

Somalia



Investment to date: USD 2,000,000

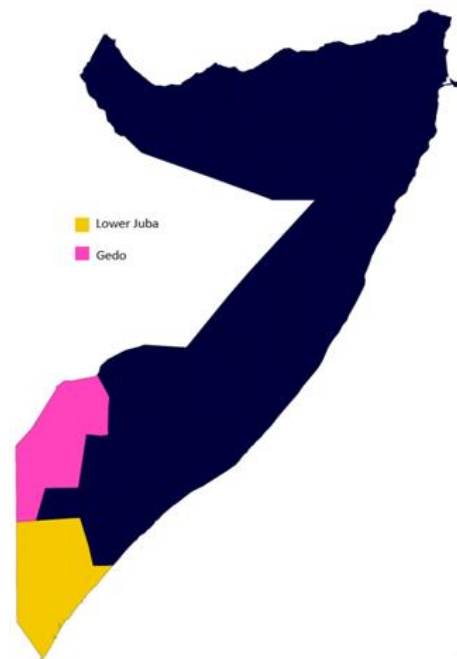
Investment started: 2021

Current investment: USD 1,800,000

Drivers of Violent Extremism

GCERF conducted a Needs Assessment in Somalia in 2019, which identified complex structural issues at the core of groups such as Al Shabaab. Drivers identified included:

- Lack of economic opportunities and pressure on rural livelihoods
- Inter-community grievances, which fuel conflict and a desire for revenge and protection
- Grievances with the clan system, which marginalises minority clans, militarises identity politics, worsens local conflicts, and strengthens the allure of meta-identities such as those offered by Al Shabaab
- Militarised understandings of masculinity
- Forced conscription and indoctrination campaigns by violent extremist groups.



GCERF in Somalia

GCERF has been investing in Somalia since 2021. GCERF works with the Office of the Prime Minister to implement Somalia's National Strategy on Preventing Violent Extremism. GCERF consults and coordinates with local donors, PVE practitioners, the federal government and federal member states, and UN agencies in Somalia. GCERF invests in programmes designed to:

- Train youth and women on civic rights and responsibilities and advocacy skills
- Establish youth and women advocacy organisations and build their advocacy capacity
- Support trauma healing to youth vulnerable to recruitment and youth who have disengaged from violent extremist groups
- Aid economic integration and reintegration of youth through community programming and awareness-raising broadcasts that reduce the taboo around mental health.
- Create a network of entrepreneurs and support them to hire trained youth.

GCERF's Somalia Strategy focuses on:

- Building up and empowering the support networks of youth
- Working with clan and traditional leaders to make the social ecology more open to change and the participation and reintegration of youth and other groups
- Creating positive social and economic alternatives to violent extremism by creating pathways for peaceful social and political expression.

Portfolio Overview as of February 2022

Grantee	Funding since	No of CSOs	Focus populations	Key activities
Horn of Africa Peace Network	2022	4	Vulnerable youth, disengaged youth (from AS or petty crime), teachers, local businesses, community leaders	Training mental health paraprofessionals in trauma healing; working with youth, families, and teachers on trauma healing; vocational support to youth; reducing taboos around mental health
Beled Hawo Women for Peace	2021	1	Youth, women, family groups, local leaders	Civic education for women and youth, establishing youth and women organisations, family and community dialogues on the inclusion of youth and women in decision-making