WESTERN BALKANS (ALBANIA, KOSOVO, AND NORTH MACEDONIA)

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

FROM POTENTIAL GRANTEES OF GCERF FUNDING IN THE REGION

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

GCERF invites Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to apply for funding focused on implementing programmes that enable the environment for rehabilitation and reintegration (R&R) of returned foreign terrorist fighters (RFTFs) and their families

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 27 September 2020 - 11:59 PM (CET)

1. Background

The Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) is an independent Swiss foundation established to serve as 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, civil society, and the private sector in partner countries to support national strategies to address the local drivers of violent extremism. 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 individual's sense of purpose.

GCERF began its first investments in the Western Balkans in November 2017 with two rounds of funding in Kosovo. Out of the first two rounds of funding, GCERF funded five grants for a total commitment of USD 2.5 million over three years. These programmes cover a wide range of prevention topics, focusing on all four of GCERF's leverage points (Social Cohesion, Community Agency, Sense of Purpose, and Equal Access to Opportunities). GCERF's grants contributed to community-based reintegration of RFTFs and their families[1]. The grants have been supported along the way by a dedicated Country Support Mechanism (CSM) that includes members of the Government of Kosovo, civil society, and the donor community.

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[1] *Foreign terrorist fighters are defined by UN-Sec Council Counterrorsim Committee as individuals who travel to a State other than their State of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training, including in connection with armed conflict".* *https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/focus-areas/foreign-terrorist-fighters/* *RFTFs therefore refer to men those who have returned or been repatriated to their country of citizenship.*

2. GCERF's Investment in Western Balkans

Following a multi-stakeholder consultative process, GCERF has pursued a regional program in Western Balkans to fund grants focused on R&R of RFTFs and their families, while strengthening the resilience of communities to violent extremism. The regional program is the first of its kind for GCERF and the approach promotes shared learning and collaboration, or a "Community of Practice". The regional approach builds on existing initiatives and promotes more effective capacity building and learning among and between government and civil society actors.

Albania and North Macedonia became GCERF partner countries in April 2020. In June 2020, the GCERF's Governing Board approved the GCERF's Regional Strategy for Investment in the Western Balkans. The strategy is intended to cover Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia with a possibility for later expansion into Bosnia Herzegovina (BiH), Montenegro, and Serbia,focusing on community-based reintegration and prevention of violent extremism as relates to Far-Right Extremism and Ethno-Nationalism. The investment strategy is valid from June 2020 through June 2023 and is provided as a separate attachment to this EOI.

The strategy is based on needs identified by government institutions and representatives responsible for P/CVE and initiatives related to RFTFs; a third-party Regional Needs Assessment (2020), which was commissioned by GCERF; extensive consultation with regional representatives of GCERF donors, and a Theory of Change workshop attended by the Governments of Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia, GCERF donors, and CSOs, as well as international organisations working in the P/CVE space (the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)).

3. Country Alignment and Coordination

In implementing the strategy, GCERF will coordinate with the national governments and local authorities in Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia, as well as other key actors involved in R&R of RFTFs and their families, to include the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism, IOM, OSCE, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), and regional and in-country donors. To ensure ownership, impact, and effective coordination, GCERF established a Regional Accelerated Funding Panel (RAFP). The RAFP is comprised of representatives from the national government of each partner country, donor community, other regional coordination mechanisms such as the Western Balkan Integrative Internal Security and Governance (IISG), and GCERF's International Review Panel (IRP). GCERF will work with RAFP members to avoid duplication of R&R initiatives, ensure that grant activities are aligned with existing R&R strategies as well as national and local strategies for prevention of violent extremism, and to disseminate knowledge originating from the programmes.

4. Call for Expression of Interest

GCERF, in collaboration with the RAFP in the Western Balkans, is pleased to announce a call for expressions of interest for CSOs in Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia to develop consortium and become a Principal Recipient (PR) of GCERF funding from GCERF's Accelerated Funding Mechanism (AFM). Under the AFM, GCERF will fund consortia of CSOs to implement initiatives aimed at enabling the environment for rehabilitation and reintegration of RFTFs and their families. Consortium grants are managed and supported by the PRs who are the legal recipients of GCERF funding and provide funding to other consortium members or "Sub-Recipients" (SR). The PR will be responsible for managing R&R programming in either Albania, Kosovo, or North Macedonia, but **NOT** regionally. There may be some opportunities for a PR in Albania/Kosovo/North Macedonia, for example, to engage a technical service provider/partner that could support GCERF grantees in multiple countries.

In line with the **Investment Strategy** and **Regional Needs Assessment**, the focus of the investment will be:

Who:

- **Men, women and children[2] who returned from Syria and Iraq** to Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia – so-called returned foreign terrorist fighters (RFTFs), both voluntarily (2012-2018) and repatriated (2019-2020), including those in detention centres and prisons;
- **Family members** of individuals who left to join the war in Syria and Iraq; and
- **Communities** receiving RFTFs and their families.

Where:

- **Albania (countrywide, with some focus on Pogradec)**
- **North Macedonia (Countrywide, with focus on North-Western parts of the country and from Skopje to the border with Kosovo)**
- **Kosovo (border areas between Kosovo and North Macedonia as well as border areas between ethnic-Albanian and ethnic-Serbian communities, such as Mitrovica)**

What:

GCERF will fund CSOs and local associations to implement programmes that facilitate safe, healthy, and dignified rehabilitation and reintegration (R&R) of returning foreign terrorist fighters (RFTFs) and their families while creating resilience to extremism in the wider communitz over the long-term. CSO actions will be implemented in collaboration

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[2] While children, and in many cases women, are generally considered victims and therefore not culpable, each individual while be screened by the appropriate government authorities and determinations will be made regarding culpability. The point to make is that no individual is deemed innocent until properly screened by the appropriate government authorities.

with government authorities and aligned with existing R&R strategies. R&R interventions will contribute to the following objectives:

National and Local level Collaboration

- Contribute to the implementation of national and local strategies to prevent violent extremism and support community based rehabillitation and reintgreation of FTFs and their families.
- Foster an enabling environment for resocialisation of RFTFs and their families while strengthening community resilience to radicalisation and prevent recidivism to violent extremism, including Far-Right Extremism and Ethno-Nationalism.
- Inform the broader field of practice and contribute to a national and regional ecosystem of actors capable of assessing, preventing, and countering extremist reengagement and other forms of violence over the long-term.

Collaboration with Front-Line Workers and Communities

- Provide access to physical, mental, and psychosocial support services to RFTFs and their families to recover from developmental, mental, and physical injuries sustained and to maintain physical, mental, and spiritual health.
- Promote family cohesion for RFTFs, through offering family education, counselling, and therapy support.
- Contribute to advancing the social and economic capital for RFTFs and their families to address basic needs and enhance the quality of life.
- Increase access to educational and development opportunities through formal education and soft skills for RFTFs and their families.

Grant size

GCERF plans to sign grant agreements with CSOs by the end of 2020. GCERF will use the Accelerated Funding Mechanism (AFM) to provide grants to at least one consortium in each partner country (Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia). The initial investment will be between USD 400,000-700,000 per consortium. GCERF plans to provide additional funding to the selected consortia throughout grant implementation, based on availability of funding, identified needs per country, and the capacity of the consortia to successfully implement planned interventions.

Grant duration

The grants will be no less than 18 months and no more 36 months in duration.

Grantee

Each consortium should be led by a PR which will be responsible for providing subgrants to other consortium members (Sub-Recipients). Priority will be given to consortia whose

members have experience implementing socioeconomic and governance programmes, specifically in the context of preventing violent extremism. Experience with implementing rehabilitation and reintegration programming is also highly desirable.

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.

PREREQUISITES

(i)   Appropriate legal registration of the consortium lead in one of the three countries for this call.

(ii)   Willingness and capacity to accept and fulfil the role of a PR (as described above).

CAPABILITIES

(iii)   Established relationships and credibility with the relevant national and local authorities, institutions and front liners (e.g. schools, psychologists, social workers, etc.), and other stakeholders involved in R&R of RFTFs and their families.

(iv)   Experience and capacity in community-level initiatives focused on strengthening resilience against violent extremism and particularly on R&R of RFTFs and their families.

(v)   Experience and capacity in programme management.

(vi)   Experience and capacity in financial management and in the management of and accounting for donor grant funding.

(vii)   Experience in managing sub-recipients and assessing and enhancing their capacities.

(viii) Willingness and capacity to engage international partners as sub-recipients and service providers.

How to Submit an Expression of Interest

Please see below Annex 1.

All Expressions of Interest must be duly filled and submitted electronically to **call.westernbalkans@ gcerf.org** by **27 September 2020**. The email should be marked as '**EOI-ALBANIA**', '**EOI-KOSOVO**', or '**EOI-NORTH MACEDONIA**' - in the subject line – depending on which country you are applying for. Failing to do so might compromise your submission.

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted to conduct a due diligence.

Annex 1 - Application

1. **Organisational Information**

Organisations' full name			
Type of organisation (national, international)			
Date of Establishment			
Annual Budget Over the Last Two Years (USD)	2018		2019
Number of Full-Time Employees *Please share an organogram			
Organisation's Headquarter's Address			
Website			
Social Media Accounts			
Contact Person	Name		
	Position		
	E-mail Address		
	Phone Number		

Organisation's strategic priorities	
Please state your organisation's official mission: (100 words max)	
Does your organisation have a strategic plan? (Yes/No)	
What period is covered by the strategic plan?	
What are the key strategic priorities of your organisation? (100 words max)	
What are the main areas of specific expertise for which your organisation is best recognised? (200 words max)	

2. Organisational Capacity

	Name	Main role and Added value
Please describe your experience being a Consortium lead. (200 words Max)		
What capacity building do you envision for partners? (max 100 words)		
Which proposed organizations will join the consortium as smaller partners?		

Do you have a written policy or guidelines covering (100 words per stage max)		
	Yes/No	Comments (a brief description of the main points covered)
Needs identification and analysis		
Baseline Assessment		
Security		
Project Monitoring & Evaluation		
Gender and Diversity		
Child Protection		
Youth		
Identification and selection of sub-grantees[3]		
Capacity Development of sub-grantees		
Operational management of sub-grantees (M&E)		
Financial management of sub-grantees		

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[3] The process for identification of a subgrantee should mirror your organizations policy for competitive tenders.

The number of Finance staff in the headquarters:	
The number of M&E staff in the headquarters:	
Is there an internal audit function within the organisation? If yes, who does the head of internal audit report to?	

Do you have a written policy or guidelines covering the areas below ?

Accounting and Financial Reporting	Budget & Cash management	HR management	Procurement of goods and services	Fraud, bribery, corruption	Conflict of Interest

Who were the three largest donors of your organisation (total value of signed contribution)?

2018 (Name)	(USD)	2019 (Name)	(USD)	2020 (Name)	(USD)

Statutory audits (Please submit copies of your last two audit reports with this form).

Period covered	Name of audit firm.	Please specify any international affiliation the audit firm may have.	Audit opinion	Are any audit recommendations still open? If yes, when will you fully implement them?
Previous fiscal year				
The fiscal year before the previous				

3. Proposed Programme Concept

Proposed Programme Title	
Proposed Duration (months)	
Proposed Geographic Location [4]	
Preliminary Funding Request (USD)	
Proposed Programme Objective	

1.   Context of Violent Extremism (maximum 300 words) Add space below where needed.

In the Proposed Geographic Location above – the country and districts where you propose to implement R&R initiatives:

1.   Provide an analysis of the RFTF problem set as relates to your country, including challenges and approaches to rehabilitation and community-based reintegration of RFTFs and their families.

2.   What evidence/experience/expertise do you have in R&R of RFTFs and their families? √

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[4] Please specify the country and districts where you propose to implement R&R initiatives.

3. What are the key approaches to R&R that your programme aims to address?

2. **Focus Population Group(s) (minimum 1 group; maximum 4 groups)**

Please list the groups of people who you plan to work with and please justify why (please select from the population groups listed in the call for EOI):
1. Group 1
2. Group 2
3. Group 3
4. Group 4

3. **Theory of Change (maximum 400 words) Add space below where needed.**

A Theory of Change (ToC) is an explanation of how and why your proposed programme will achieve the planned results and contribute to the prevention of VE. A clear ToC helps to describe the logic from the starting point (Problems Identified) to the action (Outputs) to the change you want to achieve (Outcomes). It also defines your Assumptions by identifying potential barriers to the delivery of your programme. Please describe the programme's ToC, using the below steps and produce a ToC flowchart like the one in Guidance Note. Please see Guidance Note for details on how to complete these steps as part of a group process for your organisation. Guidance Note also includes an example of a ToC flow chart that would be the final product of completing these steps.

- **Problems**: The problems are usually related to the drivers/factors that led FTFs to travel to foreign wars and challenges to rehabilitation and reintegration that they and their families face upon return, including acceptance from the receiving communities. The analysis should be context specific. Since you may have multiple groups that you plan to work with as listed in 1.2, you may have multiple problems. Please describe the problems you intend to address with a brief statement for each problem.

- **Outputs**: Outputs are the immediate, visible, and concrete results of your activities. Please describe the major outputs you plan to deliver. For example, an Output could be a professional training workshop you plan to deliver to one of your population groups listed in 1.2 such as returned women. This workshop Output is the end and visible result of the various activities you may need to complete to deliver that Output such as printing the workshop materials, renting the workshop space, and paying the trainer.

- **Outcomes**: Outcomes are the expected results of your Outputs. They represent a change in a group of people, organisations, or places that is expected from delivering the Outputs to them. Your Outcomes should contribute to rehabilitation and reintegration of RFTFs and their families such as addressing a challenge faced by them or a factor that led them to travel to the foreign warzone in the first place. Please describe all the Outcomes you intend to achieve within the duration of the grant. Outcomes should also consider long-term sustainability of the proposed interventions.

- **Evidence/Experience/Expertise:** For each of your Outputs please provide evidence or experience/expertise (maximum 3 sources of evidence/experience/expertise per Output) from your organization that supports your claim that if your organization delivers the Output, you are confident it will lead to the achievement of the Outcome. Based on your review of that evidence or your experience/expertise, also indicate your level of confidence in achieving those Outcomes (high, moderate, or low). This evidence/experience/expertise is critical for an effective ToC. Without it, your organization not be able to show why you are doing what you are doing? See Guidance Note for examples on the coloured 'evidence' arrows between Outputs and Outcomes. Your sources of evidence/experience/expertise for each Output can be listed on a separate page of your ToC flow chart. See Guidance Note for an example.

- **Assumptions**: Assumptions are conditions that you think are needed or necessary for the success of your programme. These assumptions could be barriers that could come up that would either impede the delivery of your Outputs or the achievement of your Outcomes but are assumed to not arise. These barriers would arise beyond the control of your programme. You should review each of your Outputs and Outcomes and identify potential barriers that may arise in impeding their delivery or achievement. These potential barriers could be listed on a separate page of your ToC flow chart.

See Guidance Note for an example.

4. Intervention Strategy (maximum 500 words) √

1. Please explain if and what additional expertise does your organization need to manage the proposed programme? How do you plan to address them? (e.g. hire a psychologist, an expert in R&R)
2. Please describe how the organisation will ensure access and select individuals from the proposed population groups.
3. Is there a risk that they are stigmatised? If yes, how will you address this?
4. Please describe the planned implementation strategy, including how you plan to enhance community acceptance to RFTFs and their families.
5. How do you plan to collaborate with other actors (e.g. national authorities responsible for R&R, religious authorities, psycho-social workers and other front liners, educational institutions, etc.)? What experience do you have working with these actors?
6. How do you plan to address the role of gender?
7. How do you plan to address human rights related concerns?
8. How the principle of Do-No-harm will be reflected during different stages of programme development and implementation?
9. What are the top three risks within your programme's control that you foresee and how do you plan to mitigate them?
10. How will the proposed programme contribute to the National Strategy on P/CVE and CT?
11. Which of the three GCERF's approaches to R&R does your proposed programme relate to? (please refer to GCERF's Investment Strategy in Western Balkans)

5. Expertise of the Organisation (maximum400 words)

What makes your organisation well positioned to implement the proposed programme?

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Annex A - Attachments required

Please kindly attach the following documents to your application:

- Official registration of the organisation √
- Latest Audit Report
- The Organogram of the Organization √

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Annex B – Past Projects

Please only describe projects that your organisation has directly worked on during the past 36 months. Please enter the relevant and requested information into the table below.

SN	Objective of the Project	Donor	Budget (USD)	Duration	Location	Was it P/CVE, CT, or R&R relevant?
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						

Add rows as required

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Annex C – Proposed Budget Outline

Note: When providing your estimated budget, take into consideration the quantity of Outputs you plan to deliver for your population groups listed in 1.2 as well as the geographical areas and size of the population groups that those Outputs cover. This budget estimation would involve estimating the cost of delivering the various activities that lead up to the delivery of the Output to the population group. Also take into consideration the costs associated with measuring the Outcomes for your population groups.

Preliminary Funding Request (please adjust the number of Outcomes and Outputs based on your proposed programme and ToC flow chart)		
	Description	Total Amount (USD)
Outcome 1	Note: Budgeting for Outcomes is not required. Only Outputs.	
Output 1		
Output 2		
Output 3		
Outcome 2		
Output 1		
(Consortium) Management Costs (if applicable) Including personnel costs, M&E baselines etc		
TOTAL		

Declarations in support of application for the role of Principal Recipient

Has your Organization previously applied to GCERF (Yes/No)

If your organisation is selected as a Principal Recipient, you will be expected to form a Consortium of potential Sub-Recipients that meets the expectations of both a GCERF Consortium and Sub-Recipients. A Principal Recipient is responsible for coordinating the development of a Consortium Proposal. A Principal Recipient is expected to establish written agreements with each potential Sub-Recipient prior to the submission of a Consortium Proposal.

By signing this Expression of Interest you confirm:

- your organisation acknowledges and is able to accept the role of a Principal Recipient as described above;
- that the information provided is correct to the best of your knowledge;
- you have read and agree to comply with the terms described in the GCERF code of conduct.

Name	
Designation/Position	
Organization	
Signature	