

### 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 August 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**  
2023–24 | Principal Recipient with 2 sub-recipients

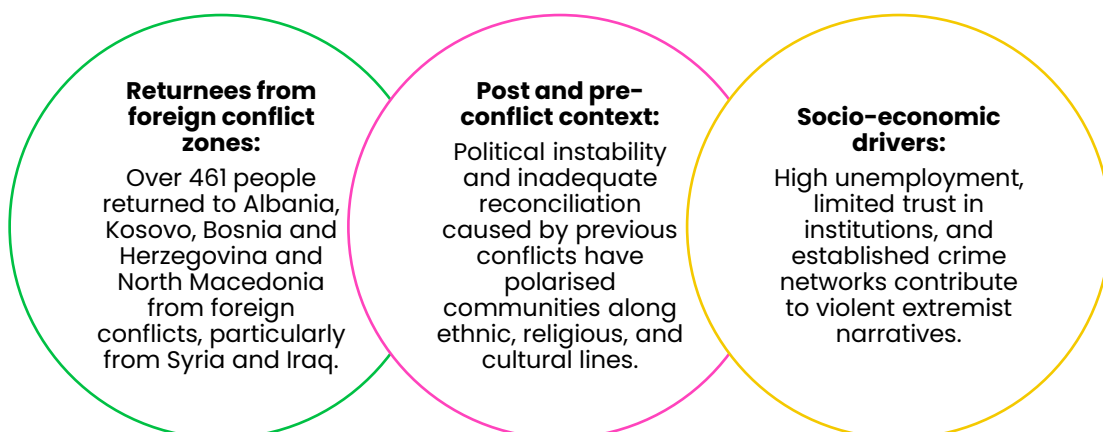


Investment started: 2017  
 Investment to date: USD 8.9 m  
 Current investment: USD 6.2 m  
 Active grants: 8

### 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.

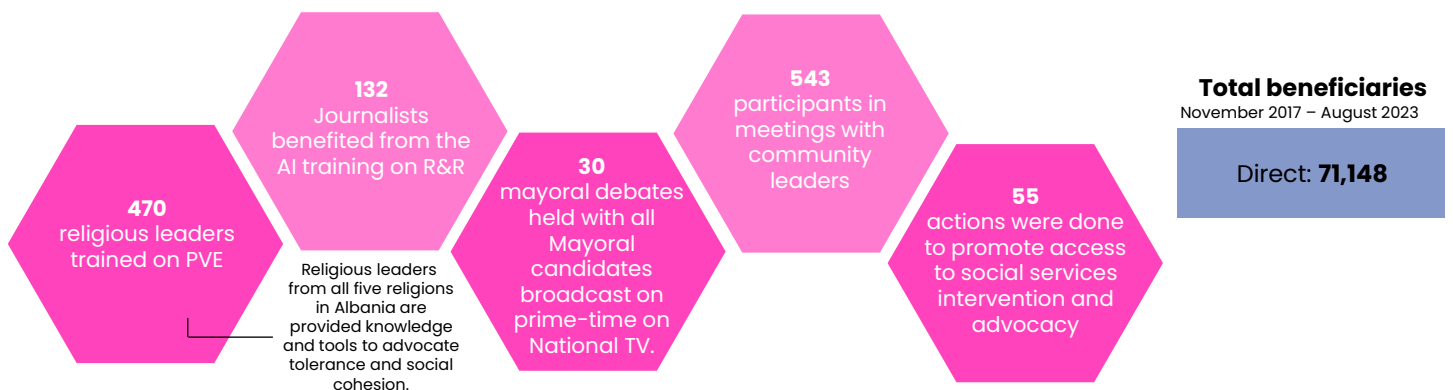
**Municipality:** Capacity building of local level government R&R and PVE actors through development of guidelines, provision of trainings, and facilitating coordination.

**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.

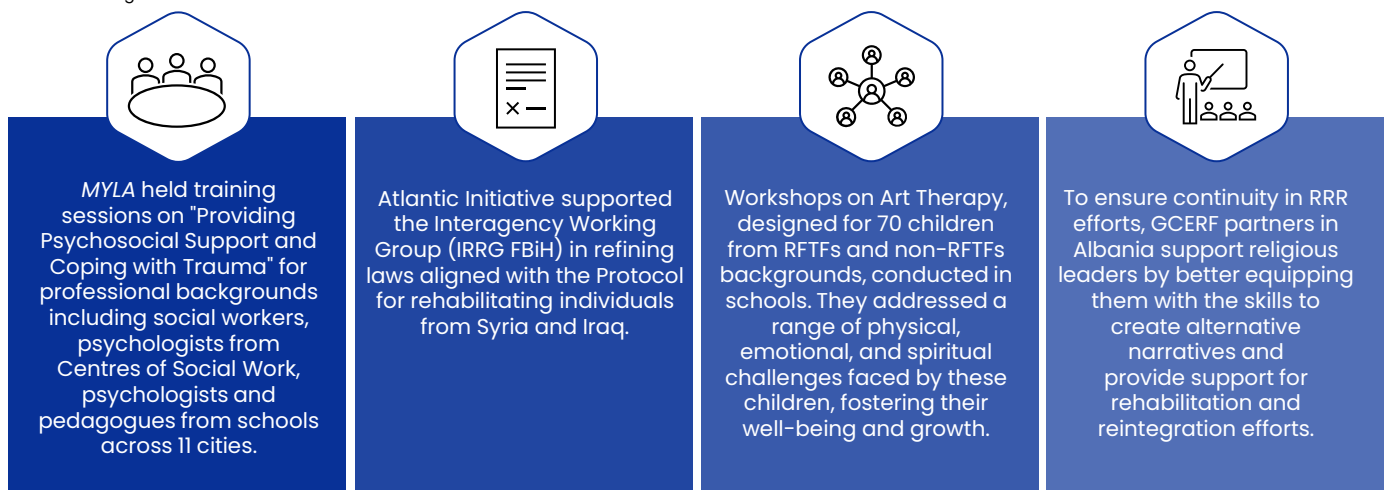
## Key Outputs

\* December 2020 – December 2022



## Key achievements\*

\* October 2021 – August 2023



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

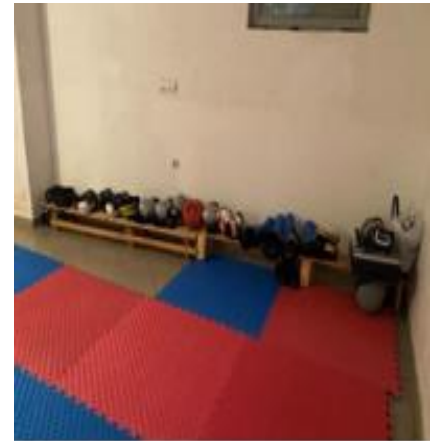
## Story of Change

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 began 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".



P/CVE and R&R stakeholder meeting. May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Pristina.



Psycho-social counselling sessions, CDF

## GCERF's Added Value



GCERF focuses on **building institutional capacity** e.g. CSOs, government agencies, and community engagement forums



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**