

GCERF in Kenya

GCERF supports the efforts of civil society organisations (CSOs) and national and county governments to implement the County Action Plans (CAPs), primarily through support to the County Engagement Forums (CEF). We work closely with the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC) and seek to support sustainable sub-national structures and initiatives to prevent radicalisation and recruitment.

Portfolio overview as of June 2022

Active grants

Act Change Transform! (ACT!)

2021 – 2023 | Principal Recipient with 7 Sub-Recipients

- ❖ Capacity strengthening of CEFs and support to increase the leadership and coordination capabilities of Lead CSOs; linkages to economic and livelihood opportunities for women and young people; improving community- security relationships; and support to efforts to mainstream PVE within wider developmental and security structures.

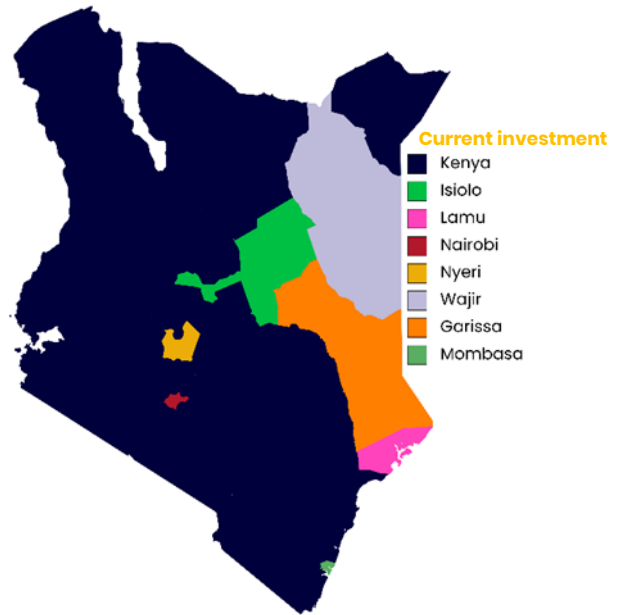
Current Programming: Systems Approach

National: Supporting the implementation of the National CVE Strategy at the county level and coordination between local and national PVE levels.

County: Strengthening the capacity of CEFs and ensuring inclusivity and mainstreaming PVE into governance structures and frameworks, e.g. County Integrated Development Plans. Strengthening the role of CSOs in CEFs and PVE work.

Community: Providing support to community policing and early warning mechanisms; women's leadership in PVE structures and CEFs; improve relations between youth and security actors; and improving awareness of drivers and solutions to radicalisation and recruitment.

Individual: Improving economic opportunities for vulnerable youth, improving trauma support for VE victims.



Investment started: 2018
 Investment to date: USD 6.1 million
 Current investment: USD 3.7 million
 Active grants: 1

Investment Focus



Coordination and capacity strengthening of Community Engagement Forums, improving connections between CSOs and government.



Garissa, Isiolo, Lamu, Mombasa, Nairobi, Nyeri, and Wajir counties.



CEF members as well as men, women, and youth vulnerable to radicalisation or recruitment by violent extremist (VE) groups.



2021 – 2023



We and our partners work with both NCTC and county level government actors.

Violent Extremism in Kenya: Drivers

Youth unemployment
 13.5% of youth (15-24) are unemployed, making them vulnerable to material incentives from VE groups

Injustice, discrimination, and marginalization
 The perception of injustice and marginalisation among religious and minority groups has provided fertile ground for recruitment.

Relationship with police
 Systemic distrust between law enforcement and its citizens enables VE groups to use a victimisation narrative.

20th

On the Global Terrorism Index 2022, with 303 attacks and 34 deaths in 2021.

Story of Change

Mama Mwaka* is a 50-year-old resident of Likoni, Kenya. Identified as a victim of extremism after the 2014 attack on Likoni church by Al-Shabaab, she participated in the Safe Spaces programme run by Coast Interfaith Council of Clerics Trust (CICC Trust), a GCERF grant recipient. Harassment and unwarranted arrests of Muslim men including her own son, bred Mwaka's resentment against security forces. She struggled to overcome these accusations of terrorism which tainted her family's reputation.

For the Safe Spaces programme, CICC Trust hired counsellors to provide regular psychosocial care in both individual and group settings. The Safe Spaces sessions aimed to be a starting place for women, aged 18 to 60, to heal from traumatic experiences. Through this programme, Mwaka learned about the recruitment techniques and narratives used by violent extremist groups.

One day Mwaka overheard her friend Rizki* mentioning that her son got a job in Lamu. It was this point that drew Mwaka's attention as she learned that Rizki's son, Abdul*, had landed a security-related job delivering documents to a location in Mombasa. Cognisant of recruitment techniques that she had learned, Mwaka informed Rizki and other women on how youth were being recruited to extremism and to Al-Shabaab through such job offers. Mwaka approached Abdul to further inquire and learned that he had been approached at the mosque and directed to a recruiting place in Ganjoni. She educated Abdul about recruitment as a means for radicalisation and accompanied him to the recruitment place where, upon arrival, he noticed the men present were different from the ones he had previously met.

Mwaka asked whether her son may be employed, to which they adamantly responded that they recruited based on referrals. She saw other youth with their bags ready to travel, so she continued questioning and noticed that they were hesitant to answer. They made phone calls and then left in a taxi. She warned the young people present that they were possibly being recruited into Al-Shabaab and took them to the police station where they explained the situation. The police investigated and scouted the place to see if the recruiters would return, however, they never did.



*names changed

Today, Mama Mwaka continues to talk to mothers and to young boys and girls in her area about the dangers of extremism and recruiters. She has become a peace leader in her community.



SOWED Kenya developed a community policing initiative that brought together 22 local youth with police, creating 5 Station Youth Liaison Officers in 2 local police stations to mediate conflicts between youth and police. National police directorates and international organisations have met with SOWED to scale up the programme in other localities across Kenya:

"I can assure you that you guys have made a real impact here. The inclusion of the community and the administration has led to an enhanced partnership between the two and a good example is the meeting we had in Shauri Moyo that resulted in the youth liaison office being established at the police station. This project is different, and it is what we need."

- Senior Chief in national government administration in Kamukunji



GCERF's Added Value



GCERF focuses on **building institutional capacity** e.g. CSOs, government agencies, and community engagement forums



GCERF invests in building a PVE-focused **community of practice** with CSOs, government agencies, and experts



Communities are at the **forefront of project design and implementation**, and the programme works with existing community structures for sustainability



All project design and implementation are done in coordination with **nationally-aligned**, locally-led programmes



GCERF connects CSOs, communities, and other stakeholders with government and security actors, leading to **better coordination** and relationships



GCERF's consortium model and capacity-building approach enables us to work in **remote areas**