However, JRA JAC was a lifeline. The in-depth training courses gave me essential skills, but that's not all. The awareness sessions changed my perspective on my own life and my ability to change. I found unconditional support in the JRA JAC team, which boosted my self-confidence. Thanks to their support, I am now employed and involved in community activities that give meaning back to my life. JRA JAC has given me the chance to prove that everyone deserves an opportunity for redemption and reintegration. I am grateful because I feel that this initiative has transformed my life and enabled me to become an active and positive member of society".

Fatoumata, former prisoner from Koro, on the Think Peace initiative.

N'na Kantao's husband was murdered almost in front of her eyes one evening by armed men in Djenné. Her long wandering began with her children before arriving at the displaced persons' site in Sio. Initially, she was one of the most withdrawn and traumatised survivors. She spoke very little and seemed totally devastated, unable to overcome her pain. But thanks to the care of the facilitator of her discussion group and the support of the other survivors, she gradually managed to free herself and express herself. Today, she participates fully in the discussions within her group and is once again looking to the future.

"I've become a new person thanks to the support group, and I feel confident with all the people who understand and support me. I'd like to move forward now by going back to my old job processing fish".

N'na Kantao is one of the many survivors of violence linked to violent extremism who make up the various discussion groups set up as part of Kaoural's project implemented by FEDE.



"We're happy because we used to carry weapons and think we could solve everything with weapons. We were technically enemies of our own communities by wanting to defend them from their enemies. But today, it is us who are repentant and armed for having laid down our arms and faced up to the stabilisation of our community as bearers of the message of peace".

An ex-combatant, involved in informal forums for exchanging and sharing experiences with local authorities in Bankass



GCERF's Added Value



GCERF focuses on **building institutional capacity** e.g., CSOs, and government agencies.



GCERF invests in building a PVE-focused **community of practice** with CSOs, government agencies, and experts



Communities are at the **forefront of project design and implementation**, and the programme works with existing community structures for sustainability



All project design and implementation are done in coordination with NCTC, leading to **nationally-aligned**, locally-led programmes



GCERF connects CSOs, communities, and other stakeholders with government and security actors, leading to **better coordination** and relationships



GCERF's consortium model and capacity-building approach enables us to work in **remote areas**

Find out more about becoming an investor, our work, and the collective impact we make at: www.gcerf.org
contact.sahel@gcerf.org



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GCERF Outreach