GCERF works with the Malian government to implement its national action plan by investing in local organisations that design and run programmes that contribute to prevention-related outputs of the plans. 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 topics such as inter-community conflicts and socio-economic reinsertion of ex-combatants and prisoners.

Portfolio overview as of August 2023

Active grants

Think Peace
2022-24 | Principal Recipient with 2 sub-recipients
- Conflict resolution structures, reintegration of ex-detainees and ex-combatants; creating community action plans for PVE; improving political participation and economic opportunities for youth and women and improving access to basic services for communities; emergency programme.

Initiatives Conseil Developpement Mali (ICD-Mali)
2022-24 | Principal Recipient with 2 sub-recipients
- Improving pastoral resilience through infrastructure investment, local management mechanisms for natural resources and conflicts, and establishment of a credit and savings collective.

Femmes et Développement, Mali
2023-24 | Principal Recipient with 3 sub-recipients
- Capacity building of community mechanisms to strengthen social cohesion; information and communication campaign through local radio stations to overcome the lack of knowledge about extremist ideology; support the economic insertion of women and youth.

Investment focus

Strengthening community mobilisation and engagement with local authorities on inter-community conflicts, socio-economic reinsertion of ex-combatants and prisoners, promotion of women and youth leaders in community-based conflict management mechanisms.

Kayes, Mopti, Koulikoro, Timbuktu, Bamako, Gao, Sikasso, Kidal, Segou

Women, youth, religious and traditional leaders, farmers and herders, students, and local authorities.

2016-2024

GCERF in Mali works with the government, through the country support mechanism, and bilateral and multilateral donors to ensure a coordinated approach to prevention.

Violent Extremism in Mali: Drivers

- **Youth unemployment**: 17.4% of youth aged 15-24 are unemployed, making them vulnerable to material incentives from VE groups (ILOSTAT data for 2020)
- **Human trafficking and modern slavery**: are on the rise in Mali. Victims of these human rights abuses are more vulnerable to radicalisation (Sourced from grantee reports)
- **Governance-related grievances**: VE groups thrive on the weakened state power, acting as a replacement for legitimate authorities by offering protection and essential services (sourced from donor report)

4th

On the Global Terrorism Index 2023, with 272 attacks and 944 deaths in 2022
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.

GCERF’s strategy for engagement in the Sahel region is built around two strategic objectives:

1. To contribute to improvements in the social ecology to create conditions conducive to prevention and resilience-building.
2. To facilitate community-led rehabilitation, disengagement, and (re)integration, including people disengaging from criminal, non-state armed, and violent extremist groups.

Key Outputs

- **15 psychosocial support sessions with 225 ex-detainees and ex-combatants were organised.**
- **225 survivors of violent extremism have been identified and 15 groups have been set up.**
- **334 women community leaders attended a coaching on their role in PVE and building self confidence.**
- **9 monitoring systems are in place to collect and report information.**
- **30 Village Savings and Credit Associations are operational, with 810 women beneficiaries.**

Total beneficiaries

- **Direct: 680,183**
- **Indirect: 4 m**

Key achievements

- **Think Peace organised 15 IGA identification workshops in Ansongo, Bankass, Gao, Koro and Ménaka to contribute to the economic empowerment of 300 young people and women and make them less vulnerable to violent extremism. 32 potential activities were identified.**
- **ICD-Mali has installed 11 boreholes in pastoral hydraulic systems, providing access to water for 20,000 beneficiaries and 15,000 livestock.**
- **FEDE has organised 15 advocacy sessions for the inclusion of women in community peace mechanisms and in favour of intergenerational collaboration with 120 authorities and community leaders in the communes of Mopti, Sévaré, Sio, Soufroulaye and Socoura.**

Think Peace provides a forum for exchanging and sharing experiences in order to help prevent violent extremism and radicalisation by raising awareness in communities. The sessions are run by ex-combatants and ex-prisoners, who have become ambassadors for non-violence.

“This awareness session is made for us, the youth, since we are the adults of tomorrow. Anyone who manages to educate and train the youth well, has laid the foundation for a more peaceful future.”

- A young women participant of the awareness sessions in Koro.
On the outskirts of Bandiagara, a facilitator from the project implemented by ICD-Mali recently met a herder with his herd, who had come from the village of Mory in the commune of Muetumo. His name is Moussa.

The host asked Moussa why he had come, and the herder replied that he had come to camp in the Doucombo area just before he found himself there after a terrorist attack in that same town.

Moussa said that his place of origin, the commune of Muetumo, is under considerable pressure on natural resources, particularly water and animal grazing. These pressures are created by gathering animals from various backgrounds fleeing areas of insecurity where thefts and abductions of animals are frequent.

This herder may also be vulnerable to the rhetoric of violent extremist groups when they promise free and unlimited access to grazing areas under their control. Moussa is only concerned with improving the feeding conditions of his animals.

In Bandiagara, this herder is also confronted with the need for more pasture, and the high cost of water for animals at the town’s water points is a challenge. For watering, he uses makeshift wells that are almost dry.

This is why the facilitator directed Moussa to the Bandiagara Livestock Feed Bank, where he can now obtain supplies weekly.

Thanks to the financing of ICD-Mali’s livestock food banks and this proposal, Moussa avoided taking risks by moving away from the city towards risky areas and ending up in a zone where violent extremist groups are rampant.

FEDE strengthens the skills of women’s and young people’s community organisations to become agents of change in PVE through the quality of their decisions, which become more inclusive and sensitive to the needs of individuals and reflect the diversity of the community.

“We wanted to set up projects for a long time, but we did not know how to go about it. The module on programme and project management gives us the key to do that.”

- A women leader from Mopti, who heads a collective women transformers

GCERF’s Added Value

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

GCERF’s consortium model and capacity-building approach enables us to work in remote areas