

#### **GCERF in Kosovo**

GCERF partners build the capacity
of governmental and non-governmental actors
of Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) and
Rehabilitation and Reintegration (R&R); provide
direct assistance to returnees from conflict zones
covering psycho-social, educational, and livelihood
support; contribute to reducing stigmatization of
returnees and promote inter-ethnic tolerance and
social cohesion.

# Portfolio overview as of June 2022 Active grants

# Advocacy Training and Resource Centre (ATRC)

2021-22 | Principal Recipient with 3 sub-recipients

- Build capacity of governmental and non-governmental actors in R&R and PVE
- Support the implementation and monitoring of the national strategy for PCVE and CT
  - Coordination of PVE and R&R relevant stakeholders
     Awareness Raising on R&R processes
  - ❖ Improvement of media coverage on PVE and R&R

# Community Building Mitrovica (CBM)

2021-22 | Principal Recipient with 1 sub-recipient

- Build cppacity of local governmental actors in Mitrovica on R&R and PVE
  - Promotion of social cohesion among children and youth
     Livelihood and educational support to returnees.

# Community Development Fund (CDF)

- 2021-2023 | Principal Recipient with 1 sub-recipients
- Trauma-informed educational and recreational support for children
  - Capacity building of frontline workers and partners
    Livelihood support for returnees and vulnerable people







Investment started: 2017 Investment to date: USD 4 million Current investment: USD 2 million Active grants: 3

#### **Investment Focus**

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Community-based rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees



Ferizaj, Gjakova, Gjilan, Mitrovica, Peja, Pristina, Prizren



Returnees from conflict zones; women, men, and children in receiving communities; frontline workers, local authorities and other R&R actors, youth.



2017-2023 (Rounds 1 and 2)



Ministry of Internal Affairs' Prevention and Reintegration Division (DPR)

#### **Violent Extremism in Kosovo: Drivers**

#### Returnees from foreign conflict zones:

Over 250 people returned to Kosovo from foreign conflicts, particularly from Syria and Iraq.

#### Post and preconflict context:

Political instability and inadequate reconciliation caused by previous conflicts have polarised communities along ethnic, religious, and cultural lines.

# Socio-economic drivers:

High unemployment, limited trust in institutions, and established crime networks contribute to violent extremist narratives.



# **Current Programming: Systems Approach**

**National**:Support implementation and monitoring of the National PVE and CT strategy; Build capacity and support coordination of PVE and R&R actors

**Municipality**: Build capacity of local governmental R&R actors; advocate for the local role in PVE and R&R.

**Community**: Reduce stigmatisation towards returnees. Increase inter-ethnic tolerance. Build capacity of community based CSOs in PVE and R&R.

**Individual**: provide direct support to returnees and vulnerable people including psycho-social, educational and livelihood support.

### **Key Outputs**

\* January 2021 - March 2022

Returnee children took part in trauma processing sessions, and educational and recreational activities.

Media representatives rained on sensitive reporting on PVE and R&R

28

Art therapy uses the creative process of art to improve and enhance the physical, mental and emotional well-being of children. 30 youth leaders trained on implementing

activities at home

parents or
caregivers trained
on positive
parenting and
pedagogical skills

Both RFTFs and other parents were trained on supporting their children in their educational and personal development Small grants were given to 27 people to set up businesses in addition to vocational training and business support

small-scale grants for selfemployment and income-generating activities delivered

#### **Total beneficiaries**

January 2017 - June 2021

Direct: 67,517

Indirect: 1.2 m

#### Kev achievements

\* October 2021 – March 2022



GCERF partners use art therapy for returnees. The methodology uses the creative process of art to improve and enhance the physical, mental and emotional well-being of children. In Kosovo, our partners support 37 returnee children in trauma processing.



Under the leadership of the Prevention and Reintegration Division, GCERF partners were part of the working group drafting the new strategy and action plan on PVE and R&R. The working group enables them to provide meaningful feedback on the documents, ensuring a civil society perspective is included.



GCERF partner CBM is providing Albanian language classes to returnees who did not grow up with the Albanian language. This tutoring aims to support them enrolling in the Kosovo education system in September 2022.



ATRC's partner BIRN
developed social media
guidelines for the 10 key
municipalities involved in R&R
work (Gjilan, Ferizaj, Komenica,
Viti, Kacanik, Hani I Elezit,
Shtime, Lipjan, Obiliq and
Drenas) setting out
communication principles on
informing the public on the
R&R process and the results of
their work

ATRC partner Peer Educators Network organises workshops with representatives of Local Youth Action Councils, Assembly of Kosovo youth and other youth groups of high school and university students with an interest in youth activism. The workshops built their knowledge and capacity on organizing awareness campaigns within their communities.

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I have learned more about citizenship, volunteer work and its benefits. I have also learned about my role ins society and how we can identify social problems and what initiatives we should take to address them.



# **Story of Change**

Zara\*, a 31-year-old mother of five seems happy to meet. She says she used to be shy and uncomfortable around new people, but now that has changed. For the past year, Zara has been part of GCERF-funded activities in Kosovo organised by the Community Development Fund (CDF) Consortium and with coordination and support from the Ministry of Internal Affairs. CDF Consortium activities focus on community-based rehabilitation, reintegration, and resocialisation (RRR) of returnees from conflicts abroad and their families.

The first activity Zara participated in was vocational training offered by CDF. Together with 18 other women, both returnees and women from vulnerable communities, Zara participated in sewing courses in Pristina. "I have grown professionally, and my communication has improved," Zara says. "We discuss a lot, but we also laugh a lot." Through a small-scale grant, she received a sewing machine and iron to complete a sewing course. In the coming year, CDF aims to provide Zara with market linkages to allow her to take the next steps in becoming a sewing professional.

A doting mother, she shares how her children are experiencing the RRR process. Despite the challenges, reintegration, the re-socialisation of Zara and her children in the community seems promising. "Children play happily with other children and the neighbours seem to be extra caring with them. They imagine all the bad things we have been through," she says, with a determined smile. Zara appears confident about the future. Through GCERF-supported activities implemented by CDF, Zara has been able to acquire new skills and prioritise her children's education and future. She has a newfound interest in traveling around Kosovo and understand the small country that welcomed her back better.



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Through the civic education school, CBM encourages youth to become active participants in their communities not just through weekly classes but also through community activities.

"I am trying to contribute to our community with all the skills that I have gained through this programme. [...] we learned how to address our needs and issues, how to resolve issues and how to stand up for ourselves and our rights"

- Genta Morina, 18, participant of the civic education school in Mitrovica (CBM)

#### **GCERF's Added Value**





GCERF focuses on building institutional capacity e.g. CSOs, 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 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 across the country

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







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