




In partnership with the government of Iraq, GCERF works with local organisations to design and implement programmes that support stability and resilience against VE. GCERF engages with government partners and local CSOs in supporting the implementation of agreed programmes and continuing grant-making for other planned investments. Programme implementation has started in January 2024.


In February 2024, GCERF signed the “Return with Hope” Associate award with USAID to support the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of formal Iraqi Returnees from North East Syria camps, through holistic case management and the delivery of MHPSS and Educational Services. The program will be implemented through 5 grants in Salah-Eddin, Ninewa and Anbar governorates.


Investment Focus

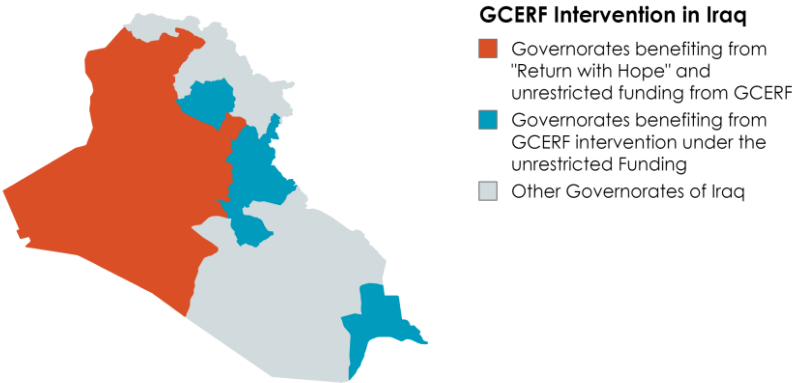
 Strengthening trust and tolerance among communities and leaders to foster social cohesion and a renewed sense of purpose. Increasing resources of livelihood, leading to economic resilience of vulnerable at-risk youth. Supporting rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees in their communities. Awareness-raising on PVE for communities to take the necessary local actions to prevent VE.

 Baghdad, Basra, Babil, Anbar, Ninewa, Salah Al-Din, Kirkuk, Diyala, and Babylon

 **Returnees from Northeast Syria** (children and women) Children, juveniles, and adolescents between the ages of 5 and 18 years, women especially mothers and female-headed households, **Frontline Workers**, social workers, members of the local authority, teachers, psychologists, **Influential members among internationally displaced people, Civil Society Organisations.**

 2023-2027

 GCERF work with the government and bilateral and multilateral donors to ensure a coordinated approach to the prevention of violent extremism in Iraq.



Investment started: 2024
Investment planned: USD 7M

GCERF-led Returning with Hope Program
This Program is funded in partnership with USAID, aiming to support a successful return from NES through the Jada'a transition centre.

- ❖ The program is divided into 5 grants:
 - ❖ one umbrella grant tackling comprehensive case management with **Aid Gate organisation.**
 - ❖ 3 MHPSS and Educational Services provision in Ninewa, Salah Eddin and Anbar with **Iraqi Institute for Development, United Iraqi Medical Society and Tadamun Iraqi League for youth**
 - ❖ one grant on media and communication campaigns to support the enabling environment for return highlighting return with **Ashour for Relief and Development**

Portfolio overview as of June 2024

Ashour for Relief and Development (ARD)

2024-2026 | Principal Recipient with 2 sub-recipient

- ❖ Foster the VE and PVE knowledge production and sharing with PVE stakeholders in civil society, education, and government and Increase Local CSO technical skills
- ❖ Increase Market-oriented skills and access to livelihood opportunities for at-risk youth and women in VE and/or climate change-affected areas and Strengthen the community's (including host and returnees) acceptance towards co-existence.

Aid Gate Organisation (AGO)

2022-2026 | Principal Recipient with 2 sub-recipients

- ❖ Enhance Returnees' capacity to re-integrate into communities of return.
- ❖ Increase Youth and community stakeholder action on PVE and reintegration.
- ❖ Improve Community social cohesion and acceptance of returnees.

Peer Organisation for Youth Development (Y-peer)

2022-2026 | Principal Recipient with 2 sub-recipients

- ❖ Enhance Key governmental & non-governmental stakeholders' coordination in the implementation of the national plan to prevent violent extremism
- ❖ Enhance Local youth and women-led organisations, local government actors, and influential community leaders' capacity and knowledge on PVE.
- ❖ Implement sub-national PVE action plans through increased engagement of stakeholders.

Violent Extremism in Iraq: Drivers

Inter-ethnic and religious conflicts
VE groups exploit existing and emerging conflicts to increase their grip on communities in a country historically marked by violence and fragmented social cohesion.

Climate change
The impact of climate change on agricultural activities increase conflicts over scarce resources especially water. VE groups provide alternative incentives to respond to the lack of sustainable livelihoods.

Returnees from liberated areas and NE Syria
Returnees from the Areas formerly held by VE groups and families associated with VE Groups face a challenge in Reintegrating with the original communities.

11th
On the Global
Terrorism
Index 2024

Current Programming: Systems Approach

GCERF’s Strategy for Investment in Iraq is based on a balanced approach to P/CVE and R&R through capacity building of government and civil society partners that reinforces existing mechanisms and fosters relationships between government and CSOs to implement Iraqi-led strategies.

GCERF’s strategy for engagement in Iraq is built around two strategic objectives:

To support implementation of the national CVE strategy within the defined perimeters of the governorate and district level plans of action, a special focus on addressing the loss of livelihoods caused by climate change among displaced populations.

To assist with the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of populations vulnerable to radicalisation and recruitment, including IDPs and people returning from Northeast Syria.

GCERF aims to mobilise and invest up to USD 12 million to meet these objectives in at least four years. In coordination with government partners, GCERF will prioritise resilience and prevention programming that meet these objectives to strengthen resilience against violent extremism in the most vulnerable communities.



Kick off meeting to present the projects launched in January 2024 with the NCCVE. Baghdad- March 2024- Photo by GCERF



Provision of Vocational Skills Training on E-marketing to female returnees Ramadi-Iraq- March 2024- Photos by Dream Organisation.


GCERF’s Added Value


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

 All project design and implementation are done in coordination with **nationally-aligned**, locally-led programmes

 GCERF invests in building a PVE-focused **community of practice** with CSOs, government agencies, and experts

 GCERF connects CSOs, communities, and other stakeholders with government and security actors, leading to **better coordination** and relationships

 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**