

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 August 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

2023-24 | Principal Recipient with 1 sub-recipient

- ❖ Build capacity of local P/CVE and R&R stakeholders including government institutions and actors, CSOs, youth.
- ❖ Support the R&R of returnees and their families.

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 2,4 million
Active grants: 3

Investment Focus



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, CSOs, youth.



2017-2024



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 pre-conflict 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: Monitoring of the National PVE and CT strategy and improve accountability and financial sustainability of PCVE and R&R work; Build capacity and support coordination of PCVE and R&R actors;

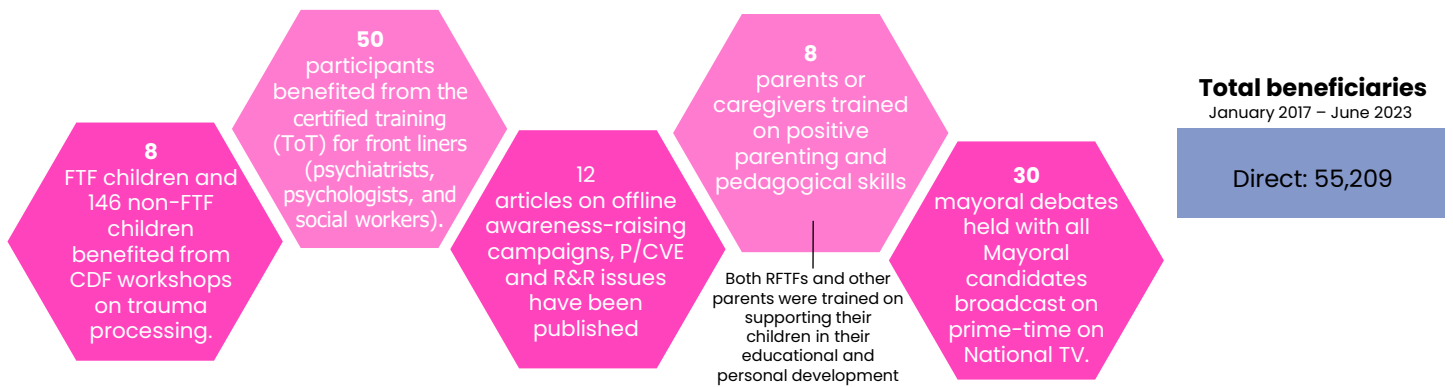
Municipality: Build capacity of local governmental R&R actors; advocate for the local role in PVE and R&R; improve accountability and financial sustainability of their PCVE and R&R work.

Community: Reduce stigmatisation towards returnees; Increase inter-ethnic tolerance; Build capacity of community based CSOs in PVE and R&R; improve capacity and civic engagement of youth.

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

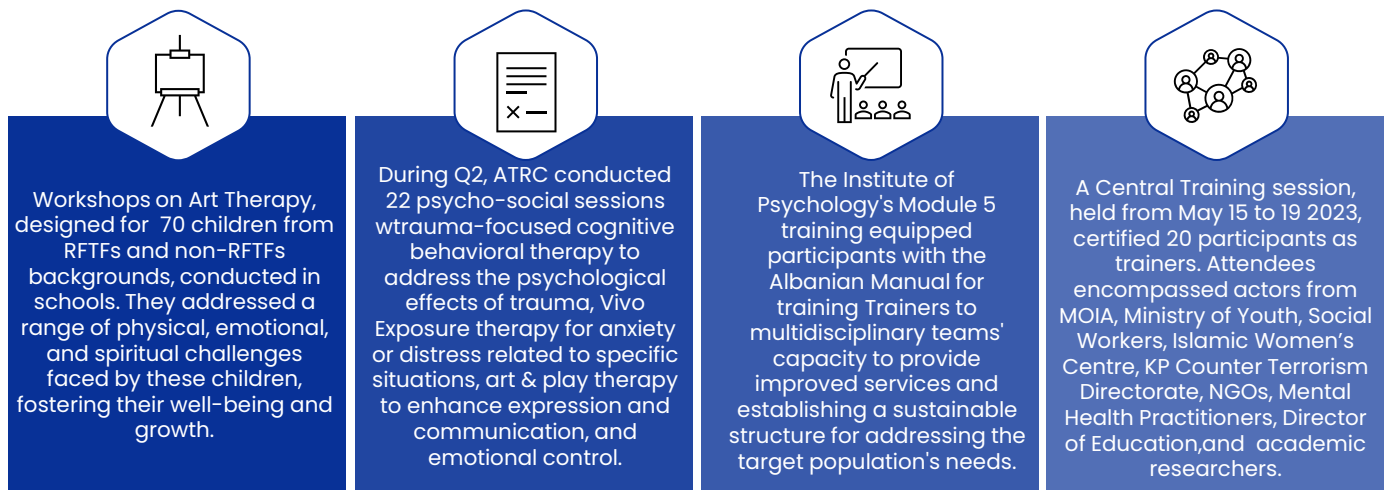
Key Outputs

* October 2021 – June 2023



Key achievements*

* October 2021 – June 2023



ATRC developed knowledge materials for CSOs, encompassing topics such as radicalization, violent extremism, and reintegration, as well as guides on promoting inclusivity within community-based P/CVE initiatives. The materials focus on community resilience and the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration to facilitate successful reintegration and disengagement from violent extremism.

In the second quarter of 2023, one boy from an RFTFs child was enrolled in an extracurricular English language course. The selection of beneficiaries adhered to Ministry of Internal Affairs guidelines for the Prevention and Reintegration of Radicalized Persons. Impressively, the participation of children in extracurricular activities exceeded expectations, with 38 children registered, surpassing the initial goal of 30 children.

On May 9-10, 2023, ATRC and CBM representatives participated in a two-day workshop titled "Managing the Needs of Child Returnees" in Paris, organized by the Radicalisation Awareness Network. The workshop covered various aspects, including an overview of France's institutional framework for Return and Reintegration (R&R). This framework encompassed elements such as the justice system, mental health support, national and local mechanisms. Additionally, the workshop featured interactive sessions, including roundtables with frontline workers and a reflection period on how the practices observed in France could be applied in the context of the Western Balkans.

Story of Change



Artan, 41 years old, resident of the city of Mitrovica, lives in a rented flat with his wife and his 2 children. The interview was conducted in the gym that GCERF funded and which ARTan now proudly runs. He starts the conversation with stories about the lives of his 2 children. He says that everything he's been through seems like a dream, he says that after serving his sentence, life was not easy for him.


"After my release, even though the whole of Mitrovica knew me, no one wanted to take me at work, and not even the friends I grew up with have agreed to hang out with me".

After the first approach from the Division after his release, he says that he did not believe the promise that his lifelong dream of running a boxing club was to become a reality. He applied for the financial support and it was only when he started to receive the gym props that it begun to dawn on him that he actually needed to find a place to open his club.

The beginning was quite difficult for him, but thanks to his great desire for this sport, he says that in the morning he worked various jobs to ensure income, while in the afternoon he exercised his activity with his club. He says that for various reasons he has had to change location several times and this has brought difficulties for his club, but he says that the motivation has been very high and that he now has managed to create regular customers that are satisfied with the work at his club. Artan keeps cleaning the props on display as he proudly confides to us "I love seeing them clean".

He tells us that he wishes to register his club in the Kosovo Boxing Federation and that his biggest desire is to create young Kosovo champions. Finally, he says that he "feels at peace with people".

GCERF's Added Value

	<p>GCERF focuses on building institutional capacity e.g. CSOs, 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 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 across the country</p>

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