



## **Fourth Meeting of the GCERF Governing Board**

6 July 2016

Geneva, Switzerland

The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Board of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) took place on **13-14 June 2016 in Brussels, Belgium**, hosted by the European Union (EU). With the increased global focus in 2016 on preventing violent extremism (PVE), Board members underscored the momentum being built by GCERF as it signs grant agreements in the first three beneficiary countries of Bangladesh, Mali, and Nigeria – and as it launches its Core Funding Mechanism (CFM) in Kenya and Kosovo.

Forty-six representatives from 17 countries plus the European Union, civil society, the private sector, and foundations gathered for an open and constructive exchange, and high-level strategic discussions – including on GCERF’s strategic direction; allocation of new funding across the five current beneficiary countries (Bangladesh, Kenya, Kosovo, Mali, and Nigeria); and the demographic, geographic, and thematic priorities for that funding. Other matters discussed included finances, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and maximizing GCERF’s potential as a public-private partnership through increased private sector engagement.

GCERF’s first grant agreement was signed in Nigeria on 8 June 2016. By the end of August, the GCERF Secretariat expects to have signed grant agreements with all 12 of the non-governmental organisations who are leading community-level consortia to prevent violent extremism.

Addressing the Board in his welcoming remarks, GCERF Executive Director Dr Khalid Koser highlighted that today, GCERF is the *only* global fund to prevent violent extremism, and GCERF is at the forefront of supporting cutting-edge PVE efforts at the national and community levels – in addition to contributing good practices and lessons learned to the global PVE community of interest. Dr Koser emphasized that the Board plays a pivotal role in GCERF’s success, and he asked all Board members to undertake concrete actions on behalf of GCERF, including active engagement on developing GCERF’s strategic plans.

At the meeting, the Board made some key decisions, including approving: grant funding for Kosovo, Kenya, and Mali; audited financial statements for 2015; and the establishment of a reference group within the Board to develop a strategic plan. The meeting reaffirmed the commitment of all Board members – from beneficiary country governments, to donor governments, to non-governmental entities – to promoting and supporting GCERF’s unique PVE mission in countries facing a violent extremist challenge.

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