

GCERF in North Macedonia

GCERF partners build the capacity of governmental and non-governmental actors in the prevention of violent extremism (PVE) and rehabilitation and reintegration (R&R); provide direct assistance to returnees from conflict zones covering medical, psycho-social, educational, administrative and livelihood support; contribute to reducing the stigmatisation of returnees and promote inter-religious and ethnic tolerance and social cohesion

Portfolio overview as of August 2023

Active grants

Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation (MCIC)

2021-24 | Principal Recipient with 4 sub-recipients

- ❖ R&R support to returnees
- ❖ Build capacity and coordination among governmental and non-governmental R&R stakeholders
- ❖ Raise awareness on PCVE and R&R and reduce stigmatization of returnees

Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA)

2021-24 | Principal Recipient with 3 sub-recipients

- ❖ Build capacities of local institutions on R&R
- ❖ Build resilience of children, youth and parents on PCVE
- ❖ Reduce stigmatisation and increase acceptance of returnees

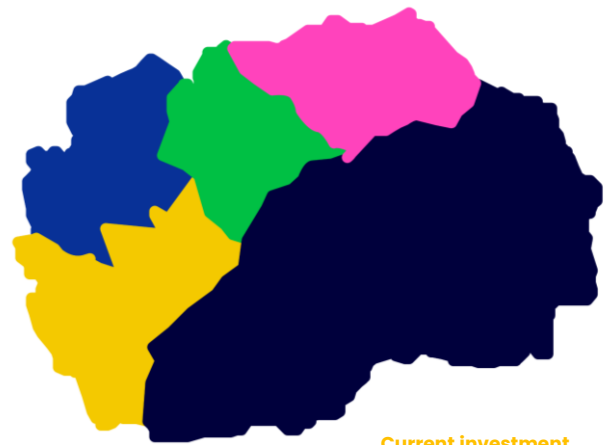
Current Programming: Systems Approach

National: improve coordination among governmental and non-governmental PCVE and R&R stakeholders

Municipality: Building PVE and R&R capacity of Local Multidisciplinary Teams (LMTs) mandated with R&R of returnees; improve capacity and coordination of frontline practitioners

Community: Building inter-ethnic tolerance among youth; fostering reduced stigmatisation of returnees; improving local media coverage on PCVE and R&R.

Individual: Provide tailored R&R support to returnees; provide livelihood support to returnees and vulnerable groups; building capacity of parents on pedagogical skills;



Current investment

- North Macedonia
- Skopje
- Polog
- Southwestern
- Northeastern

Investment started: 2021
Investment to date: USD 1.3 million
Current investment: USD 1.3 million
Active grants: 2

Investment Focus



Community-based rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees



Skopje, Polog, Southwestern Northeastern districts



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



2021-2024



GCERF in North Macedonia works with the National Committee for Countering Violent Extremism and Countering Terrorism (NCCVET).

Violent Extremism in the North Macedonia: Drivers

Returnees from foreign conflict zones:

Almost 100 people returned to North Macedonia 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.

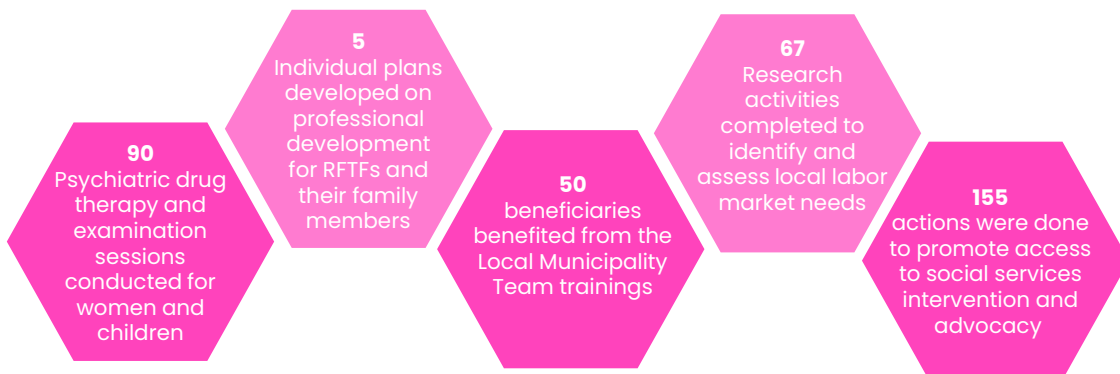
Key Outputs*

* October 2021 – June 2023

Total beneficiaries

December 2020 – June 2023

Direct: 4,454



Key achievements*

* October 2021 – June 2023



To allow RFTFs freely express themselves and address their concerns, MCIC partners Pleiades and Horizon Civitas started supporting the RFTFs in receiving individual and family psycho-social counselling interventions. The trust their guidance dealing with personal and institutional needs.



In regard to the referral mechanisms, the fourth group was established by MCIC consortium. The groups are satisfied to be part of RRR efforts and express willingness to actively contribute to the PVE process.



MYLA held training sessions on "Providing Psychosocial Support and Coping with Trauma" for professional backgrounds including social workers, psychologists from Centres of Social Work, psychologists and pedagogues from schools across 11 cities.



GCERF's Added Value



GCERF focuses on **building institutional capacity** e.g., CSOs, and 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 **remote areas**