






The key focus areas of GCERF in Nigeria include building community policing and conflict early warning systems, policy advocacy for PVE, contributing to the creation of community and interfaith dialogue for preventing/countering violent extremism (P/CVE) and countering divisive religious teachings, conflict sensitivity in media for P/CVE.

Investment Focus

-  Mainstreaming PVE into governance and policy at the state level, community-led structures for Alternative dispute resolution (ADR), community policing, and early warning systems.
-  Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, and Sokoto states
-  National, local, and state governments: women, unemployed youth, police, religious and traditional leaders.
-  2022-2025
-  GCERF in Nigeria works in collaboration with the Office of the National Security Advisor (ONSA).

Current investment



-  Other States
-  Katsina (WEP)
-  Kaduna (AAN)
-  Kano (AAN)
-  Sokoto (NEYIF)

Investment started: 2016
Investment to date: USD 11.75 million
Current investment: USD 3.65 million
Active grants: 3

Portfolio overview as of June 2024

ActionAid Nigeria (AAN)

2022 – 2024 | *Principal Recipient with 3 sub-recipients*

- ❖ Creating VE awareness through radio programmes and skits, creating safe spaces for women and girls, advocating P/CVE policy at the state level, establishing Community Action Response Teams, and promoting conflict sensitivity in the media for P/CVE.

Women Environmental Programme (WEP)

2022 – 2024 | *Principal Recipient with 2 sub-recipients*

- ❖ Conducting youth mentorship programmes, promoting digital literacy, building capacity on P/CVE and human rights for state and local government officials, promoting conflict sensitivity in the media for P/CVE, creating state-level peacebuilding teams, climate-smart agriculture, and aiding livelihoods.

Northeast Youth Initiative for Development (NEYIF)

2022-2025 | *Principal Recipient with 1 sub-recipient*

- ❖ Utilising youth to foster social cohesion through radio programming, social media campaigns, and community awareness events, training traditional leaders, youth, and local authorities in alternative dispute resolution, establishing conflict early warning and management mechanisms and vocational skills training for youth employment.

Violent Extremism in Nigeria: Drivers

Limited trust in the government, security forces, and the justice system due to exacerbated sense of marginalization and exclusion of citizens.

Limited Socio-economic opportunities, especially for the youth lead to greater youth unemployment and poverty.

Religious conflicts Religion in Nigeria has been politicized and can be used to manipulate and control vulnerable populations, particularly in the face of limited access to land and material resources and perceived lack of access to justice.

8th
On the Global
Terrorism Index
2024

Current Programming: Systems Approach

National: Implementation of components 1, 3 and 4 of the Nigeria Policy Framework and National Action Plan on P/CVE: (1) strengthening institutions and coordination of P/CVE programming; (3) engaging communities and (4) building resilience and integrating strategic communications in PVE programming, policy advocacy for PCVE, facilitating the relationships/communication between CBOs and state and local government for better more inclusive governance.

Community: Establishing mechanisms for peaceful conflict management and resolution, and the inclusion of community and religious leaders in PVE.

Individual: Entrenching tolerance, creating enabling environments for girls and women, vocational training for access to positive economic opportunities, youth mentorship, developing digital literacy skills.

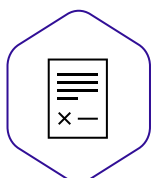
Key Outputs

January – March 2024



Key achievements

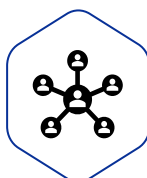
January – June 2024



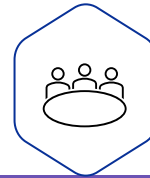
A donor information session was held in Abuja to provide ONSA and relevant stakeholders with the initial findings of the needs assessment, highlighting priorities and potential areas of intervention. The Major General of the NCTC confirmed that the Federal Government remains committed to tackling the root causes of VE.



Two CoPs during this period. The first examined whether current programming was sufficiently targeted at those 'most' vulnerable to recruitment into VE groups. The second CoP reached consensus on an improved tool and approach for identifying beneficiaries, and on the need to prevent banditry as a source of funding for VE.



Livelihood training and the establishment of the Women Safe Space as a community-based network increased the capacity of young men and women to make informed decisions about their lives. In particular, registering the Women Safe Space at Local Government Area (LGA) level formalised its status, increasing its credibility and institutional support.



An annual women's conference was held, and this year's theme was "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress". It underscored the importance of accelerating the achievement of gender equity and the overall empowerment of all women and girls.

Act to establish the Benue Youth Development Commission

The governor of Benue State has signed a law establishing the Benue State Youth Development Commission and providing for the implementation of a Sustainable Youth Policy. WEP conducted a baseline survey in 2019, which revealed that 80% of youth were unemployed and 60% felt they did not have a voice when dealing with government. Since 2019, WEP has held a series of advocacy roundtables with the Benue State Planning Commission and various ministries as well as civil society networks, student leaders and leadership of Benue State, Youth Parliament, youth and CSOs. WEP hosted all 30 legislators of the 9th Benue State House of Assembly for a roundtable in Abuja. After the 2023 elections, the bill was sponsored in the 10th Assembly until its recent passage into law.

Story of Change

An Antidote for Violence Extremis

The establishment of peace clubs empowers children and promotes peace within their communities.

"My mother and father had a clash because of money requested by my mother. I spoke to my mother while playing her favourite Quranic recitation, explaining to her that my father misunderstood the purpose of the money. This calmed her down. When my father returned, I told him about my excellent grades in school that day which drew his attention and made him happy. I then explained the reason for the money requested by my mother. He apologized to my mother and gave her the money. He embraced her and they were happy" **Fatimah H.(pseudonym), President of Peace Club, Government Girls Arabic Secondary School.**

Fatima has not only influenced the students in her school to embrace peace but has also used the knowledge she has gained from the Peace Club sessions to resolve conflicts between her parents at home.

The Peace Club is an established structure through the System and Structure Strengthening Approach Against Radicalization to Violent Extremism (SARVE III) project in Kano and Kaduna states. In Kano State, as adopted by the state government, Peace Clubs exist in 36 secondary schools and have achieved positive results in their communities. The Peace Clubs aim to promote children as agents of peace/ambassadors for peaceful coexistence in their communities, to strengthen their rights, and to contribute to psychosocial and emotional healing from traumatic experiences.

"I am happy because of the changes happening in my home and I asked my daughter for the reason, and she told me that they were taught in peace club to be ambassadors of peace in their school, homes and community" **Fatima's mother.**



Peace Clubs develop peace agents/ambassadors to promote peaceful coexistence in their communities.



Women march to Kano State Government House to mark International Women's Day



Female teacher presenting group work activity during the teachers training

GCERF's Added Value



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



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 **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**