

GCERF in the Western Balkans

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 January 2023 Active grants

Advocacy Training and Resource Centre (ATRC), Kosovo
2023–2024 | Principal Recipient with 1 sub-recipient

Atlantic Initiative (AI), Bosnia and Herzegovina
2022–2024 | Direct grantee

Counselling Line for Women and Girls, (CLWG), Albania
2021–24 | Principal Recipient with 3 sub-recipients

Community Development Fund (CDF), Kosovo
2021–23 | Principal Recipient with 1 sub-recipient

Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM), Albania
2021–23 | Principal Recipient with 2 sub-recipients

Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation (MCIC), North Macedonia
2021–24 | Principal Recipient with 4 sub-recipients


Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA), North Macedonia
2021–24 | Principal Recipient with 3 sub-recipients

Terre des Hommes Albania
2020–23 | Principal Recipient with 1 sub-recipient

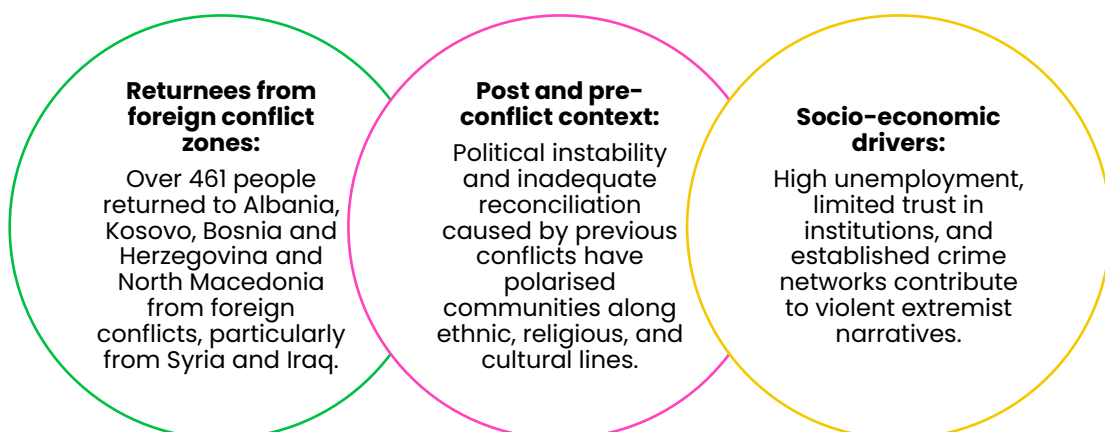


Investment started: 2017
 Investment to date: USD 8.9 m
 Current investment: USD 6.2 m
 Active grants: 8

Investment Focus

-  Community-based rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees
-  Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Kosovo, North Macedonia
-  Returnees from conflict zones; men, women, children in receiving communities; frontline workers and other R&R actors, religious leaders.
-  2020–2024 (WB), 2023–2026 (Kosovo)
-  In coordination with the Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism in Albania; The Ministry of Security in Bosnia and Herzegovina; the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Prevention and Reintegration Division in Kosovo; the National Committee for Countering Violent Extremism and Countering Terrorism in North Macedonia.

Violent Extremism in Western Balkans: Drivers



Current Programming: Systems Approach

National: Capacity building of central level government R&R and PVE institutions and actors through technical support and trainings. Facilitation of coordination.

Municipality: Capacity building of local level government R&R and PVE actors through development of guidelines, provision of trainings, and facilitating coordination.

Community: Reducing the stigmatisation towards returnees; increasing inter-religious and inter-ethnic tolerance; building capacities of communities on PVE and early identification.

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

Key Outputs

* December 2020 – December 2022



Key achievements*

* October 2021 – December 2022



Terre des Hommes Albania assists with direct support to the returnees by providing psychological and emotional support, food, clothes, shelter and healthcare, as part of the basic needs.

"I didn't know where we were going to live, without a roof over our heads. But thanks to the support of Terre des Hommes, along with the governmental institutions, they managed to secure for me and my 5 children a rented flat, covered the payment of water and energy, provided us with food and sanitary packages, offered medical support free of charge, clothes, furniture, and appliances. My children were equipped with all they needed to study, the same as their peers. Everything has changed for the better since we arrived in Tirana and till now. And the most important thing, we feel accepted in the community where we live."

- N.K., a returned wife of a foreign fighter and a single mother of five children

Story of Change

During the month of November, a lady called who was interested in the services offered by the Info Call Centre. During the conversation, she reports her concern, which consists of her 17-year-old son, who, according to her, has recently started hanging out with some boys who are followers of the Muslim religion. The lady in question says that she belonged to the Orthodox faith. According to her, the boy showed aggression towards his 12-year-old sister, preventing her from going out alone, from hanging out with girls and boys from her neighbourhood. He started doing this behaviour with his mother as well. The mother says that she had a discussion with the boy and was informed that he was reading the Koran and his behaviour was a result of what he had read, which emphasized the fact that girls should not leave the house without being covered. The mother was suggested to communicate with her son again and direct him to the mosque, where he could find a responsible person (Imam) to explain to him every element contained in the Muslim faith, to eliminate misinterpretations.

He was also offered psycho-emotional support even if he could come to the center. After a month, that is, in December, the lady calls to say thank you. She says that she had communicated with her son, while her husband had gone to the mosque with the mufti and asked him for help for his son, despite the difficulties, the son had agreed to communicate with her. From that moment, the boy began to learn about religion and practice the Muslim faith. It is noted that his family was supportive and helped him to find what he needed, without judging him and excluding him from the family environment. The lady is left with the possibility that she can contact at any moment she needs.



Atlantic Initiative works on developing the documents (SOP-s, guidelines, workplan) with IRRG to enable professionals to better prepare for the upcoming work with returnees to BiH.

"After these documents were created and adopted, I was really happy, because everything is explained and written in them. At first, when I was told that I am a member of the LMT and that I will work with the returnees, I was really scared. But after these consultations and reading the material and hearing practitioners that already worked with them, I think that I am ready to effectively use it when the families return."

- Practitioner (social worker), participant of workshops for mobile teams in BiH



GCERF's Added Value

 <p>GCERF focuses on building institutional capacity e.g. CSOs, government agencies, and community engagement forums</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 remote areas</p>

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