

The Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) is the first global effort to support local, community-level initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience against violent extremist agendas. As a public-private partnership operating at the nexus of security and development, GCERF works in partnership and consultation with governments, civil society, and the private sector in beneficiary countries to support national strategies to address the local drivers of violent extremism.

PRIMARY CONSIDERATIONS

GCERF is open to a request from an authorized government official(s) to be considered as a beneficiary country to receive funds through GCERF's Core Funding Mechanism (CFM). Before making the request, the GCERF Secretariat asks that your government:

1. Ensure that your country meets the requirements outlined in the "Core Funding Mechanism Eligibility Policy":
<http://www.gcerf.org/wp-content/uploads/ELIGIBILITY-POLICY-FOR-THE-CORE-FUNDING-MECHANISM.pdf>
2. Consult the resources found on GCERF's website, especially:
 - a. Core Funding Mechanism document:
<http://www.gcerf.org/wp-content/uploads/GCERF-Core-Funding-Mechanism.pdf>
 - b. Country Support Mechanism (CSM) information:
<http://www.gcerf.org/grants/country-support-mechanism>
(especially *Advisory Note on CSM*: <http://www.gcerf.org/wp-content/uploads/Advisory-Note-on-CSM.pdf>)

REQUEST TO BE CONSIDERED AS A BENEFICIARY COUNTRY

After a government self-assesses that it meets the Eligibility Policy criteria, the authorized government official(s) should email a letter addressed to GCERF's Governing Board, on official government stationery, to GCERF Executive Director Dr Khalid Koser at info@gcerf.org, with the Subject line "**Request to be considered as a Beneficiary Country.**" The letter should contain the following:

1. background/overview of the challenge of radicalization to violent extremism in the country;
2. the extent of government commitment to address the issue, in particular:
 - a. the government's recognition of the challenge of radicalisation to violent extremism within the country;
 - b. its commitment at the national level to counter radicalisation to violent extremism and engage local communities as part of this effort;

- c. its willingness to support, enable and facilitate GCERF grant-making in a rapid manner, including, but not limited to, providing to GCERF and/or its partners any required approvals, licenses, exemptions or other legal pre-requisites; and
3. authorized government contact person(s), including: name, title, ministry, and contact information.

BOARD APPROVAL PROCESS

Once the Secretariat has determined that the elements above are established, it will commission a Country Needs Assessment, to provide a national assessment of existing levels of community resilience to violent extremist agendas and the drivers of radicalisation to violence. Such assessment will be conducted by an external, independent entity with expertise in research and analysis in preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE). This assessment will also be reviewed by GCERF's Independent Review Panel (IRP). More details on this process may be provided upon request.

Once the assessment is complete, the IRP and Secretariat will present the application, along with its strategic and operational implications on the Secretariat, to the Board for a decision. The Board may decide to approve the eligibility of the country or defer a decision to a later date.

If the Board approves the eligibility of the country under the CFM, the country will be invited to join one of the beneficiary country seats on the Board. The Secretariat will be requested to work with the country to form a Country Support Mechanism (see below for more information).

The Board will provide an indication of the timeframe of allocation of funding under the CFM.

BACKGROUND ON THE COUNTRY SUPPORT MECHANISM (CSM)

As the very first step in a partnership, GCERF works with the beneficiary country government to establish a Country Support Mechanism (CSM): a national multi-stakeholder entity, ideally composed of representatives of national government, sub-national authorities, local civil society, the private sector, as well as bilateral donors, United Nations entities, and multilateral and regional organisations active in the country. GCERF facilitates and supports the creation, establishment, and ongoing work of the CSM – which will act as a catalyst, and provide a platform for multi-stakeholder collaboration at the local, national, and international levels, in support of funded projects.

OVERVIEW OF CSM ACTIVITIES

The CSM is a self-funded entity coordinated by the beneficiary country government. The CSM is responsible for, among other things:

- ensuring national support and respect for country-led responses to the threat of radicalisation to violent extremism;
- focusing on the creation, development, and expansion of partnerships among all relevant actors within a country, and across all sectors of society, including governments, civil society, multilateral and bilateral agencies, and the private sector;
- strengthening the participation of communities and people at risk of radicalisation to violence and of people living with insecurity as a result of violent extremism in addressing the threat of radicalisation to violence;
- building on, complementing, and coordinating with existing national strategies to counter violent extremism, counter terrorism, and development goals;
- encouraging transparency and accountability;
- hold national consultations on P/CVE priorities, building on the existing independently commissioned Needs Assessment. These national consultations will contribute toward, or build upon, existing national P/CVE strategies. The purpose of these national consultations is to:
 - i. inform the CSM’s identification of the local drivers of violent extremism, and of the demography and geography of communities at risk;
 - ii. convene a unique set of stakeholders nationally for targeted discussion; and
 - iii. inform the process of developing national P/CVE Strategies, as called for by the United Nations Security Council (S/RES/2178) in 2014.
- issuing the Call for Proposals; receiving and reviewing applications from potential Principal Recipients (PRs); and submitting to GCERF a National Application.

HOW GCERF SUPPORTS THE CSM

The GCERF Secretariat will work with key interlocutors in the beneficiary country government to:

- help establish the CSM;
- draft a basic CSM Action Plan, reflective of each country’s constraints, context, and resources;
- provide templates for key actions (e.g. Call for PRs, Grant Application, Grant Agreement);
- provide staff to speak at key launch events; and
- connect the CSM to the IRP, to facilitate the IRP’s assistance in reviewing and assessing potential PRs.

GCERF facilitates and supports the creation, establishment, and ongoing work of the CSM, including through proposed visits:

- to facilitate the creation and establishment of the CSM; to meet with a range of key stakeholders, including potential CSM members;
- to facilitate and support the national consultations process; and
- to facilitate and support the launch of the Call for PRs.