



CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

GCERF FUNDING IN IRAQ

SUPPORT FOR REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

GCERF and the National Committee for Countering Violent Extremism (NCCVE) in Iraq invite national Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Iraq to apply for funding to implement prevention programmes that improve the overall community environment and facilitate community-led Rehabilitation and Reintegration (R&R) programmes in coordination with the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM).

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5 June 2026

(11:59 PM Iraq time)

1. Background

The Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) is an independent global fund headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, that serves 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 an individual sense of purpose.

2. GCERF's Investment in Iraq

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

The investment strategy in Iraq focuses on supporting the implementation of the

national CVE strategy within the defined perimeters of the governorate and district level plans of action, and to assist with the Rehabilitation and Reintegration (R&R) of populations vulnerable to radicalisation and recruitment, including IDPs and people returning from Northeast Syria.

This call focuses on supporting the R&R of returnees from Syria.

3. Call for Expression of Interest

GCERF is pleased to announce a call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for civil society organisations (CSOs) that are already registered and authorised to operate in Iraq. The fund will be used to address the priorities outlined below. In line with the Investment Strategy in Iraq, this investment will focus on:

1. Strengthening national and local capacity for rehabilitation and reintegration, including enhancing case management systems.
2. Providing targeted rehabilitation and reintegration support for vulnerable women and child returnees.

These initiatives aim to strengthen case management-based rehabilitation and reintegration (R&R) efforts, enhance data-driven coordination among stakeholders, and foster a more enabling environment for R&R, while promoting community acceptance and resilience against violent extremism. They will also build on the **digital case management system** established in Phase 1 by expanding its functionality, reach, and inclusivity. The ultimate goal is synchronising existing platforms and gradual institutionalisation and transfer of system ownership and management to relevant government entity(ies) to ensure sustainability and national ownership.

Funding will be provided **exclusively** through a consortium model, led by a Principal Recipient (PR) that manages funds and supports Sub-Recipients (SRs). Consortium grants are managed and overseen by the Principal Recipient, who serves as the legal recipient of GCERF funding and disburses funds to other consortium members ("Sub-Recipients," or SRs). The PR is responsible for overall grant management, including coordinating and implementing activities carried out by SRs.

PRs are strongly encouraged to form consortia with multiple grassroots organisations that are based in the target communities and have established credibility with local stakeholders.

Beneficiaries:

- **Returnees from Northeast Syria**
 - Men, children and women, especially caregivers and female-headed households
- **Frontline Workers** (System Users and Service Providers)
 - Social workers, psychologists and local authority representatives engaged in engaged in direct service provision (including MHPSS and reintegration-focused social activities), as well as case identification, referrals, and follow-up through the digital platform.
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- **Host Community Leaders and Influencers**
 - Individuals shaping community perceptions to promote acceptance, reduce stigma, and strengthen social cohesion
- **Local and Informal Authorities**
 - Religious leaders
 - Sub-district, district, and governorate council members
 - Tribal leaders
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Geographic Locations:

While the grants may target a broad range of areas across Iraq, priority will be given to Jeddah Transition Sites, Al-Anbar, Ninewa, Kirkuk, Salahuddin, and Diyala. Secondary priority may also be given to Baghdad, Babylon, and Mosul.

Priority Programming Areas:

GCERF will fund CSOs and local associations to implement programmes that:

- A. Expand and enhance the existing digital case management system established in Phase 1 to more effectively support the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of individuals returning from Northeast Syria, including improved functionality, coverage, monitoring, and inclusivity. The ultimate objective is to support the gradual institutionalisation and transfer of system ownership and management to relevant government entity(ies) to ensure sustainability and national ownership.
- B. Strengthen organisational and institutional capacities in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) and R&R, with a focus on effective use of the digital case management system, coordinated service delivery, and evidence-based interventions.
- C. Support local authorities in affected areas to promote community acceptance and deliver essential services that enable sustainable reintegration, leveraging data and coordination mechanisms from the expanded case management system.

The programmes will be implemented in close collaboration and coordination with the governorate and district-level relevant stakeholders, including PVE sub-committees and MoDM regional offices, where applicable. Interventions will be closely aligned with existing governorate and national P/CVE action plans and strategies to ensure complementarity, local ownership, sustainability, and stronger institutional impact. The priority interventions identified are:

A. Enhancing and Expanding the Case Management System to Support the R&R of Iraqi Returnees from Northeast Syria

1. Strengthen the enabling environment for the reintegration of Iraqi returnees from Northeast Syria through an expanded, inclusive, and well-coordinated end-to-end digital case management system that spans identification, assessment, referral, service delivery, and post-referral follow-up .
2. Develop and update operational and coordination frameworks, including guidelines, workplans, scopes of work, and risk management tools, to ensure effective coordination and alignment among all relevant stakeholders.
3. Deliver context-adapted, practical capacity-building and training programmes to ensure government stakeholders understand key frameworks, their respective roles, case management procedures, and the risks associated with poor or inconsistent case management practices.
4. Integrate complementary and other existing services into the case management system by linking relevant interventions provided by CSOs, government actors, and other service providers to ensure a **holistic** response.
5. Establish robust monitoring mechanisms to track the case progress, as well as track accountability, sustainability, and the engagement of local P/CVE and R&R actors.
6. Provide targeted technical assistance and training to national institutions, where relevant, to strengthen ownership and institutional capacity.
7. Establish long-term mentorship and coaching programmes for government and local partners to support sustainable reintegration efforts.
8. Ensure sustainability and support a structured transition process within 12 months, including the gradual and phased handover of the case management system to relevant local government authorities or a designated multi-agency government coordination mechanism, with the aim of strengthening national ownership and long-term operational continuity.

9. Work closely with a steering committee composed of relevant government entities and key stakeholders to provide strategic oversight, coordination, and guidance for the implementation, sustainability, and institutionalisation of the rehabilitation and reintegration framework and case management system.

B. Supporting Organisational and Institutional Capacity Building on R&R

1. Strengthen organisations' engagement in case management and referral mechanisms to ensure effective service delivery for returnees.
2. Build the capacity of relevant government stakeholders involved in R&R and case management processes.
3. Enhance the skills and competencies of frontline workers, including social workers, educators, and psychosocial support providers.
4. Support the development and harmonisation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the R&R process, aligned with national, governorate, and district frameworks.
5. Strengthen the provision of psychosocial support services for both returnees and host communities.

C. Supporting Local Authorities and Communities to Enable Sustainable Reintegration

1. Strengthen the capacity of local authorities regarding case management and related issues.
2. Promote community acceptance and social cohesion primarily through dialogue platforms, and community-based initiatives that address stigma and foster trust between returnees and host communities.
3. Support local delivery systems (e.g., health, education, social protection, and civil documentation) to respond effectively to the needs of returnees and vulnerable populations.
4. Improve access to civil documentation and legal assistance for returnees to enable access to basic services and rights.
5. Promote sustainability by embedding reintegration support within existing local governance structures and development plans.
6. Promote community-based reintegration and social cohesion by working closely with host communities on transitional justice, strengthening acceptance and reduce stigma toward returnees.
7. Support initiatives that enhance community resilience to violent extremism, including youth engagement, women-led initiatives, and locally driven prevention efforts.
8. Address shared community needs and foster positive interaction between returnees and host communities.

Grant size

Grant amounts start at **500,000 USD up to 1,000,000 USD**.

Grant duration

The grants will be for up to **24 months**.

Eligible grantees

- Legally registered CSOs (consortia only) with proven experience in community-based initiatives, financial management, R&R, or PVE programming in Iraq.
- Each consortium must designate a principal recipient (PR) responsible for managing the grant and providing sub-grants to the other consortium members (sub-recipients). Applications will only be accepted from the consortium.

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) Experience in Rehabilitation, Reintegration, P/CVE, case management
(ii) Appropriate legal registration in Iraq
(iii) Willingness to accept and fulfil the role of a Principal Recipient (as described herein).
REQUIRED CAPABILITIES
(i) Experience and capacity in supporting community-level initiatives that address the local drivers of violent extremism.
(ii) Established relationships, trust 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 working within a consortium and/or managing sub-recipients for those choosing to form a consortium
(v) Strong financial and grant management capacity, including experience with international donors
(vi) Experience in managing sub-recipients, assessing and enhancing their capacities.
(vii) Expertise in providing referral, educational, and livelihood support to vulnerable women and children.

How to Submit an Expression of Interest

Please see below Annex A.

All Expressions of Interest must be duly filled and submitted electronically **in English** to **contact.iraq@gcerf.org** by **5 June 2026**. The email should be marked as **'EOI-IRAQ-R&R'**, in the subject line. Failing to comply might compromise your submission.

Question and Answer Session

GCERF will host an online Q&A session for potential applicants on:

June 1, 2026, 15:00 Iraq time through the following link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OWJmY2JiMGQtNDZkYS00Y2UzLTg0MjUtNzA3NzUxNWVjNGM3%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%22618c8c5d-e4d4-4859-abf9-c60a590a2ec7%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2204f95fba-ca77-416d-80eb-6cae94b31b20%22%7d

Selection Process

Applications will undergo the following stages:

- Eligibility assessment: Committee evaluation based on quality and relevance (minimum qualifying score: 70)
- Award decision based on merit, the quality of the project concept, and the coherence between the idea and the implementing partners' capacity to deliver it.
- GCERF reserves the right to fund one, multiple, or none of the submitted proposals.

Required Application Documents

- 1) Copies of organisational registration documents
- 2) Summary of the organisation's community work and relevant previous experience
- 3) Latest audit reports
- 4) Theory of Change (using the GCERF template)
- 5) Proposed project organisational chart (specific to the project, not the overall organization)
- 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.