

Uzbekistan EOI 2025

FAQ Summary

16 September 2025

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Eligibility Criteria

Can international NGOs with relevant experience apply?

GCERF primarily prioritises local, grassroots community-based NGOs that are deeply embedded in Uzbekistan context to foster sustainable civil society. However, we do recognise the value that international NGOs can bring, especially those with relevant experience. Local branches of international NGOs may be considered only provided that the grant funds remain in Uzbekistan and are directed towards local projects and beneficiaries. This ensures that the funding is used to benefit the local population and support the development of local capacity.

What are the requirements for Principal Recipients (PRs) in relation to past project budgets?

There is no fixed minimum grant amount required for past project budgets, but applicants must demonstrate financial management capacity (accounting, planning, budgeting, cash management, reporting) and sub-recipient oversight capabilities (supervision, monitoring and compliance, risk analysis and capacity development among others).

What if the candidate doesn't have organisational audits for previous years, but only programme audits for those years?

GCERF will still consider Applicants that cannot provide consolidated audited statements.

During the due diligence process, GCERF will assess the transparency and capacity of your organisation. Keep in mind that not meeting audit or other requirements may impact your score compared to applicants that do meet requirements.

The candidate should be able to submit consolidated statements even if not audited, fiscal reports or other type of official documents that provide an understanding of the financial situation of the organisation

Are Principal Recipient and Sub-recipient organisations required to be registered in Uzbekistan?

Yes, all PRs need to have appropriate legal registration in Uzbekistan. SRs can be registered in other organisations, but most of the team needs to be Uzbekistani citizens because GCERF takes a community-based and grassroots-driven approach to developing and implementing programs. Salaries of staff should be aligned to the one of local organisations.

If an organisation is new – if it has been operating for one year – can it apply for the EOI?

PRs need to have a minimum of three years of experience in program management focused on community engagement, coordinating with multiple stakeholders, and addressing probation challenges and/or various forms of extremism. Organisations with less than three years of experience can apply as SRs.

Consortium Composition and Sub-recipients

Who defines the composition of the consortium – GCERF or the Principal Recipient (PR)?

The composition of the consortium is defined primarily by the Principal Recipient. While GCERF does not impose specific requirements regarding the consortium's members, we encourage the PR to prioritise quality organisations based on their expertise and ability to contribute effectively to the programme's objectives. The selection of Sub-recipients (SRs) should focus on organisations with complementary strengths that can mutually build capacity and should be based on a detailed fiduciary assessment as the PR will be responsible for all financial aspects of the Grant Agreement. That means that if a sub-recipient would incur ineligible expenditure, the PR is contractually responsible of reimbursing the amount to the donor (GCERF) given that the PR is responsible for the financial and oversight management of sub-recipients. The aim is to create a collaborative and effective partnership that reinforces the overall capacity of the civil society in Kyrgyzstan, benefiting both the PR and SRs in the long term.

Can branches of the organisation in other areas that are separate legal entities be members of the consortium?

According to the conditions of the project, legally independent organisations may be included in the consortium. Whether your affiliates can be recognized as sub-recipients depends on the degree of their legal independence. In your application, we recommend that you specify the legal status of each proposed sub-recipient, as well as the rationale for their selection and the expected contribution to the achievement of the programme objectives.

Can we recruit individual specialists in those regions where we do not have branches to expand program reach?

In your proposal, we recommend that you describe the roles and responsibilities of individual experts and their contribution to the achievement of the programme objectives.

Should Sub-recipients submit a separate application from the Principal Recipient?

No, Sub-recipients should not submit a separate application. The Principal Recipient is responsible for submitting a single Expression of Interest (EOI) that includes the details of all the proposed Sub-recipients. This approach enables GCERF to assess the overall programme, including the roles and responsibilities of each partner in the consortium. If you are a Sub-recipient, ensure that your role, activities, and contribution to the project are clearly outlined in the Principal Recipient's EOI.

Do you consider more than two consortia?

GCERF aims to fund consortia rather than individual direct grantees, with programmes implemented over a 24-month period. The number of consortia selected for funding will depend on the quality and relevance of the proposals submitted.

Can media organisations be part of a consortium?

Yes, media organisations registered in Uzbekistan can participate as part of a consortium and contribute to achieving the programme objectives.

Can consortium members choose one group of vulnerable populations?

Based on the programme objectives outlined in the EOI, applicants are required to propose activities that directly engage with the following target populations:

- Returnee women and children from Northeast Syria and Iraq
- Vulnerable women and children in their immediate host communities

Proposed interventions should demonstrate a clear strategy for reaching, supporting, and meaningfully engaging these groups, addressing their specific needs and contributing to their reintegration, protection, and empowerment in line with the programme goals.

Can Applicants participate in multiple EOIs and in different roles as either a Principal Recipient and/or a Sub-Recipient?

Yes, applicants can submit multiple EOIs and take on different roles, including as a Principal Recipient and/or a Sub-Recipient. GCERF will shortlist only the strongest EOIs that fully meet the programme objectives and requirements.

Will GCERF fund EOIs submitted by direct grantees instead of consortia?

GCERF prefers to fund projects implemented by consortia. GCERF aims to engage with as many grassroots and community-based organisations as possible to aid communities. Therefore, applications by consortia with sub-recipients are encouraged. However, strong applications from direct applicants will also be considered for funding.

Application Process

Can applicants email questions for clarification and receive answers?

Yes, GCERF will address questions from applicants sent to contact.centralasia@gcerf.org by 20 September 2025.

Where can I find the presentation from the 16 September FAQ information session?

Yes, the slides from the information session, along with the FAQ documents, are available at:

<https://www.gcerf.org/eoi-uzbekistan/> and
https://www.gcerf.org/call-for-eoi-uzbekistan_ru/

How many grants GCERF will fund in Round 1?

GCERF may choose to fund more than one grant proposal submitted under a given call. In addition, GCERF may consider increasing the grant amount allocated to a proposal based on its quality, relevance, and potential impact. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit well-structured, impactful, and cost-effective proposals, as the quality of the submission will significantly influence funding decisions.

What aspects should the application package cover?

The application package needs to focus on quality financial management, program management, compliance, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

Programme Focus and Implementation

What is the minimum possible duration for a project within a 24-month cap?

Projects must be planned so that their total duration is at least and no more than 24 months.

Should the applications cover all the objectives stated in the EOI?

No, applicants can and are encouraged to choose Objectives 1 and 2 stated in the EOI.

Has GCERF assessed the needs of women and children returnees and other vulnerable beneficiaries for this programme?

The specific needs of repatriated women and children and other potential beneficiaries will be assessed in collaboration with relevant stakeholders to ensure that the interventions align with the government and other stakeholders' priorities, as well as the needs of the beneficiaries. Any needs

assessments carried out will be done in close consultation with the National Agency for Social Protection and local authorities to ensure that we are addressing the most critical issues facing the target populations. The approval and guidance from local authorities are essential to ensure the programme's success and alignment with national priorities.

Has GCERF conducted desk research on the rehabilitation and reintegration of women and children repatriated from Syria and Iraq and prevention of violent extremism in Uzbekistan?

Yes, GCERF has conducted thorough desk research to guide its investment strategy for Uzbekistan, which is based on extensive consultations with key stakeholders, including government representatives, local NGOs, international organisations, and other relevant parties. This research has informed the development of our investment strategy, which outlines priority areas for capacity building, including strengthening probation services.

Where can we find the findings of the desk research on Uzbekistan supported by GCERF?

The summary of the desk research findings is available in the Uzbekistan Investment Strategy for 2025–2028, which can be accessed on the GCERF website:

<https://www.gcerf.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/GCERF-Strategy-for-Investment-in-Uzbekistan-2025-2028.pdf>

Which geographical regions will be covered by the programme?

In the Investment Strategy for Uzbekistan (2025–2028) GCERF proposed a nationwide rollout of its programming on the rehabilitation and reintegration (R&R) of returnees and the prevention of violent extremism (PVE) across all 14 administrative regions of Uzbekistan, including the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Tashkent city, and 12 provinces. This comprehensive geographic coverage is both a strategic imperative and a practical necessity, based on a combination of risk exposure, reintegration needs, and opportunities to enhance national resilience. Grantees will operate closely with local authorities to identify communities that most need attention and where the programme's activities will have the greatest impact. The projects will be then tailored to the specific needs of those areas.

What target communities should a consortium run the project in?

In their Expression of Interest, applicants must clearly identify the target communities where they intend to implement their proposed activities. Applicants are required to provide evidence-based justification for the selection of these locations. This evidence may include, but is not limited to:

- Demographic data
- Needs assessments
- Security and access considerations
- Socioeconomic context
- Relevance to the programme objectives

Providing robust justification will strengthen the proposal by demonstrating the appropriateness and feasibility of the project's geographic focus.

Budget and Financial Details

What are the requirements for the budget?

It is important that your budget proposed for the GCERF programme clearly reflects specific activities, including the anticipated costs associated with delivering those activities.

The grant amount we consider is up to 500,000 USD. If a higher amount is proposed, it needs to be thoroughly justified by the project needs and capacities of the bidding organisations. Make sure the A coherent and well-structured Expression of Interest (EOI) will strengthen your application during the assessment process.

Management costs, that is personnel and office costs of all Consortium members, shall not exceed 20% of the total funding. That is USD 100,000 for a USD 500,000 proposal.

Should Sub-Recipients provide budget details in the EOI?

No, Sub-Recipients are not required to provide detailed budget information in the Expression of Interest. Budget details are typically requested at the full proposal stage from the Principal Recipient and their partners.

Should Applicants include overhead fees in their budget?

No, GCERF programmes do not fund overhead expenses. Only direct and indirect expenditure can be funded. Indirect expenditure must be supported by an approved allocation key or procedure applicable to all funding sources of the organisation. Eligibility requirements will be explained to the shortlisted organisations that will be invited to prepare and submit a detailed proposal.

Are there any expenses not covered by GCERF's budget, such as indirect costs, vocational training, international consultants, or capacity building?

GCERF covers all direct and indirect expenses necessary for the successful implementation of the programmes. This includes capacity building activities, provided they involve key stakeholders such as the government (e.g., the probation department) and frontline workers (e.g., psychologists, social workers, theologians).

GCERF does not cover overhead costs. Indirect costs are accepted for as long as the allocation method of shared costs is fair, transparent/document and consistent across all funding sources. Kind reminder that administrative costs (staff and office costs) **shall not exceed 20% of the budget.**

Additionally, GCERF grantees organise a regional Community of Practice (CoP) event each year which can be included in the budget. In Uzbekistan, it is focused on Reintegration and Rehabilitation (R&R) of returnees from Iraq and Northeastern Syria. The CoP serves as an

opportunity for organisations to share best practices, learn from each other, and build capacity within the region. However, expenses such as vocational training, international consultants, and other specific costs should be carefully considered and justified in the budget to be eligible for funding, depending on the specific programme requirements.

Should administrative costs be included in the output section of the budget summary?

All costs necessary for the programme delivery must be included in the budget. Management costs (staff and office costs) need to be reflected in the Consortium management costs line in Annex C. **Admin costs (staff and office costs) shall not exceed 20% of the total budget and shall be budgeted for separately from the activities**

Can the budget include the no-cost activities?

The budget may include no-cost activities if they are clearly specified and justified. A detailed list of activities (workplan) is not required at the EOI stage. A comprehensive workplan will be developed during the grant development stage by applicants selected as potential Principal Recipients (PRs). This workplan must outline all activities necessary to achieve the programme's objectives—regardless of whether they require a specific budget allocation or not. However, all activities must be included in workplan and budget as they are the two aspects of a programme (regardless of if an activity requires a specific budget or not)