GCERF
Preventing Violent Extremism and Terrorism

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

GCERF FUNDING IN SYRIA

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION UNDER SYRIA'S NATIONAL RECOVERY PRIORITIES

The Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) invites legally registered Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Syria to submit Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for funding to implement community-based programmes that strengthen resilience against violent extremism and support rehabilitation, reintegration and social cohesion in line with Syria's National Recovery Priorities.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 4 October 2026

(11:59 PM Syria Time)

1. Background

The Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) is an independent global fund headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. it serves as the first global effort to support local, community-level initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience against violent extremist agendas. GCERF is committed to working in partnership and consultation with governments, civil society, and the private sector in partner countries to support national efforts to strengthen community resilience, social cohesion, and sustainable recovery while addressing factors that may contribute to violence and instability. GCERF strengthens community resilience by supporting local, community-level initiatives to address the drivers of violent extremism that promote social cohesion, community agency, equal access to opportunities, and an individual sense of purpose.

2. GCERF's Investment in Syria

GCERF's investment strategy is informed by various consultations with a wide array of stakeholders in Syria. These consultations were undertaken in close collaboration with local and national authorities, donors, local experts, the UN, key stakeholders, and communities to gain an in-depth understanding of priorities.

The investment strategy in Syria focuses on supporting community resilience, rehabilitation, and reintegration in line with Syria's national recovery priorities. It seeks to strengthen the implementation of national and local prevention frameworks and to enable vulnerable populations, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees from Northeast Syria, and at-risk communities, to reintegrate successfully, rebuild livelihoods, and contribute positively to social cohesion, stability, and recovery.

For the purposes of this Call, prevention activities refer exclusively to community-based approaches that strengthen resilience, social cohesion, inclusion, awareness, and protective factors within communities. Activities shall not include security-related functions, monitoring of individuals, collection of security-related information, or classification of individuals or groups.

3. Call for Expressions of Interest

GCERF invites legally registered Syrian Civil Society Organisations to submit Expressions of Interest to implement community-based prevention programmes that strengthen resilience to violent extremism and support Syria's recovery and reintegration efforts.

A. Consortium Model

Funding will be provided through a consortium model led by a Principal Recipient (PR), responsible for overall grant management, financial oversight, implementation coordination, monitoring, and reporting. PRs are strongly encouraged to partner with local organisations that have established community trust, relevant technical expertise, and access to vulnerable populations in the proposed implementation areas.

B. Single-Organisation Applications

Organisations may also apply independently if they can demonstrate sufficient technical, operational, and fiduciary capacity to deliver the proposed programme and achieve the intended results without consortium partners.

Under either modality, applicants are encouraged to propose integrated programmes that combine complementary interventions and address multiple dimensions of community resilience, rehabilitation, and reintegration, rather than focusing on a single thematic area.

4. Target Beneficiaries

Programmes should prioritise one or more of the following groups:

- Returnees and their families.
- Members of receiving communities.
- Youth experiencing social, economic, educational, or protection-related vulnerabilities that may increase exposure to exclusion, violence, or harmful coping mechanisms.
- Survivors of violence and trauma.
- Persons requiring rehabilitation and reintegration support.
- Teachers and educators.
- Vulnerable households experiencing socio-economic exclusion.

Note: For the purposes of this Call, returnees are individuals and families returning to communities of their choice following displacement, relocation, or residence outside their area of origin, as identified through applicable national frameworks and procedures and in coordination with the relevant authorities.

5. Geographic Focus

GCERF's initial investment in Syria will focus on selected governorates identified through consultations with government institutions and other national stakeholders, taking into account rehabilitation and reintegration needs, return dynamics, community resilience indicators, and operational feasibility.

Priority investment areas for this Call for Expressions of Interest are:

- **Damascus**
- **Deir ez-Zor**

- **Raqqa**
- **Aleppo**
- **Idlib**

Applicants are expected to demonstrate a strong understanding of the local context and conflict dynamics within their proposed areas of implementation. Proposed interventions should be tailored to the specific needs of target communities, including returnees, IDPs, local communities and other vulnerable population groups, while ensuring conflict-sensitive programming and prior coordination with relevant national and local authorities and implementation in accordance with applicable national procedures and legal frameworks.

6. Priority Programming Areas

The proposed interventions support Syria's National Recovery Priorities while remaining fully aligned with GCERF's mandate to prevent violent extremism through strengthening community resilience.

6.A. Resuming Essential Service Delivery

6.A.1 Community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

Support community-based mental health and psychosocial services through trauma-informed approaches that improve wellbeing, resilience and social inclusion. Possible interventions include:

- Community MHPSS services.
- Case management.
- Referral mechanisms.
- Child protection.
- Family support.
- Safe spaces.
- Community outreach.

6.A.2 Education and Life Skills

Strengthen resilience through non-formal education opportunities that promote inclusion, critical thinking and positive community engagement. Possible interventions include:

- Life skills education.
- Critical thinking.
- Peace education.
- Civic engagement.
- Youth clubs.

6.A.3 Legal Assistance and Civil Documentation

Improve access to legal services and civil documentation for the returnees to reduce barriers to education, protection, service access, and sustainable reintegration. Possible interventions include:

- Legal counselling.
- Documentation support.
- Civil registration.
- Referral services.
- Community legal awareness.

6.B. Building Social and Economic Resilience

6.B.1 Social Cohesion and Community Resilience

Support locally led initiatives that strengthen trust, dialogue and cooperation between communities. Possible interventions include:

- Community dialogue.
- Joint community initiatives.
- Mediation.
- Peacebuilding activities.

6.B.2 Rehabilitation and Reintegration

Support sustainable rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees and vulnerable populations through coordinated community-based approaches. Possible interventions include:

- Individual case management.
- Reintegration planning.

- Family counselling.
- Community preparedness.
- Community acceptance initiatives.
- Referral and case management systems.

6.B.3 Livelihoods and Economic Empowerment

Strengthen economic resilience through market-oriented livelihood opportunities linked to community stability. Possible interventions include:

- Vocational training.
- Entrepreneurship.
- Business development.
- Income-generating activities.
- Financial literacy.
- Women's economic empowerment.
- Youth employment initiatives.

7. Grant Size

Expected grant amounts: **Up to USD 500,000.** (Final allocation subject to available funding.)

8. Grant Duration

Projects are expected to have a duration of up to **18 months**

9. Eligible Applicants

Legally registered civil society organizations and local associations with proven experience in community initiatives, financial management, rehabilitation and reintegration, and programs to prevent violent extremism.

9.A. PREREQUISITES
(i) Experience in Resilience Building, Social cohesion, Rehabilitation, Reintegration, P/CVE
(ii) Appropriate legal registration in Syria

(iii)	Willingness to accept and fulfil the role of a Principal Recipient (if you apply as a consortium).
9.B. REQUIRED CAPABILITIES	
I.	Experience and capacity in supporting community-level initiatives that address the local drivers of violent extremism.
II.	Established trust relationships and credibility with the communities and population groups in the geographical areas identified in the Call.
III.	Experience and capacity in programme design and management.
IV.	Experience and capacity in financial management and in the management of and accounting for international donor grant funding.
V.	Experience in managing sub-recipients, assessing and enhancing their capacities.
VI.	Experience in designing and implementing community resilience, social cohesion, rehabilitation and reintegration, and prevention-focused programmes.

10. How to Submit an Expression of Interest

All Expressions of Interest must be duly filled and submitted electronically **in English** to **contact.syria@gcerf.org** by **4 October 2026.** The email should be marked as '**EOI-Syria-2026**' in the subject line. Failing to comply might compromise your submission.

11. Question and Answer Session

GCERF hosted an online Q&A session for potential applicants on **Sep 23, 2026 at 1 pm.** Here is the link.

12. Selection Process

Applications will undergo the following stages:

- Eligibility screening.
- Technical evaluation.

- Due diligence assessment.
- Capacity assessment.
- Final approval by GCERF.

GCERF reserves the right to fund one, multiple, or none of the submitted proposals.

13. Required Application Documents

1 > Copies of organisational registration documents
2 > Summary of the organisation's community-based work and relevant previous experience.
3 > Latest audit reports
4 > Proposed project organisational chart (specific to the project, not the overall organisation)
5 > Theory of Change (using the GCERF template)
6 > Completed Annex A (Application Form)
7 > Completed Annex B (Details of past projects)
8 > Completed Annex C (Proposed budget)

Incomplete applications or missing documents will result in disqualification.

Definitions

- **Prevention:** Prevention refers to non-kinetic, proactive, community-based measures that strengthen resilience, social cohesion, inclusion, and access to opportunities to reduce vulnerabilities that may contribute to violence, or social fragmentation.

- **Rehabilitation and Reintegration:** Rehabilitation and Reintegration (R&R) refers to community-based processes that support individuals and families to safely, sustainably, and dignifiedly (re)-integrate into community life through access to social, psychosocial, educational, legal, and economic services, while strengthening community acceptance.

- **Returnees**: returnees are individuals and families returning to communities of their choice following displacement, relocation, or residence outside their area of origin, as identified through applicable national frameworks and procedures and in coordination with the relevant authorities.

- **Violent Extremism:** For the purposes of this Call, violent extremism refers to ideologically motivated support for, endorsement of, or participation in violence against individuals, communities, or public institutions.