

GCERF in Niger

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 resilient pastoralism, sustainable economic opportunities, conflict prevention and psychosocial support to victims of violent extremism.

GCERF works in collaboration with the local authorities to implement joint strategies by investing in local organisations that design and run programmes that support the emergence of anchors of stability and resilience.

Portfolio overview as of February 2024

Active grants

Mouvement des Jeunes pour le Développement et l'Éducation Citoyenne (MOJEDEC)

2022-2024 | Principal Recipient with 3 sub-recipients

- ❖ Caring for victims of human rights violations, supporting participatory and inclusive local governance through capacity-building, technical and financial support for Income Generating Activity among women and youth, community-level dialogue, and awareness-raising campaigns through broadcastings.

ONG Garkua, Niger

2023-25 | Principal Recipient

- ❖ Promoting the disengagement of young people from extremist groups, integrating young repentants into public services or in the socio-economic environment of their communities, with the support of public authorities, mediation training for community and religious leaders.



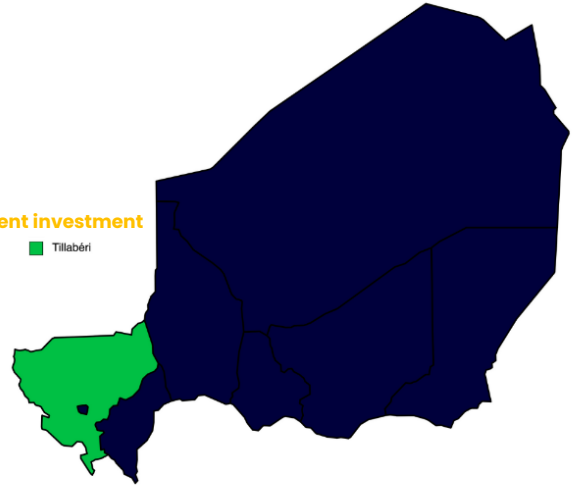
Reception of the borehole by a women's group.



Participatory theatre and dialogue sessions.

Current investment

Tillabéri



Investment started: 2022
Investment to date: USD 2.4 million
Current investment: USD 1.5 million
Active grants: 2

Investment Focus



Increase resilience of youth and women to the risks of radicalisation and violent extremism, strengthen local conflict resolution mechanisms, rehabilitate and reinsert ex-combatants, reintegration of young repentant.



Tillabéri region



Unemployed men and women and early school dropouts (15-25 years old), local authorities, customary and religious leaders, young repentants and local peace committees.



2022-2024



We work with the national government, through the Country Support Mechanism, and with donors present in country to ensure a coordinated approach to the prevention of violent extremism in Niger.

Violent Extremism in Niger: Drivers

Low levels of legal literacy:

95% of youth are not aware of their legal rights and duties and are vulnerable to violent extremist discourses.

Lack of economic opportunities:

Women and youth are impacted the most by the lack of economic autonomy and are at risk of radicalisation.

High insecurity in Tillabéri region:

More than 11,000 people displaced within the region, a constant search for security and stability, make it a fertile ground for violent extremist groups.

10th

On the Global Terrorism Index 2024, with 54 attacks and 198 deaths in 2022

Current Programming in Sahel: Systems Approach

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:

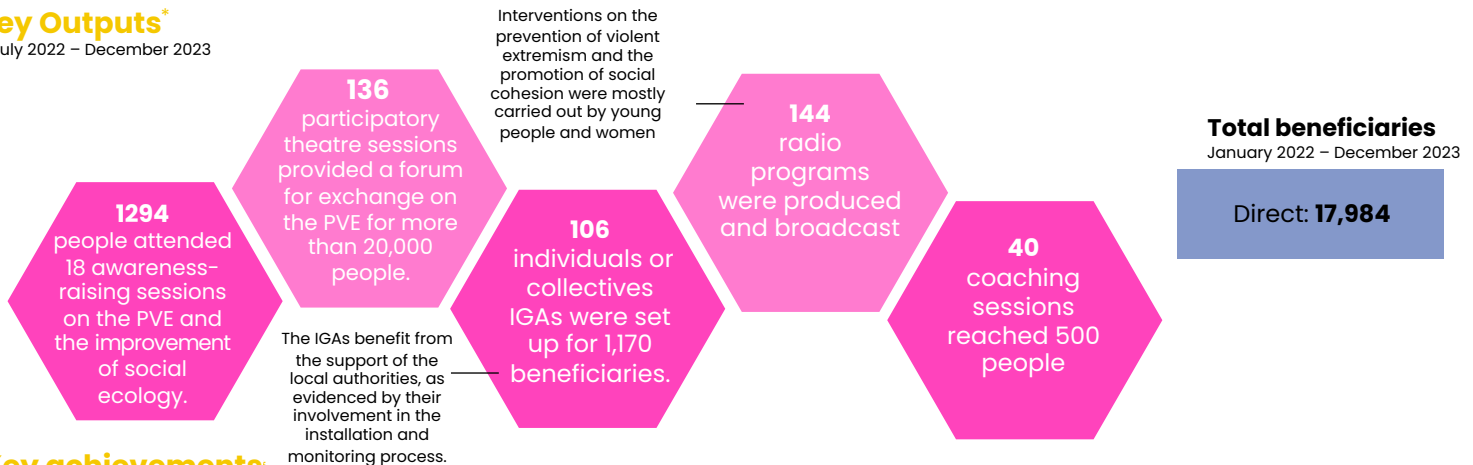
To contribute to improvements in the social ecology to create conditions conducive to prevention and resilience-building.

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*

* July 2022 – December 2023



Key achievements

* July 2022 – December 2023



Through radio programmes set up by MOJEDEC, **84 local and influential leaders took part in 15 radio debates as guests.** This contributes to liberalising the expression of opinion without distinction, enabling communities to put forward proposals that promote living together.



38 dialogue sessions were organized by 12 local community dialogue committees set-up by ASN for an average of 2,000 people. The community dialogue sessions are an excellent opportunity for all members of the communities to discuss their concerns. These frameworks contributed significantly to strengthening community cohesion and national unity.



82 leaders have been trained by MOJEDEC in 6 communes. Their role is to monitor local planning to ensure the long-term success of the programme in addressing the aspirations of young people and women to prevent violent extremism. Some civil society players have already been invited to take part in local activities, such as radio debates.

"I have attended several meetings as a representative of women in this programme. I am particularly impressed by the support you gave to women in organising a community dialogue. The meeting brought together all socio-professional strata to discuss important issues such as good communication to promote social cohesion, unity and solidarity in the current context of insecurity and regime change in Niger. This activity has once again demonstrated the key role that women can play in social cohesion."

- A young woman and member of a women's organisation in Gotheye, during a dialogue session.

Story of Change

In all the 12 communities covered by the ASN project, beneficiaries have been encouraged to become active and involved citizens in local development issues. They have become community leaders, consulted and involved in the affairs of their localities.

A positive consequence of GCERF's work in the Tillabéry region is the recent recognition of the programme's young beneficiaries in the elections for the officers of the Communal Youth Councils set up by the Ministry of Youth. As part of the renewal of the bodies of the National Youth Council, the young beneficiaries in the communes where the programme was implemented distinguished themselves in leadership and were elected as members of the communal and departmental youth bodies. These successful elections are one of the programme's main objectives, which is to involve young people and women in decision-making bodies, as they will enable young people to take part in decision-making bodies and contribute to the political, social and economic life of their local communities.

Beneficiaries leading participatory theatres have also acquired an unprecedented social base and are seen as opinion leaders. In Abala, Balleyara, Kollo and Say, the groups set up by the beneficiaries quickly initiated action to curb the spread of ethno-regionalist hate messages, which were intended to give rise to ethnic conflicts in the aftermath of the military coup. This initiative made a major contribution to preserving social peace and enabling the people of Niger to move towards a peaceful transition. Beneficiaries have also distinguished themselves in promoting entrepreneurship and small businesses at local level. Several associations and groups have been set up following PVE training courses for young people and women in the local communities. Now active players in society, they have learnt the methods of associative life, organise themselves into groups, initiate community activities and have an impact on their communities.



"I think that this first edition of the regional camp is a sustainable solution for the prevention of violent extremism in the Tillabéri region. I learnt a lot through community activities and conferences on preventing violent extremism, conflict management, youth entrepreneurship, cooperation between civilians and the FDS, and adolescent sexual health. I plan to set up a community project to share what I have learnt with other young people in my community to help them better understand the techniques of preventing violent extremism and carrying out development activities."

-A young beneficiary who participated in a conference debate on the role and responsibility of young people in countering terrorism.



GCERF's Added Value

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

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