**CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

EAST AFRICA LEARNING PARTNER

*GCERF is looking for a non-profit organisation based in Kenya and/or Somalia to perform the role of Learning Partner (LP), supporting GCERF’s portfolio of grants to civil society organisations in the region*.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: August 31, 2025**

**1. Background**

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. Operating at the nexus of security and development, GCERF is committed to working in partnership and consultation with governments and civil society to support the implementation of national strategies to address the local drivers of violent extremism.

GCERF grants are generally issued to Primary Recipients (PRs) who lead consortia that include Sub-Recipients (SRs). 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, GCERF support national governments in establishing a steering committee called the Country Support Mechanism (CSM) in each partner country.

**2. GCERF’s Current Investment in Kenya and Somalia**

GCERF investments in Kenya and Somalia began in 2018 and 2021, respectively, and currently include grants to five consortia (three in Kenya and two in Somalia) worth USD5m. GCERF is seeking a Learning Partner to monitor project delivery and provide support to improve results in challenging geographic areas. In Kenya, desired support would focus on a grant led by a PR who will issue multiple sub-grants to community-based organisations (CSOs) working in five counties: Lamu, Mandera, Marsabit, Tana River and Wajir. In Somalia, activities are being implemented in South West (Baidoa and Xudur) and Hirshabelle (Jowhar and Matabaan).

**3. Call for Expressions of Interest**

This call for Expressions of Interest is seeking to identify a **non-profit** academic or research institution, think-tank or organisation to become GCERF’s Learning Partner for Kenya and Somalia.

The overall objective for the Learning Partner is to facilitate monitoring and increase learning and knowledge within and between the portfolios. Specifically, the Learning Partner will:

1. **Conduct in-Situ Monitoring of Hard-to-Reach Areas (Top Priority)**

The Learning Partner will be primarily responsible for conducting regular, in-person monitoring visits to implementation areas where GCERF staff and National Advisors cannot operate due to insecurity or limited access. These field visits are essential to ensure oversight, learning, and accountability in critical locations.

The Learning Partner **must conduct at least four on-site visits annually (i.e., one per quarter) for each implementation location**, including but not limited to Matabaan, Jowhar, Hudur, and Baidoa in Somalia. For Kenya, the locations are in Lamu, Mandera, Marsabit, Tana River, and Wajir counties. Using trusted local presence or mobile teams suited to the context, each visit should assess programme delivery, community engagement, risk factors, and any signs of diversion or unintended outcomes.

This work must be conducted independently with careful regard for security, neutrality, and sensitivity to local dynamics. **After each visit, the Learning Partner is expected to produce and submit a report** (using either GCERF’s existing tools for the visits or a newly developed tool), highlighting observations, key points, and potential actions on issues (if any) identified, to improve and learn from the programme. Findings from the visits will directly inform GCERF’s risk management and programme support strategies. The Learning Partner should demonstrate the operational capacity and local understanding necessary to carry out such monitoring reliably and safely.

1. **Establish a remote monitoring system**

As part of their Expression of Interest (EOI), applicants are expected to propose an initial concept for a remote monitoring system, as outlined in the application form. **This process is not intended to replace in-person visits but rather to complement them by maintaining regular information flow between the field missions.** The design and implementation of the remote monitoring system should consider financial and practical sustainability.

It should support remote data collection, flag early warning signals, and promote adaptive programming.

The remote monitoring system must be:

* **User-friendly**, considering the technological literacy of local stakeholders;
* **Cost-effective and sustainable**, with ongoing operational costs potentially covered through grantee budgets;
* **Technically feasible**, based on the infrastructure and digital capacity available in the programme areas;
* **Independent and credible**, to ensure objectivity and data reliability.

The system will be developed and tested by the Learning Partner during on-site visits. Field validation is essential to ensure that remote data accurately reflects ground realities. Insights from this testing phase should be used to refine the system and improve its long-term effectiveness.

The goal is to gradually build a practical, sustainable monitoring tool that supports GCERF’s efforts by reinforcing both accountability and learning across implementation sites.

1. **Facilitate and provide logistical support to in-person knowledge-sharing events in Kenya**

On a periodic basis, GCERF seeks to bring together PRs and SRs to hold knowledge-sharing events called ‘Communities of Practice’. EoIs should include estimated costs of holding one such event for Kenyan grantees in Kenya in 2026.

1. **Undertake rapid needs assessments (RNAs) to inform decision-making by the Somalia Country Support Mechanism (CSMs)**

The CSM is a steering committee formed of representatives of GCERF’s partner and donor country representatives that oversees the strategic direction of GCERF in each portfolio. In Somalia, the CSM may call upon the services of the Learning Partner to undertake desk-based rapid needs assessments (RNAs) that will inform where and how funding is invested.

**Grant Size**

GCERF plans to sign grant agreements with the Learning Partner by early December. GCERF will use the Core Funding Mechanism (CFM) to provide the grant. The grant amount ceiling is a maximum of $250,000 USD.

**Grant Duration**

The grants will be 24 months in duration.

**Structure**

The Learning Partner is recommended to propose a consortium or structure that reflects the requisite variety of skills, knowledge and experience to effectively deliver the intended workstreams.

Due to GCERF’s commitment to fund local actors, only applications led by and including entities from Kenya or Somalia will be considered. The leading organisation is expected to be a non-profit organisation, but for-profit organisations can still be part of the consortium as sub-recipients.

**Expressions of Interest**

Applicants are asked to demonstrate that they meet GCERF’s established prerequisites and that they possess the required capabilities to be a PR of GCERF funding.

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| **PREREQUISITES** |
| 1. Appropriate legal registration (registration in both Kenya and Somalia is required. However, if the principal recipient is registered in only one of these countries, it may propose a sub-recipient that holds registration in the other country). |
| 1. Willingness to accept and fulfil the role of a Learning Partner (as described herein); |
| 1. The principal recipient must be a non-profit organisation; |
| **REQUIRED CAPABILITIES** |
| 1. Thorough knowledge of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) methodologies and tools; |
| 1. Experience in conducting third-party monitoring and external evaluations, especially on projects related to Peace and/or P/CVE; |
| 1. Expert understanding of current trends and challenges in P/CVE in Kenya and Somalia, and community-based approaches to programming and implementation; |
| 1. In-depth knowledge of the political and security context of Kenya and Somalia; |
| 1. Demonstrated ability to conduct field research in insecure or hard-to-reach areas, including risk assessment and mitigation planning. |
| 1. Track record in capturing, systematising, and disseminating lessons learned and best practices from PVE programming. |
| 1. Ability to draft concise reports and communicate clearly (including visualisation of results and findings when feasible); |
| 1. Ability to interact with various stakeholders and clients in a sensitive and effective way; |
| 1. Experience in working with civil society organisations; |
| 1. Experience in working with governments and multilateral organisations similar to GCERF is an added advantage. |
| 1. Experience in publishing reports (evaluations, research); |
| 1. Physical presence in Kenya and Somalia is achieved through the organisation's headquarters or local offices in the countries. |

**How to Submit an Expression of Interest**

**Please see attached Annex 1 (application & supporting documents), Annex 2 (past projects), and Annex 3 (budget outline).**

All Expressions of Interest must be duly filled and submitted electronically to [**call.somalia@gcerf.org**](mailto:call.somalia@gcerf.org), with copy to **call.kenya@gcerf.org**, by **August 31,2025.** The email should be titled ‘**EOI-Learning Partner** **– East Africa’**. Failing to comply might compromise your submission.

We plan to hold an online information session on **August 18, 2025**. If you wish to participate, submit your request to [**contact.somalia@gcerf.org**](mailto:contact.somalia@gcerf.org)**,**  with copy to [**contact.kenya@gcerf.org**](mailto:contact.kenya@gcerf.org)**.**

Informal enquiries may be submitted to [**contact.somalia@gcerf.org**](mailto:contact.somalia@gcerf.org)**.**

Following the review of submissions, shortlisted applicants will be contacted for due diligence.