Request for Proposal RFP 2023–16— R&R Needs Assessment in Iraq

About GCERF

The Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) is a global fund based in Geneva providing grants for national organisations to prevent violent extremism. GCERF is the first global effort to support local, community-level initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience against violent extremist agendas. GCERF works in partnership and consultation with governments, civil society, and the private sector to support national strategies to address the local drivers of violent extremism.

Description of Services

Background

GCERF received a formal request for partnership from Iraq’s Office of the National Security Advisor in February 2023. The GCERF Governing Board approved for Iraq to become a GCERF partner country in early March 2023, after which time GCERF has undertaken dozens of consultations with the Government of Iraq, members of the international community, UN agencies, the Global Coalition and with civil society partners to better understand the context and to pinpoint exactly where grants to civil society partners could be most impactful complementing the already ongoing work. Based on these consultations GCERF has drafted an investment strategy that will focus on support to the implementation of the National CVE Strategy and related governorate and district level action plans to prevent violent extremism, fostering an enabling environment for rehabilitation and reintegration (R&R) of returnees from the conflict in Syria, and case management systems for service delivery to persons returned and reintegrated in local communities.

The purpose of this assessment is therefore to identify how and where GCERF should start these investments. In line with governorate and district action plan priority areas, GCERF is initiating this needs assessment assignment in order to identify expected returnee flows and paths in Iraq in the upcoming 12–24 months. In addition to the need to gain knowledge on the districts expected to receive the highest number of returnees, the assessment will also identify the existing governorates and districts receiving the least amount of support in R&R, as well as identify the locations that have the greatest potential to benefit from the investment of GCERF through civil society organisations.

Objective

Provide analysis on the areas and activities with greatest potential for impact in terms of implementing governorate and district level action plans and providing case management-based support for R&R service delivery. The assessment should include
analysis into at least 5 districts in Iraq where returns have either taken place or are planned to understand the main barriers to R&R at the district and community level. Upon the assessment a creation of a heatmap may be possible to track where return happens.

Work to be performed and deliverables

1. COVERAGE AND SCOPE

GCERF will provide background briefings, guidance, and other facilitation as necessary. The provider will present evidence, analysis, and answers to the following questions:

- What activities are currently being implemented that relate to fostering an enabling environment for R&R and actual case management support for returnees at the district level?
  - Who are the main actors currently involved in this work?
  - What can be the role of civil society organisations in preparing the enabling environment and R&R support?
  - What are the main barriers to return of Iraqi nationals in local communities and how can civil society partners play a role in fostering an enabling environment for R&R? For this question, the service provider should consider GCERF’s previous support to CSOs in this line of work in the Western Balkans to assess what may or may not be possible in Iraq.
  - Is radicalisation to VE the subject of regular study or research in the country? If so, please identify by whom, how regularly it is undertaken and where these results are shared.
- What approaches have been prioritised in R&R activities to date and to what extent are they seen to have been effective?
- What types of reintegration support have not been effective?

\[d\) Lessons from the community level on resilience to VE\]

- What do affected communities say would be the most effective ways to prevent violent extremism and support reintegration of returnees from the conflict in Syria? What activities would not be effective?
- What elements have contributed to examples of community acceptance of returnees?
- How would R&R programming be possible in the districts under review? What are the opportunities/entry points at the governorate, district, and community level? What are the main challenges?

The provider will be expected to review the body of analysis by academic, civil society, governmental, international, multilateral, and/or private sector entities already carried out on R&R programming in Iraq. In-country expertise must be used during this process. GCERF encourages the use of quantitative analysis (including exploring well-known indicators, and datasets) to complement qualitative research. In-country consultations should focus on a
wide spectrum of relevant stakeholders from government, civil society, international, multilateral, and/or private sector entities active in R&R in the country. The analysis must move out of the capital and consider people’s opinion at the governorate, district and community level. 25-35 interviews at the district and community level are strongly encouraged.

**Deliverables and Timeline**

The Assessment of Need will involve approximately 45 days of work, over the period of June through the end of July 2023:

1. Preparation of inception report for approval; (within 5 days from signing the contract with GCERF)
2. Desk research;
3. In-country data collection (minimum 20 working days expected); and
4. Analysis and report writing (which will include two rounds of drafts for review and feedback from the GCERF Secretariat).

**Characteristics of the provider**

The service provider must have prior experience conducting in-country research and analysis on sensitive issues in Iraq, with extensive knowledge and understanding of the R&R context in Iraq and access to relevant stakeholders and the government and community level.

Other required competencies are:

- Understanding of the situation relating to returnees from the conflict in Syria is essential.
- In-depth knowledge of Iraq, especially on the national and governorate level politics, security, and the society as a whole.
- Ability to draft concise reports and communicate the assessment results clearly.
- Ability to interact with, national stakeholders (e.g. government officials, regional authorities, donors, academic and civil society institutions) in a sensitive and effective way.
- Ability to move around Iraq freely or otherwise access all areas relevant to the assessment.
- Understanding of gender issues and ability to detail within reporting how R&R activities affect men, women, boys and girls in different ways.

The preferred applicant will be a recognised, credible research institution/entity.

**Applicants without prior experience conducting in-country research and analysis in Iraq should not apply.**

The provider must comply with all applicable laws and regulations and should adhere to a strict confidentiality policy in relation to client information.
Its staffing levels, qualifications and expertise should be appropriate to be able to provide timely and high-quality services to GCERF. The team should include Iraqi nationals and expertise and be gender mixed while also representing to the extent possible the different ethnic and religious groups.

The fees charged should be reasonable, competitive and related to services rendered.

Submission of proposals

Proposals should follow the template provided below. Failure to follow the proposal structure may affect the evaluation of the proposal. Proposals should be sent latest by 18 August 2023 by email in the form of “pdf files” indicating clearly under subject: “Bid reference: RFP 2023-16”. The email should be addressed to bids@gcerf.org.

Period of validity of the proposal

The proposal must be valid for a period of 120 days following submission.

Cost of preparation and submission of the proposal

The bidder shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of the proposal, including but not limited to the possible cost of discussing the proposal with GCERF, making a presentation, negotiating a contract and any related travel. GCERF will not be liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the selection process.

Selection of bidders

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Responsiveness to request;
- Proposed approach and detailed methodology;
- Qualifications, experience and composition of the team;
- Credibility of the bidder organisation;
- Quality of the offer document; and
- Financial Offer.

Proposal template

Bidders must submit their proposal following the template below. Please keep the proposal under 10 pages.

1. Disclosure form

To be completed by a duly authorised representative of the Bidder. On behalf of (name of public institution/private or public business entity/myself) (referred to in this document as “the Bidder”), I (name and title of the Bidder’s representative) confirm that I am a duly authorized representative of the Bidder and hereby submit this proposal in response to GCERF’s Request for Proposal 2023-16. I confirm that all statements and representations made in the proposal are true and correct.
2. **Profile of the Bidder**

Provide a brief background, highlighting relevant research and country experiences including existing relationships in the country.

Provide the legal status; including registration with the relevant competent authorities.

Provide information on prior experience with similar requirements, and references that GCERF may contact.

3. **Technical Proposal**

A. **Objectives and approach**:  
   
   List the deliverables as specified in this Request for Proposal and provide the following:
   
   1. Methodology for conducting the assessment;
   
   2. Workplan: key tasks/phases, deliverables, indicative timeline and provisional dates of activities – may be presented using text and/or graphics;
   
   3. Measures to ensure quality control.

B. **Team Composition**:  

   Please provide the following information on the proposed team:
   
   - Team structure
   - Individual team members; name, role in the team, area of expertise and relevant experience. Please include their CVs.

C. **Risk Mitigation Plan**:  

   Please list any identified risks, including potential security and ethical concerns, which may affect the successful delivery of services and any proposed mitigating measures.

4. **Financial Proposal – to be provided in a separate document**

   Please provide day rates and numbers of days for all individuals included on the team, as well as any other costs, including travel, accommodation, and visa procurement, etc. In a
brief budget narrative, please explain the basis of the proposed fees and any other charges to GCERF, their level and appropriateness. Please include the basis for invoicing and terms and conditions for payment.

Please note that GCERF is exempt from VAT.