

At present, GCERF works with the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) as well as the Federal Member States (FMS) of Hirshabelle, Jubaland and South West, supporting the implementation of Somalia’s National Strategy on PVE. Our current investment focus is on reducing the drivers of violent extremism by building community resilience, particularly in newly liberated areas. Our current grants include reconciliation and community engagement in newly liberated areas; 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.

The GCERF Investment Strategy for Somalia is currently under revision.

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 States



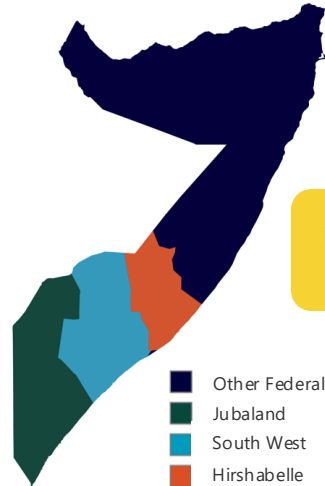
Vulnerable and/or unemployed youth and women; local entrepreneurs; mental health professionals.



2021–2025



GCERF’s works with the FGS and FMS governments of Jubaland, Hirshabelle and South West. Our focal point within the government of Somalia is the Tubsan National Centre for PCVE.



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 June 2024

Horn of Africa Peace Network (HAPEN) Somali Wellness and Economic Recovery Consortium (SWERC)

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.

Elman Peace Center (EPC) Women and Youth as Agents of Change: Building Inclusive Communities in Newly Liberated Territories

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.

Somali Lifeline Organisation (SOLO) Strengthening Preventative Engagement and Actions in Kismayo (SPEAK)

2023–2025| *Direct grantee*

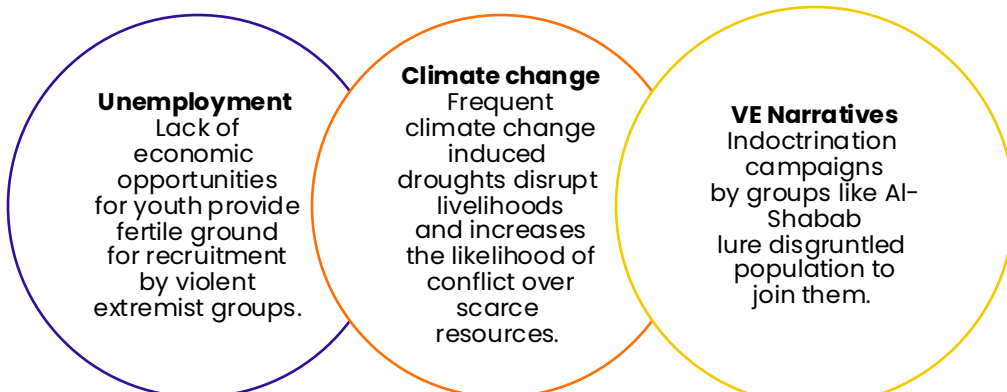
- ❖ Building the capacity of local peace committees to develop and implement peacebuilding action plans to prevent violent extremist radicalisation and recruitment; functional and structured dialogue and engagement between stakeholders for integrated participation and action on dissuading youth from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

African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN-SOM) Promoting Sustainable Peace, Reconciliation and Social Cohesion In Somalia (Prosper-Soco)

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.

Violent Extremism in Somalia: Drivers



7th
On the Global
Terrorism Index
2024

Current Programming: The Somali Wellness and Economic Recovery Consortium(SWERC)

Community: De-stigmatising 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 – March 2024

Psychological First Aid (PFA) sessions equipped 50 young people and their family members to deal with psychosocial challenges in emergencies.

Mental health awareness sessions were delivered to 210 young people. The sessions provided knowledge and increased their willingness to seek help.

12 young people ran the events and delivered positive messages on cohesion, community integration and PVE through drama, songs and poetry.



Sensitization sessions on mental health at schools (HAPEN)

Story of Change

Abdi, a 26-year-old native of Kismayo, initially pursued his education in Kenya. However, upon returning home, he faced obstacles in continuing his studies due to financial constraints stemming from his family's economic status. This situation led to a period of depression exacerbated by comparisons with peers.

Fortunately, Abdi's life took a positive turn when he reconnected with a friend who introduced him to the SWERC programme. Through the programme, he received valuable mental health support and access to job-related resources. These experiences equipped him with coping mechanisms and job search skills, renewing his sense of hope for the future.

Motivated by his newfound resilience, Abdi actively sought out scholarship opportunities, aspiring to pursue higher education. He also utilised the job-hunting skills acquired through the programme to secure an internship.

Grateful for the transformation in his life, Abdi extended heartfelt appreciation to the Iftiin Foundation (one of the members of SWERC) for their instrumental role in his journey. He highlighted how the organization not only provided practical assistance but also fostered a supportive community where he could thrive.

Moreover, Abdi demonstrated his commitment to paying back by offering psychosocial support and guidance to a friend contemplating illegal migration due to unemployment. Through his intervention, he has helped his friend secure employment at a shop, steering him away from risky paths. *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
contact.somalia@gcerf.org



@gcerf



GCERF



@thegcerf



GCERF Outreach