Somalia Call for EOI-2025

Information Session

Q&A Summary

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Introduction

The present summary covers the questions and answers of the information session held on 1 September 2025 (part I). It also includes the answers to questions raised in the chat that were not answered due to time constraints (part II).

The information session began with a presentation on GCERF. GCERF remains the only global fund dedicated to preventing violent extremism and terrorism. GCERF's funding mechanisms include direct grants to civil society organisations and consortium grants managed by primary recipients working with sub-recipients.

In Somalia, GCERF has been funding projects since 2021, with a total budget of USD5 million to date. The funds have covered 12 partner civil society organisations, including principal and sub-recipients. Currently, there are two ongoing grants (in the Southwest and Hirshabelle regions).

The present call seeks to fund programmes that increase positive engagement between members of different groups, improve socio-economic opportunities for young people and women, reinforce positive narratives, and promote the role of religious leaders in preventing violent extremism.

Important information: The deadline for submission of the application has been **extended to 31 October 2025**, and signing the grant agreement depends on the official confirmation of funds.

Part I. Q&A Summary

1. Consortium Applications

1.1. Can one organisation be the lead in two applications? Can sub-recipients join multiple consortia?

An organisation should apply as a principal recipient (PR) for only one consortium. However, it can apply as a sub-recipient (SR) in another consortium. SR can join different consortia, but preferably not more than 2–3.

1.2. Is an INGO required as the lead?

No. GCERF prioritises local leads. INGOs should not be added unless absolutely necessary.

1.3. Minimum/maximum number of consortium members?

At least 1 PR and 1 SR. Realistic numbers are expected (usually 3–5 SRs). Very large consortia are discouraged.

1.4. Do all consortium members need federal and state registrations?

The PR must have both federal and state registration. SRs only need state-level registration.

2. Eligibility of International NGOs (INGOs) and use of foreign expertise

2.1. Are INGOs eligible?

GCERF funds primarily local organisations. INGOs may only apply if they can demonstrate that no overheads leave Somalia. Preference, however, will still go to local CSOs.

2.2. Can foreign expertise or SRs (e.g., from Kenya) be included?

The grant should be locally led, preferably by people who can speak Maay. However, you may bring in external expertise if short-term assistance is needed, for example, in policy development.

3. Grant Size and Number

3.1. Is the $1M divided among several grants?

No. For this round, only one consortium grant of up to $1M will be awarded.

4. Geographic Focus

4.1. Does the project scope cover only the southwest state, or will it cover other states in Somalia?

The current call covers only the Southwest state.

4.2. Must applicants target specific districts in Bay and Bakool?

This grant is open to any district in Bay/Bakool with justification. State officials suggested Baidoa and Hoddur, but the final selection depends on consultations, accessibility, and security.

5. Application Requirements

5.1. Do SRs submit forms too?

Only the lead applicant (PR) submits the form. SR details will be reviewed later. PRs are fully responsible for the SR evaluation and performance, including ineligible expenditure incurred by the SR identified by GCERF's auditors.

5.2. Can past projects outside Somalia be included?

Past projects abroad can be included, but the Somali experience is weighted higher.

6. Audit and Financials

6.1. What if an organisation doesn't have audited accounts?

The organisation will have a competitive disadvantage compared to organisations that can provide the required documentation.

Audited consolidated financial statements are preferred, but other independent organisational financial examinations may be considered. Applicants must provide 2023–2024 audited (or equivalent) reports.

6.2. How is the $1M shared among consortium members?

Members of the consortium determine the budget's distribution internally, but it must be balanced and justified.

6.3. Are overhead/admin costs allowed?

GCERF does not allow overhead charges. Only direct and indirect costs are eligible. Indirect costs must be supported by allocation keys, policies and procedures that are applied to all funding sources of the organisation. Management costs (staff and office costs) are capped at 20% of the total funding. Management costs are reported separately and cannot be allocated to programme activities.

7. Sustainability

7.1. How will sustainability be ensured beyond the grant?

GCERF encourages applicants to propose sustainability strategies. Long-term sustainability also depends on government and local ownership.

8. Timeline

8.1. What is the new deadline?

Due to pending budget finalisation, the deadline has been extended to 31 October 2025. Applicants are advised not to rush proposals until the end of September.

Part II. Question from the Chat

1. *Given that the deadline has been postponed, do you plan to hold another information session when there is more clarity on the districts where the projects will take place and when the funds are secured?*

No additional information session will be held. Other questions can be submitted to contact.somalia@gcerf.org

2. *What thematic areas are considered highest priority under this EOI (e.g., youth, women, returnees, online extremism)?*

The EOI clearly outlines the thematic areas and the target groups for this grant. Applicants need to make sure that they demonstrate their technical capacity in the thematic they will apply.

3. *What level of innovation is expected? Should the proposal lean toward proven approaches or new pilot models?*

While building on proven approaches, proposals can bring innovative ways of enhancing efficiency and impact.

4. *What is the word count in the proposal?*

There is no predefined word count. However, you are strongly encouraged to be concise.

5. *Can a national organisation apply as a direct recipient without a consortium? If yes, is the selection the same as those presented?*

Single organisations may apply as direct recipients; however, GCERF strongly recommends forming a consortium, as evaluation scores will prioritise such applications.

6. *Beyond the project cycle, what sustainability and exit strategies does GCERF expect grantees in Somalia to implement to ensure a lasting impact on preventing violent extremism?*

Sustainability of the projects is an important element of the proposal. Moreover, the project development phase takes into account the sustainability of the interventions. The GCERF approach to sustainability can be found on the Investment Strategy, page 27.

7. *Could you clarify which geographic areas or vulnerable groups (e.g., youth, women, ex-combatants, IDPs) are GCERF's highest priorities in Somalia, and how applicants should balance national priorities with community-identified needs?*

The investment strategy defines GCERF's geographical focus and target groups. Every intervention we undertake is aligned with the national PCVE strategy, which comprehensively addresses community needs across its five pillars.

8. *Will GCERF provide technical support or peer-learning opportunities for Somali organisations to strengthen monitoring, evaluation, and reporting capacities, especially for first-time GCERF partners?*

Yes. GCERF is committed to strengthening the capacity of its implementing partners. Different learning opportunities are created and will be explained in depth to the selected partner.

9. *What are the recommendations for partnering in the consortium with the government security department so that they can also benefit from the capacity and make it easier later for project sustainability?*

While GCERF works closely with local governments, government institutions cannot be part of a consortium.

10. *Since GCERF funds CSOs either directly or in consortia, do you prefer applications submitted by consortia or by individual organisations? Also, are the current programs being implemented under consortia or as sole organisations?*

GCERF prefers applications submitted by a consortium, and current grants are being implemented by consortia. (see question 5)

11. *Can one Sub recipient be a member of more than one consortium?*

Yes. However, this should be justified and limited to a reasonable number of consortium applications, so that it is not perceived as an attempt to simply maximise the chances.

12. *Do you still consider the Baidoa and Hudur districts, or do you suggest other districts of Bay and Bakool that were liberated recently?*

Yes, Southwest officials have suggested Baidoa and Hudur as they align with the state priorities. However, organisations may propose one additional district in place of either Baidoa or Hudur with strong justification, which will then be subject to further consultation with the Southwest government. We want to focus on two districts for this grant.

13. *Under the ToC, is there a need for the pathways/assumptions to be data-driven, i.e, research reports?*

Yes. Grounding pathways and assumptions in credible data and research ensures that the Theory of Change is evidence-based, realistic, and defensible. It helps strengthen the logic behind the expected outcomes, increases stakeholder confidence, and allows for more accurate monitoring and evaluation.

14. *What is the total target number/ target beneficiaries to be reached by the project?*

The target number of beneficiaries will be discussed during the project development with the selected organisation.

Finance

15. *In terms of budget allocation, how should we determine the percentage split between direct costs and overhead costs?*

GCERF does not accept overheads. Apart from the 20% budget maximum allocation to cover management costs (that is staff and office costs), staff charges must be justified by the programme requirements (days of activities…). For example, if all activities are implemented by third parties (consultants, trainers, facilitators, etc.), then staff charges could be even lower than 20% of the total funding.

16. *Could you provide a unique and well-structured template for the proposed budget?*

At this stage, the budget template is the one attached to the EoI. A more elaborate template will be used and discussed with the selected organisations during the project development stage. In summary, budget must be fully aligned with the workplan and very detailed.

17. *Does GCERF have recommended or allowable budget percentages for cross-cutting costs, M&E, and Safeguarding?*

No, there isn't.

Apart from the 20% management costs (staff costs and office costs) threshold as an initial requirement, any budget proposal must comply with expenditure eligibility requirements. These requirements will be presented to potential PRs or shortlisted organisations that will be selected to prepare and submit a detailed programme proposal.