

BACKGROUND

Somalia has been significantly affected by prolonged insecurity and violent extremism (VE). According to the 2025 Global Terrorism Index, Somalia was assessed to be the seventh most affected country by terrorism. Although there has been significant progress over the past five years, terrorism, one of the most common manifestations of VE, remains a predominant threat to human and national security in the country.

Somalia became a GCERF partner country* in 2021. To date, GCERF has invested USD 5 million in the country, with active grants worth USD 2 million currently supporting two consortiums of Somali civil society organisations (CSOs).

GCERF is working with the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and the Federal Member States (FMS) of Hirshabelle and South West to support the implementation of Somalia's National Strategy on PVE. Our current investment focus is on reducing the drivers of violent extremism by building community resilience, particularly in newly liberated areas.

GCERF pioneers a unique model of investment designed to promote a whole-of-society approach and ensure the sustainability of our programmes. Under this model, in each partner country, we support national governments in establishing a steering committee called the Country Support Mechanism (CSM).

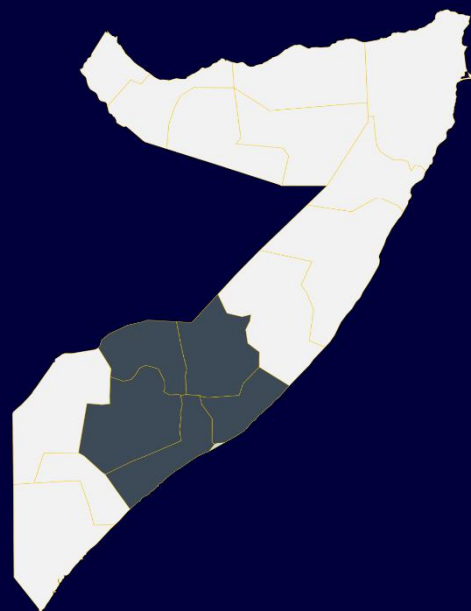
In Somalia, the CSM is chaired by the Tubsan National Centre for PCVE.

GCERF'S INVESTMENT STRATEGY IN SOMALIA

GCERF is in the process of developing a revised Investment Strategy for Somalia. The drivers behind VE are complex, but three of the most widely identified in Somalia are:

1. Perceptions of marginalisation
2. Limited economic opportunities
3. Governance and security challenges

GCERF grantees focus on building community resilience to violent extremism through context-specific P/CVE activities; and enhancing local capacities for resilience and providing vulnerable individuals with social, economic, and reconciliation opportunities.



WHERE

- South West
- Hirshabelle

WHO

- CSOs and Community-based organisations (CBOs)
- Youth and their support networks
- Women, men, boys, and girls in newly liberated areas
- Clan/ traditional and religious leaders
- Private sector and business networks

*Partner countries are those in which GCERF funds civil society organisations to implement initiatives aimed at preventing violent extremism.

CURRENT GRANTS



IMPLEMENTED BY		PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	
Principal Recipient: Elman Peace Centre (EPC)		Enhance the capacity of women and youth leaders to take a proactive role in community reconciliation structures and P/CVE activities.	
Sub-recipients: Jubba Valley Institute (JVI) and Youth Empowerment Education Lifeline Organization (YELO)		Strengthen trust and collaboration among communities by implementing sustainable, locally driven Community Based Reconciliation(CBR) initiatives	
		Support women and youth in contributing to economic diversification and accessing livelihoods by establishing a business network	
AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION		GRANT AMOUNT	PERIOD OF THE GRANT
Jowhar, Adan Yabal and Matabaan, Hirshabelle		USD 1,000,000	January 2024 – March 2026

IMPLEMENTED BY		PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES	
Principal Recipient: African Network for Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect-Somalia (ANPPCAN-SOM)		Strengthen peacebuilding infrastructures and improve relationships within and between liberated communities to foster rehabilitation and reintegration	
Sub-recipients: Somali Youth Vision (SYV) and Scaling-Up Humanitarian Assistance Development (SUHAD)		Improve socio-economic conditions and increase the inclusion of vulnerable individuals to reduce the appeal of VE and ideologies as viable alternatives.	
		Increase awareness and build capacity in the local government to support communities with R&R processes.	
AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION		GRANT AMOUNT	PERIOD OF THE GRANT
Baidoa and Xudur, South West		USD 1,000,000	January 2024 – December 2025

STORY OF CHANGE

LEADERSHIP TRAINING: A YOUTH BECOMES A CHANGE-MAKER

Hussein Aden (pseudonym) felt lost and isolated after a close friend joined Al Shabaab. This event triggered a deep emotional turmoil that led Hussein to withdraw from social interactions and show signs of depression.

Recognising his vulnerability, EPC staff selected him to participate in the programme. Throughout the programme, he has received various sessions, including trauma healing and PCVE education. He has actively participated in activities and demonstrated his commitment to promoting peace in the community.

Following the training, his dedication and skills were acknowledged, and he was hired as a teacher. This role not only supports his reintegration into society but also enables him to contribute directly to the education of young people, embedding P/CVE principles he learned through the programme into his work in the school environment.

These sessions covered various topics, including conflict resolution, communication and leadership skills. Following the training, participants have reported significant skill development, indicating that they have acquired new skills in dialogue, mediation and facilitation to address conflict and promote peace in their communities more effectively.



Leadership coaching for women and youth leaders

KEY RESULTS

Cumulative from 2021 till April 2025

5

grants in four years to 12 civil-society organisations, including principal and sub-recipients

715

participants received training in leadership, conflict resolution, and peace advocacy, equipping them to address local grievances, promote dialogue, and counter the influence of violent extremist groups within their communities

930

at-risk individuals received economic or livelihood support to strengthen their economic resilience against violent extremism

1,410

community members engaged through interfaith, intercommunity, intergenerational dialogues to foster solidarity and reject false narratives often used by violent extremist groups

11,250

returnees and survivors of violent extremism received counselling and psychological support to help them recover and reintegrate into society

GCERF'S VALUE PROPOSITION

GCERF'S UNIQUE MODEL OF INVESTMENT PRIORITISES:

Community-ownership and localisation: We invest in trusted grassroots civil society organisations that prioritise the needs and grievances of communities most affected by violent extremism. Many of these organisations have never received international funding before.

Sustainability: Our programmes involve all groups of society and strengthens trust between government, civil society and community members to build stronger, more resilient societies. This ensures that initiatives and structures continue to be relevant and effective.

Robust monitoring and evaluation processes: Our multi-layered monitoring and evaluation system, operating locally and globally, provides continuous feedback on programme effectiveness, identifies areas for improvement, and ensures objectives are consistently met.

Knowledge sharing: Our global network of civil society organisations working on PVE facilitates the exchange of good practices and lessons learned, fostering collaboration and enhancing the effectiveness of interventions. We also share our experiences through our participation in various conferences, publishing of articles and research papers in reputed journals to advance the understanding of PVE.

Capacity strengthening: We strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations to manage large-scale grants and implement effective initiatives, while also enhancing government capacity to develop comprehensive, holistic strategies to prevent violent extremism.



GCERF
Preventing Violent Extremism
and Terrorism

Find out more about becoming an investor, our work, and the collective impact we make at:
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