

GCERF-funded activities in Sahel **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, inter-community conflicts, conflict prevention, child protection in conflict settings, psychosocial support to victims of violent extremism, prevention of radicalisation in prisons, socio-economic reinsertion of ex-combatants and prisoners, and rehabilitation of ancient solidarity systems .

Portfolio overview as of February 2024

Active grants

Union Fraternelle des Croyants Dori (UFC-Dori), Burkina Faso

2022-24 | Principal Recipient with 2 sub-recipients

Réseau Afrique Jeunesse (RAJ), Burkina Faso

2022-24 | Principal Recipient with 2 sub-recipients

KEOOGO, Burkina Faso

2023-25 | Principal Recipient with 2 sub-recipients

Réseau de Communication sur le Pastoralisme (RECOPA), Burkina Faso

2023-25 | Principal Recipient with 1 sub-recipient

Agence Technique pour l'Action Humanitaire et Sociale (ATAHS), Chad

2024 - 26 | Principal Recipient with 2 sub-recipients

Ligue Tchadienne des Droits de l'Homme (LTDH), Chad

2024-26 | Principal Recipient with 3 sub-recipients

Initiatives Conseil Développement Mali (ICD-Mali)

2022-24 | Principal Recipient with 2 sub-recipients

Think Peace, Mali

2022-24 | Principal Recipient with 2 sub-recipients

Femmes et Développement, Mali

2023-24 | Principal Recipient with 3 sub-recipients

Appui au Développement Intégré des Communautés Rurales (ADICOR), Mauritania

2023-26 | Principal Recipient with 3 sub-recipients

ECO-Développement (ECODEV), Mauritania

2023-26 | Principal Recipient with 2 sub-recipients

Initiatives pour le Développement, Mauritania

2023-26 | Principal Recipient with 3 sub-recipients

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

2022-24 | Principal Recipient with 3 sub-recipients

ONG Garkua, Niger

2023-25 | Principal Recipient



Current investment



Investment started: 2016
Investment to date: USD 16.2 million
Current investment: USD 11.85 million
Active grants: 13

Investment focus



Increase resilience of youth and women to the risks of violent radicalisation and extremism, strengthen community mobilisation and local conflict resolution mechanisms.



Burkina Faso, Chad*, Mali, Mauritania*, Niger



Women, children, youth, repentant youth religious and traditional leaders, farmers and pastoralists, internally displaced persons, host communities, students, and local authorities.



2016-2025



GCERF works with governments, through the country support mechanism, and bilateral and multilateral donors to ensure a coordinated approach to prevention of violent extremism in Sahel.

*Grant making underway

Violent Extremism in Sahel: Drivers

Youth unemployment and radicalisation

Lack of sustainable economic opportunities and radicalisation make children and young people vulnerable to violent extremist groups, which offer alternative material incentives.

Farmer/herder conflicts

These conflicts over land, access and exploitation of natural resources, lead to increased tensions within communities.

Governance-related grievances:

Violent extremist groups thrive on the weakened state power and exploit an institutional vacuum resulting from the political context to increase their presence on the ground.

Human trafficking and modern slavery

are on the rise in Mali. Victims of these human rights abuses are more vulnerable to radicalisation.

Current Programming in Sahel: Systems Approach

GCERF delineates 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 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 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 the emergence of anchors of stability and resilience.



A woman participant in group therapy on the psychosocial support provided by UFC-Dori :

“Accepting my husband’s execution for no apparent reason destroyed me. I was also worried about bringing up my children. Alone and without knowledge, I felt lost. When I arrived, I found it difficult to eat and couldn’t close my eyes. Sadness was the order of the day. At the beginning of the support, I was at a loss for words and just cried. But since we’ve been following the project’s activities, I can now eat, sleep and even talk. If you had to choose between what the project has provided and food, it would be wise to prioritise psychosocial support before looking for food, because you can have food without having an appetite.”



Educational and self-protection sessions for street children, disabled children and children on the move, Djibo.



A coaching session by women leaders for women.

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 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**