EU GLOBAL THREATS PROGRAMME

STRIVE GCERF

Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund

OCTOBER 2026

CONTEXT

Since the adoption of the **EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy** and the **Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism** in 2005, the EU has stressed the importance of preventing terrorism by addressing radicalisation and recruitment. It is within the context of the CT Strategy's Prevent pillar that the EU has been engaging with the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF). GCERF is an independent foundation that was founded in 2014 as a public-private partnership governed by a multi-stakeholder board. GCERF's mandate is to respond to the ongoing threat of global terrorism and the need to bridge the security-development nexus. Its funding model represents a strategic effort to support initiatives to counter radicalisation and violence in order to achieve sustainable, lasting impact within a wider global context of long-term peace, security, and development. The EU is part of the governing board and is committed to working closely with GCERF, under the STRIVE Global action, to support grassroots P/CVE initiatives around the world.

€ 46 000 000

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS
GCERF working with civil society organisations from participating countries

+10 years
From December 2015 - Ongoing

COUNTRIES COVERED
Albania, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Tajikistan, the Philippines, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tunisia, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

This project aims to **build** the capacity of state and non-state actors to effectively challenge radicalisation and recruitment to terrorism while continuing to respect human rights and international law.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To **engage** with local partners to design, implement and develop approaches that have a demonstrable impact on the threat posed by radicalisation and recruitment to terrorism.

CONCRETE ACTIVITIES

- Providing grants to initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience of communities to violent extremism by funding capacity-building activities for community-level initiatives.
- Providing civil society with much-needed access to politically neutral resources, as well as bridging the gap between donor funding at the international and national levels and community-level projects at the local level.
- Facilitating state, private sector, and civil society collaboration.
- Building the resilience and capacity of supported initiatives, as assets to their communities and countries.

- Supporting creative and entrepreneurial initiatives.
- Supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration of former foreign terrorist fighters and their families.

RESULTS*

- **218,763** individuals **trained** in **PVE and critical thinking** skills.
- **282,989** individuals **engaged through interfaith dialogues, intergenerational dialogues and consultations** to strengthen solidarity, resolve conflicts and improve trust between government agencies and community members.
- **63,103** individuals **equipped with knowledge, seed-grants, skills, training and tools** to strengthen their economic resilience against violent extremism.
- **33,106** individuals **reached through training and engagement** in conflict resolution processes.
- **21,214** individuals **provided with counselling and psychosocial support** to overcome trauma associated with violent extremism.
- **7,744** returnees **received holistic rehabilitation and reintegration support** covering psychosocial, economic, educational, legal and administrative needs.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The organisation has **provided grants of varying scale** and **duration** to over **440 local organisations** and it has reached more than **5 million people at risk of radicalisation**.
- Successfully **transitioned GCERF's support in Bangladesh** by building sustainable, locally-led P/CVE structures that continue to **operate independently beyond direct funding**.
- GCERF has supported **the rehabilitation and reintegration of thousands of former terrorist fighters and their family members** from Al Hol and Al Roj camps in Northeast Syria into their communities of origin across Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indonesia, Iraq, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, and the Philippines. To date, there have been **no recorded cases of recidivism** into terrorist activity.
- GCERF grants **have engaged with parents and teachers as agents of changes and created school/madrasa management committees** that became an effective monitoring tool to identify early warning signs of violent extremism and provide a safe space to address students' behaviour.
- **GCERF launched its new strategy**, covering 2026-2029, focused on reshaping the agenda to sustain prevention efforts. The strategy has four main goals: addressing issues between groups that extremists exploit; rebuilding trust between communities and the state; promoting positive alternatives to violent extremism; and decreasing the legitimacy of extremist groups on and offline.
- **Syria became GCERF newest partner country in 2026**, with pilot grants planned to be signed by the end of the year.
- **GCERF has received a new contribution from the European Union in 2026,** strengthening the support in Iraq, Indonesia, Somalia, and other countries that are relevant to PVE and R&R.

**As of 2025*

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