

Request for Proposal 2024-16 –Uzbekistan Country Needs Assessment

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About GCERF

GCERF is the first global organisation to support community-level initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience against violent extremism. As a public-private partnership operating at the nexus of security and development, GCERF works in partnership and consultation with governments, civil society, and the private sector in beneficiary countries. We support national strategies to address local drivers of violent extremism.

GCERF provides support to community-level initiatives that provide tangible, positive alternatives to violent extremist groups` offer. We also build the capacity of civil society organisations to prevent violent extremist group recruitment and radicalisation.

GCERF began its first investments in 2016 in Bangladesh, Mali and Nigeria. We have expanded our support to 25 countries, partnering with over 360 local civil society organisations and reached over three million beneficiaries.

We started our work in Kyrgyzstan in 2024 and gradually expanded to other Central Asian states based on the request of the national governments. In November 2024, the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and GCERF signed a Memorandum of Understanding. To learn more about the context and landscape, GCERF will carry out a targeted needs assessment.

Description of Services

Background

GCERF started its engagement with the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan (2022) to the United Nations in Geneva. The Uzbek governments invited GCERF for an introductory meeting in the capital city of Tashkent in September 2023, and has been engaging with the Uzbekistan Government since then. In the summer of 2024, GCERF returned to Tashkent based on the Government's invitation. GCERF Governing Board approved Uzbekistan to become a partner country in the summer of 2024, requesting the GCERF Secretariat to manage the process of the Republic of Uzbekistan joining the Board and developing a Country Support Mechanism for Uzbekistan.

In this regard, additional information is needed to explore specific areas of need for GCERF support. GCERF therefore intends to launch a Country Needs Assessment for Uzbekistan to better understand the landscape for preventing and countering violent extremism, and to assess possible funding scenarios. This must include

specific focus on the challenges of operating in the proposed geographic areas in relation to this topic and issues to consider such as rehabilitation, re-socialisation and re-integration of the family members of the former members of ISIS who have been returned (mainly women and children) by enabling community-based integration. The terms of reference outline GCERF's requirements and preferred approach.

Objective

GCERF is looking for a supplier based in Uzbekistan to deliver a Country Needs Assessment (CNA). The purpose is to provide GCERF with a detailed understanding of the dynamics around preventing violent extremism and including preventing people to leave to join violent extremist and terrorist organisations.

The assessment should focus geographically on areas where violent extremism poses threats, and the specific locations/communities where returnees resettled, and where migrant workers return to. The assessment should also look at the likelihood for returnee women marrying and moving from one Mahala to another, and what that means for case management based approaches to Rehabilitation and Reintegration.

The CNA objectives:

1. To identify opportunities to support civil society organisations to implement programming that reduces radicalization and recruitment into violent extremist groups.
2. To identify opportunities to support civil society organizations in engaging in rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees from Northeast Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and other foreign countries.
3. To identify opportunities to support civil society organisations in prevention in the online space, as well as countering the challenges of new technologies

The assessment will include a literature review, in-country research, and the production of a final analytical report with clear recommendations for GCERF programming. The analysis will cover the following areas:

Objective 1: Identify opportunities for programmatic interventions to prevent violent extremism.

- A mapping of relevant national, regional, international organizations in Uzbekistan in preventing and countering violent extremism programmes, describing their scope, reach, and partners, including funding sources where possible;

- An identification of gaps and niche intervention areas for supporting community-led prevention efforts in radicalization and violent extremism where GCERF can add value in the current context;
- A detailed assessment of risks and operating challenges in the suggested geographic areas and any other issues to consider.

Objective 2: identify opportunities for rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees from Northeast Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and other foreign countries

- An analysis of the main actors and stakeholders currently working on reintegration, highlighting their agendas, motivations,
- Identification of their capacity share lessons learned and good practices in different contexts.
- Identification of various types of returnees and their challenges and opportunities
- Identification of specific geographic locations of return and vulnerable to radicalization
- Identify what type of support is currently available for returnees from Northeast Syria and Iraq, and persons returning from conflict zones. What type of case management is currently in place.

Objective 3: Identify opportunities to carry out prevention work in the online space, as well as countering the challenges of new technologies

- Identification of existing capacities of civil society, law enforcement agencies for digital prevention
- Identify challenges and opportunities for prevention in the online space in the Uzbek context

Work to be performed and deliverables

The overall approach will involve the participation of the Independent Review Panel (IRP), and it will include the following stages and components:

Phase 1: Literature Review – 28 February, 2025

The supplier will undertake desk-based research to bring together findings of the existing studies on this type of programming in these areas (The review should also include reports from government agencies and civil society organizations that are working on P/CVE and R&R areas). The assessment should be forward looking.

The supplier will also consult with relevant state and non-state institutions to identify potential geographic focus locations for PVE and R&R.

The research partner is expected to submit a research plan for discussion and validation by the end of this phase. The plan is expected to reflect a wide range of possible risks in a risk assessment annex.

Phase 2: In-country Research – 23 March, 2025

The in-country research phase will include consultation with relevant stakeholders, national partners, entities, CSOs, groups, UN and other donors in the country.

1. Partner Consultation: Fieldwork

The research team should undertake a series of interviews with individuals and partners in the following categories:

- Relevant local, provincial and national government officials;
- Civil Society Organisations, including customary authorities;
- National and International Research Organisations;
- Relevant regional stakeholders in Central Asia;
- Relevant local, provincial and national business entities to gauge their perspective;
- International Partners, including multilaterals such as the United Nations.

2. Community Focus Groups

The provider should conduct community focus groups (Mahala level) in the agreed locations that would be relevant for PVE interventions (at least 10 targeted Mahala). This phase may also involve qualitative assessments with stakeholders in target locations to triangulate preliminary findings and identify priority issues, including informal interviews with returnees, guardians of children who have been returned and other relevant beneficiaries.

Phase 3: Research Outputs – 2 April, 2025

- **Consultation on Findings:** Before drafting the final report, the team will share the draft consolidated findings and recommendations to GCERF. GCERF will discuss and validate it with the Uzbek Country Support Mechanism.
- The research team will prepare a maximum 2-page summary
- The research team will prepare a presentation about the essential findings and recommendations and present those to GCERF and the Uzbek Country Support Mechanism
- The research team will adjust the report in line with the feedback provided.

- **Raw data and final report:** The report should analyse (1) the dynamics of vulnerabilities to violent extremist groups, and (2) identify opportunities for programmatic interventions, with details of ongoing efforts in these areas – as outlined above. The final report should be provided in English with the raw data. In addition, the supplier needs to provide a succinct, two-page executive summary with key recommendations and power point presentation for dissemination.

Requirements & Characteristics of the provider

The provider must comply with all applicable laws and regulations of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Switzerland. It should adhere to a strict confidentiality policy in relation to client (GCERF) information.

Its staffing levels, qualifications and expertise should be appropriate to be able to provide timely and high-quality services to GCERF. The provider should demonstrate a high degree of commitment to good customer service. The composition of the team servicing GCERF's account would be an important factor in the decision-making process of GCERF.

The fees charged should be reasonable, competitive and related to services rendered to the extent possible.

1. Required Expertise:

- Demonstrable in-depth knowledge of the context and dynamics in Uzbekistan;
- Relevant expertise in political and security analysis and actor mapping;
- A developed network of contacts in Uzbekistan, including within the government and the international community;
- Physical presence in Uzbekistan;
- Ability to demonstrate reflexivity in research design and delivery;
- Ability to analyse and interpret findings and results in a manner that informs strategies and policies;
- Experience working in fragile and conflict affected contexts on prevention programming;
- Fluency in both spoken and written English and local languages.

2. **Governance & Management:** GCERF Secretariat will oversee the work of the supplier. GCERF Head of Programmes will be the main point of contact for this contract.

3. **Timeframe:** The proposed timeframe for this workstream is 2.5 months, to conclude on 30 March 2025. There is a possibility to extend to delivery period to an additional 2 weeks maximum provided the request is made at least 3 weeks before the deadline.
4. **Funding:** The supplier will generate and propose an Activity Based Budget for the task and manage the financial delivery with support from a dedicated GCERF's Finance point of contact.

Submission of proposals

Proposals should follow the template provided below. Failure to follow the proposal structure or to comply with the instructions in this Request for Proposal will be at the bidder's risk and may affect the evaluation of the proposal.

Proposals should be submitted by email in the form of "pdf files" clearly marked "Bid reference: RFP 2024-16 CNA in Uzbekistan". The email should be addressed to bids@gcerf.org.

Deadline for submission is 31 January 2025 midnight Central European Time.

Period of validity of the proposal

The proposal must be valid for a period of 120 days following submission.

Cost of preparation and submission of the proposal

The bidder shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of the proposal, including but not limited to the possible cost of discussing the proposal with GCERF, making a presentation, negotiating a contract and any related travel. GCERF will in no case be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the selection process.

Selection of bidders

Bidders are requested to provide the most appropriate and most cost-effective solution to meet the requirements.

The selection will be made based on a number of criteria that will be applied systematically to all bids received:

- Responsiveness to request;
- Proposed approach and detailed methodology;

- Qualifications, experience and composition of the team;
- Credibility of the bidder organisation;
- Quality of the offer document; and
- Financial Offer.

Proposal template

Bidders must submit their proposal following the template below :

The proposal is made up of four different sections

1. Disclosure form
2. Profile of the bidder
3. Technical proposal
4. Financial proposal

Please keep the overall proposal within 10 pages. You may annex additional information as needed.

1. Disclosure form

To be completed by a duly authorized representative of the Bidder: *On behalf of (name of public institution/private or public business entity/myself) (referred to in this document as "the Bidder"), I (name and title of the Bidder's representative) confirm that I am a duly authorized representative of the Bidder and hereby submit this proposal in response to GCERF's Request for Proposal **RFP 2024-16 CNA in Uzbekistan**. I confirm that all statements and representations made in the proposal are true and correct.*

Date submitted:

Submitted by: (Name of Bidder)

Name and Title of Authorized Representative:

Date:

Signature

2. Profile of the Bidder

Please provide a brief background of the Bidder.

Please explain the legal status of the bidder; including its registration with the relevant competent authorities.

Please explain your organizational strengths and values and your customer service approach.

Please provide information on prior experience with similar requirements and references that GCERF may contact.

3. Technical Proposal

A. Business need: Please indicate your understanding of GCERF's business needs for which you are submitting this proposal.

B. Objectives and deliverables :

Please list the deliverables as specified in this Request for Proposal and indicate whether and how the Bidder commits to deliver these.

Optional: Present deliverables not listed in this Request for Proposal but which in your expert assessment, are necessary to achieve the objectives of this request.

C. Approach:

Please provide information on the following:

1. Methodology/approaches you would use to provide the various required services;
2. Workplan: key tasks/phases, deliverables, schedule of activities - may be presented using text and/or graphics;
3. Measures to ensure quality control over the delivery of services to GCERF

D. Service Management Plan:

Please provide details for how your firm would ensure that it provides satisfactory services to GCERF. Please explain how you would coordinate the service offering, including proposed meetings and any proposed mechanism for feedback to and/or coordination with GCERF.

E. Team Composition:

Please provide the following information on the proposed team that would work with GCERF:

- Team organization

- Individual team members; name, role in the team, area of expertise and relevant experience.

F. Risk Mitigation Plan:

Please list any identified risks which may affect the successful delivery of services and any proposed mitigating measures.

G. Assumptions (optional):

Please list the assumptions on which your proposed approach and successful completion of deliverables are based that you think would be important for GCERF to understand.

H. References:

Please briefly provide recent examples of similar projects that the Bidder has recently undertaken. Please indicate if the name of the client may be disclosed and if GCERF may contact the client for reference.

4. Financial Proposal

Please explain the basis of the proposed fees and any other charges to GCERF and their level. Please include basis for invoicing and terms and conditions for payment.

Date