



GCERF

Preventing Violent Extremism
and Terrorism

COUNTRY PROFILE SOMALIA

OCTOBER 2025

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).

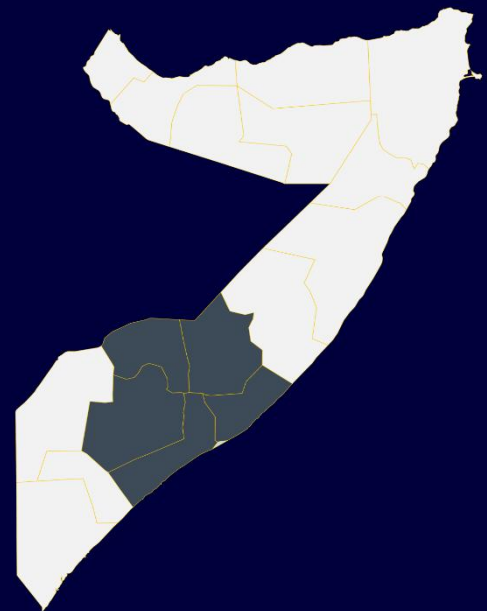
In Somalia, the CSM is chaired by the Tubsan National Centre for PCVE.

GCERF'S INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR 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-recipient: Youth Empowerment Education Lifeline Organisation (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

FROM TRAUMA TO TRIUMPH: A STORY OF RESILIENCE AND RENEWED HOPE

When violent extremism forced 24-year-old Muna and her family to flee their home in El-Hareeri district following its recapture by Al-Shabaab in 2024, her world was shattered. Witnessing the brutality of the militants left her traumatised and uncertain about the future. Relocated to Jowhar, Muna struggled with fear and despair until she found a lifeline through Elman Peace’s Women and Youth as Agents of Change project. The programme, implemented in newly liberated territories, aimed to rebuild lives by addressing trauma, fostering economic resilience, and reducing vulnerability to violent extremism. Muna attended community trauma healing dialogues, where she connected with other displaced women and began processing her pain.

Determined to rebuild her life, Muna enrolled in the project’s vocational training in tailoring (TVET). With no prior experience, she dedicated herself to mastering the craft, discovering not only a skill but a newfound passion. Soon, she began sewing from her family’s home in Jowhar, creating designs for young girls, women, and even bridal wear. Though still a student, her small business grew, and her dream of opening a larger shop became a driving force. But Muna’s transformation went beyond economic empowerment.

Having experienced the psychological toll of violent extremism, she founded an all-girls mental health support network, offering mentorship to young women struggling with displacement and loss. “I wanted others to know that their pain doesn’t define them,” she said. “Healing is possible, and so is a better future.” Muna’s story exemplifies how targeted interventions can break cycles of despair and reduce the appeal of extremist narratives. Through addressing trauma, providing livelihood opportunities, and fostering peer support, the project empowered her to reclaim her agency and, in turn, inspire others. Today, she stands as a testament to resilience, proving that even in the face of devastation, new beginnings are possible.

“This program didn’t just teach me a skill—it gave me back my purpose, Now, I know I can shape my own destiny.” Muna.



TVET Trainees

KEY RESULTS

5

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

930

people receiving livelihoods or economic support

2,412

people joining dialogues, consultations, roundtables across religious, ethnic and generational lines

840

people trained on PVE, conflict sensitivity, critical thinking, conflict resolution skills and early warning

622

participants trained on trauma- and violence-informed care, and rehabilitation and reintegration services

11,249

Individuals received counselling or psychosocial support

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.



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