

At present, GCERF works with the Federal and Federal Member States to support the implementation of Somalia's National Strategy on preventing violent extremism (PVE). The focus of our current investment is reducing the drivers of violent extremism by increasing community resilience. Our current grants include training youth and women on civic rights, responsibilities and advocacy skills; aiding the economic opportunities for youth through linkages with the private sector and supporting skills development; and training pools of mental health paraprofessionals who can work with young people on trauma healing.

In July 2023, the GCERF Investment Strategy for Somalia was extended until June 2024. Two new grants started in January 2024: one in South West and the other in Hirshabelle.

Investment Focus



Building up and empowering the support networks of youth and women. Creating positive social and economic alternatives to violent extremism by creating pathways for peaceful social and political expression.



Jubaland, Hirshabelle, and South West



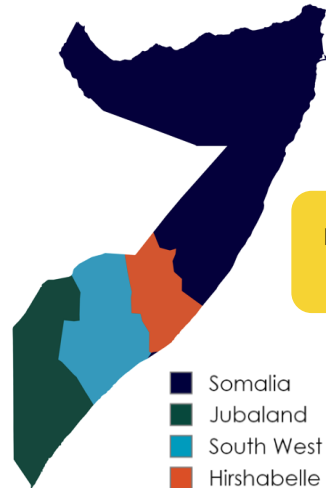
Vulnerable and/or unemployed youth and women; local entrepreneurs; mental health professionals.



2021-2025



GCERF in Somalia works with the federal and Jubaland governments.



Current investment

Investment started: 2021
Investment to date: USD 4.86 million
Current investment: USD 4.1 million
Active grants: 4

Portfolio overview as of February 2024

Horn of Africa Peace Network (HAPEN)

2021 – 2024 | *Principal Recipient with 3 Sub-Recipients*

- ❖ Training mental health paraprofessionals to provide psychosocial support to young people; reducing stigma and increasing awareness of mental health issues; and connecting youth to economic opportunities within the private sector.

African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect

2024-2025 | *Principal Recipient with 2 Sub-Recipients*

- ❖ Fostering livelihoods, good governance and social cohesion initiatives for communities, including youth, women minorities and IDPs, in liberated areas of South West State.

Somali Lifeline Organisation (SOLO)

2023-2025 | *Direct grantee*

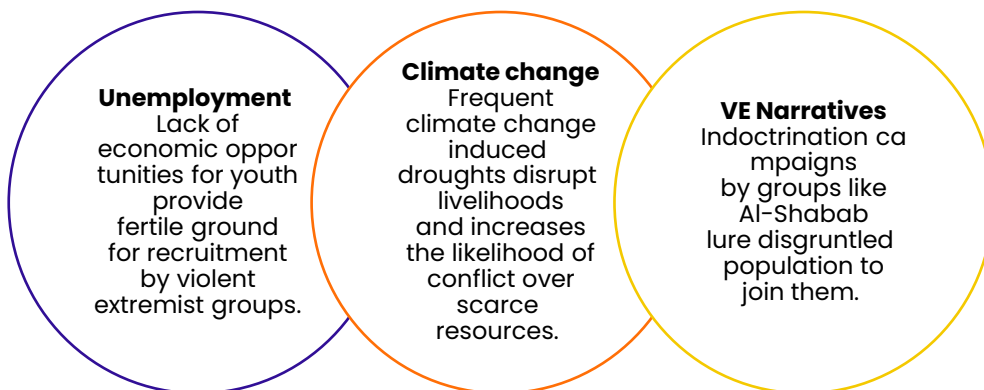
- ❖ Building the capacity of local peace committees to develop and implement peacebuilding action plans to prevent violent extremist radicalisation and recruitment; functional and structured dialogue and engagement between stakeholders for integrated participation and action on dissuading youth from VE recruitment.

Elman Peace Center (EPC)

2024-2025 | *Principal Recipient with 2 Sub-Recipients*

- ❖ Engaging local civil society, primarily women and youth, as key change agents against extremism to create resilient and peaceful communities in Hirshabelle's newly recovered and liberated territories.

Violent Extremism in Somalia: Drivers



7th
On the Global
Terrorism Index
2024

Current Programming: Systems Approach

Community: Destigmatising mental health and trauma therapy, creating alternative narratives using a multimedia approach, and catalysing and fortifying a robust and inclusive civil society.

Individual: Providing vocational support and access to trauma therapy, promoting critical thinking skills and increased knowledge of civic duties and governance.

Key Outputs

July – December 2023

450 Mentorship and follow-up sessions on professional development. Organized by HAPEN

Two job fairs were conducted, gathering 45 youth in Q3 and 180 youth in Q4.

SOLO organized a consultation on peacebuilding and PVE for 30 participants among government, religious and community leaders

“We are delighted to launch the implementation of the [SWERC] project in our district and I hopefully believe it will impact our community lifestyle and living standards positively”

- Mr. Mohammed Farah, Head of District Humanitarian Affairs

Story of Change

Urur Ali Hassan*, a 25-year-old man from Beled Hawo, was selected to participate in the mental health paraprofessional training program offered by SWERC programme. He had previously struggled with severe depression and anxiety for years, but he had never sought help due to the stigma surrounding mental health in his community.

During the trainings, Urur learned about the causes and symptoms of mental health conditions, as well as how to provide basic counselling and support to individuals in need. He found the program to be incredibly empowering, as it gave him the skills and knowledge to not only take control of his own mental health but also to help others in his community who were also struggling.

Since graduating as a mental health paraprofessional, Urur has begun volunteering at a local community centre, where he provides counselling and support to individuals experiencing mental health issues. He found that many people in his community were hesitant to seek professional help, but the case management and counselling skills he learned in the SWERC mental health paraprofessional training enabled him to encourage people to open up to him.

Urur prides himself in the positive impact he is making in his community by offering his new mental health skills to those in need.

*name changed

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**

Find out more about becoming an investor, our work, and the collective impact we make at: www.gcerf.org
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