

### GCERF in Somalia

At present, GCERF works with the Federal and Jubaland governments 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**.

### Portfolio overview as of June 2022

#### Active grants

#### 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.

#### Beled Hawo Women for Peace (BHWP)

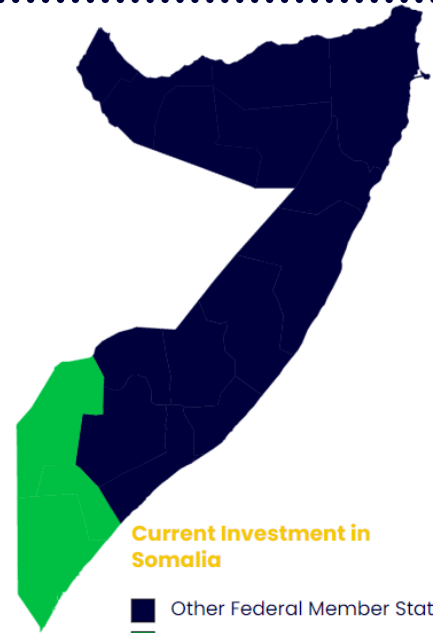
2021 – 2023 | Direct grantee

- ❖ Civic education for women and youth, establishing youth and women advocacy organisations, and family and community dialogues on the inclusion of youth and women in decision-making.

#### 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.



#### Current Investment in Somalia

- Other Federal Member States
- Federal Member State of Jubaland

Investment started: 2021  
Investment to date: USD 2.86 million  
Current investment: USD 2.6 million  
Active grants: 3

### 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



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



2021 – 2025



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### Violent Extremism in Somalia: Drivers

#### Unemployment

Lack of economic opportunities for youth provide fertile ground for recruitment by violent extremist groups.

#### Climate change

Frequent climate change induced droughts disrupt livelihoods and increases the likelihood of conflict over scarce resources.

#### VE Narratives

Indoctrination campaigns by groups like Al-Shabab lure disgruntled population to join them.

#### 3rd

On the Global Terrorism Index 2022, with 308 attacks and 600 deaths in 2021.

## 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\*

\*January 2022 – December 2022



## Story of Change

Mariam Abdullah\* is a 25-year-old woman from Beled Hawo. She is a widow with three children and her husband died seven years ago. She is also an entrepreneur selling decoration materials to sustain her family. Her business is not very profitable but it enables her to afford basic needs for her family. She did not attend secondary school and was forced to marry at a young age by her parents.

Her tenacity to provide for her family caused Mariam to be chosen by BHWP to participate in their Youth and Civic Empowerment Programme. She is one of the most participative beneficiaries during trainings and acquired a smartphone to participate in the WhatsApp discussions after sessions.

*"Before this training, I wanted to travel to America and Europe to seek a better life, but this training has completely changed my motives and empowered me. The civic education and advocacy training helped me understand my rights as a citizen and the platforms available for me to participate for the welfare of the community. I will use the knowledge and skills gained from the trainings to do civic engagement and be an active community human rights defender. At the end of the programme I will be able to help myself and community by having our own women-led organisation and reduce vices in the community and fully participate in decision making and be in active politics."*

\*name changed



*"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



## 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**