

## Kenya Community Engagement and Resilience Programme (KCERP)

### Expression of Interest (EOI)

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Closing Time: 11:59 PM (East Africa Time)

## INTRODUCTION

Act Change Transform (Act!) is co-implementing the **Kenya Community Engagement and Resilience Programme (KCERP)**, which is funded by the European Union, alongside the **Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF)** - the world leader in building community resilience against violent extremism - as the Lead Implementing Partner. GCERF is a global fund dedicated to preventing violent extremism and is based in Geneva, Switzerland ([www.gcerf.org](http://www.gcerf.org)). It represents the first global effort to support local, community-level initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience against violent extremism (VE). Act! is a leading Kenyan non-profit Public Benefit Organization (PBO) ([www.act.or.ke](http://www.act.or.ke)). Act! focuses on enhancing the capacity and resilience of individuals and communities, empowering them to engage in the decision-making and management of their development. Act! invests in building the organizational capacity of its partners, including Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and government agencies, to better equip the public and private sectors, enabling them to efficiently and effectively deliver high-quality services. Act! focuses on three programming areas: i) Peace Building and Conflict Transformation; ii) Democracy, Governance and Human Rights; and iii) Sustainable Environment and Natural Resources Management.

The KCERP programme aims to strengthen the resilience of communities - women and men - in all their diversity at risk of suffering from (*or being engaged in*) violent extremism. The specific objectives are:

- Increased awareness of women, youth and the community on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) – including human rights and gender (*offline and online*);
- Improved agency for community leaders, especially youth and women, on driving PCVE, including by having a more positive relationship with local authorities/law enforcement;
- Increased socio-economic resilience for women and youth (*especially disengaged youth*) against violent extremism through increased sustainable income.

The programme will be implemented from 2025 to 2028 in five (5) Counties - **Lamu, Tana River, Mandera, Marsabit and Wajir**. KCERP will be rolled out in two (2) phases. Phase I will be implemented in the urban, peri-urban and rural areas of Lamu and Tana River Counties and Phase II in Mandera, Marsabit and Wajir Counties.

## Phase I Expression of Interest (EOI)

Act! invites EOIs from community-based organizations (CBOs) based and working in **Lamu** (Lamu East and Lamu West) and **Tana River** (Tana Delta, Tana River, Tana North, Galedyertu, and Bangal) Counties.

Act! invites interested entities to submit applications in the form of Concept Notes for innovative projects and/or initiatives that would contribute to the main goals of KCERP as described in this EOI.

Applicants are expected to be CBOs; including local NGOs, Public Benefit Organizations (PBOs) and grassroots initiatives that are active within the communities, working in the prevention of violent extremism (PCVE) space. This EOI provides a summary of the priority areas of intervention for which applications are being sought and provides application guidelines and details of the criteria against which applications will be evaluated. Issuance of this EOI does not constitute a commitment on the part of Act!, its partner GCERF or the funding organization to award sub-grants.

Furthermore, Act! makes no commitment to reimburse applicants for costs incurred in responding to this EOI. Participating in and responding to this RFA is at the risk and expense of the applicant. Act! is also not obliged to provide reasons for its decision as far as this EOI process is concerned.

### Our Working Definition of CBOs

The Public Benefit Organizations (PBO) Act of 2013 came into effect on 14 May 2024, replacing the NGO Coordination Act of 1990. According to this Act, a PBO is defined as a voluntary membership or non-membership grouping of individuals or organizations that is autonomous, non-partisan, and non-profit. It must also (a) be organized and operated locally, nationally, or internationally; (b) engage in public benefit activities; and (c) be registered as such by the Authority.

Based on this understanding, including the transition period, **we consider CBOs as organizations registered by the NGO Coordination Board, the PBO Regulatory Authority, the Societies Act, and the State Department of Social Development (Ministry of Labour and Social Protection).** These include NGOs, PBOs, CBOs and Self-Help Groups. **Note that applications from internationally operated entities will not be considered.**

The purpose of the EOI is to invite county-based organizations to submit applications (Concept Notes) to support the implementation of KCERP in their counties. Applicants need to demonstrate that they meet the Act!'s established prerequisites and they possess the requisite capabilities to execute the sub-grants.

### PREREQUISITES

- (i) Appropriate legal registration in Kenya.
- (ii) Presence in the County of interest.
- (iii) Demonstrate that they have an active board and/or oversight committee.
- (iv) Physical office in the County or Sub-County of interest.
- (v) Participation in this EOI process.

### CAPABILITIES

- (vi) Experience in implementing sub-grants (projects) in the relevant County, with demonstrable human resource capacity to implement sub-grants.
- (vii) Experience in the design and implementation of women and/or youth-centred programs.
- (viii) Demonstrable potential for programming focused on PCVE initiatives, community agency, and multi-stakeholder coordination. Membership of and/or working experience with the respective County Engagement Forum (CEF) would be an added advantage.
- (ix) Recognized ability to comply with good programmatic, financial, and administrative practices (statutory and donor audits).
- (x) Experience and capacity in financial management and the management of and accounting for donor sub-grant funding.
- (xi) Proven record in community engagement and government collaboration.

Applicants must demonstrate that they are legally registered entities based in and with experience of working in the Counties or Sub-Counties for which their applications are based. Applicants must demonstrate capacity and presence in the county of choice. The proposed projects and interventions must directly contribute to the objectives of KCERP including enhancing the role and space for women, youth and other minorities in the offline and online PCVE space. ***In addition, competitively selected partners will be required to be accredited in the upcoming Jasiri Observatory's PCVE Stakeholders Network [an initiative of the National Counter Terrorism Centre intended to facilitate the implementation of the National Strategy to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism as well as the Kenyan Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA), 2012].***

## BACKGROUND

Radicalization, recruitment into Violent Extremist Organizations (VEOs) and acts of Violent Extremism (VE) are still major peace and security concerns in Kenya. An example is the Global Terrorism Index (GTI), which provides a comprehensive summary of the key global trends and patterns in terrorism since 2012. In 2025, GTI ranked Kenya 19<sup>th</sup> in their analysis of the impact of terrorism for 163 countries.

The reviewed National Strategy to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism (NSPCVE) forecasts that VE will remain a complex, dispersed, and dynamic threat to Kenya's national security and development, disproportionately affecting marginalized groups, including women and youth. According to the reviewed strategy; geopolitical differences, conflict, poverty, inequality, the climate crisis, tech-enabled VE, proliferation of arms, political fragility and poorly governed spaces, under-moderated and under-regulated virtual spaces, and perceived injustices are the leading drivers of radicalization and VE in Kenya. A baseline survey commissioned by the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) to provide baseline data for the NSPCVE established that several regions in Kenya, including the North Eastern and Coastal regions, are particularly vulnerable to radical extremism due to a combination of socioeconomic tensions, community conflicts, and the exploitation of emerging technologies by extremist groups. In addition, climate change is a threat multiplier in the two identified regions. The VE threat landscape is highly contextualized and localized, especially the interplay between structural, enabling, and personal factors. This calls for local, community-led and owned contextualized Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) initiatives or strategies.

## Indicative types of themes to be supported under this EOI

Selected applicants will implement activities and mainstream PCVE, collaborating with diverse stakeholders, including the local private sector. Proposed PCVE initiatives will focus on: (1) raising awareness among women, youth, and the broader community about PCVE, human rights, and gender (both online and offline); (2) strengthening the agency of community leaders, particularly women and youth, to drive PCVE, including fostering positive relationships with local authorities and law enforcement; and (3) enhancing the socio-economic resilience of women and youth (especially disengaged youth) against violent extremism through sustainable income generation. These objectives align with the Country Action Plan (CAP) and are informed by submitted proposals.

The **thematic areas** are:

- a) Support for youth and women on creating/ strengthening local associations and promoting civic engagement including through culture and sports.
- b) Social-orientated interventions by local organizations to boost the relationship between different groups, or between society and the State (government).
- c) Increased socio-economic resilience for women and youth (especially disconnected youth) against violent extremism through increased sustainable income; including virtual/digital livelihoods, skilling and or kitting.

These thematic areas are meant to guide Applicants as they prepare their Concept Notes. Further, Applicants are notified that in selecting the activities to implement, they should be guided by the context in which they will implement their various projects; as such, *it would not be feasible for applicants to propose and implement activities under all thematic areas.*

## SUB-AWARDS AND FUNDING

KCERP anticipates a maximum grant amount of up to KES. 7,500,000.00 (approx. EUR. 60,000) to any single organization over the lifetime of the programme. To facilitate inclusion of smaller organisations, two tracks of funding opportunity are available, broken down as follows:

- **Track 1:** Smaller, scalable and innovative ideas between **KES. 625,000.00** (approximately EUR. 5,000) to **KES. 2,500,000.00** (approx. EUR. 20,000) for periods of between 6 months to 12 months; and
- **Track 2:** Larger sub-awards of between **KES. 2,500,000.00** (approx. EUR. 20,000) to **KES. 7,500,000.00** (approx. EUR. 60,000) for periods of at least 12 months.

Applications under each Track will be subjected to two distinct sets of evaluation criteria as indicated in the evaluation process below.

Applicants should indicate the Track they are applying for. Act! and GCERF anticipate awarding one sub-award in each sub-county and reserve the right to determine the number of Track 1 and Track 2 sub-awards. Smaller, innovative applications from CBOs are encouraged.

Where necessary, Act! and GCERF have the right to engage a promising applicant to increase or reduce the scope and budget of its application to fit into the broader aims of KCERP; including growing capacities of community level organizations to prevent radicalization, recruitment into VEOs and violent extremism.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants will submit Concept Notes, which upon review, successful entities shall be shortlisted and proceed to the full proposal development stage. The Concept Notes must be received by Act! no later than **11:59 PM (East Africa Time) on 9 May 2025**. Only complete submissions will be evaluated. Act! will notify applicants automatically upon receipt of the applications.

**Step 1:** The Applicant shall prepare a **Concept Note** responding to either of the two funding tracks that describes their organization and the type of program or initiative/idea proposed to ensure implementation of innovative activities and mainstreaming of PCVE in existing activities in collaboration with different stakeholders, including the private sector.

The **Concept Notes** shall include the following:

- a) a Program Concept (maximum 5 pages – Font: Times New Roman; Font Size: 12, Spacing: Single);
- b) a high-level budget; and
- c) a copy of the organization's registration document.

Your concept note should cover concisely the following information/sections within the allowed pages:

- a. Description of the issue(s) being addressed (background). Provide a contextual analysis of radicalization and violent extremism issues in the county your organization(s) wishes to work in. What is the issue, and why is it important? What are the causes of the problem(s), and what, if



anything, has been done to resolve them in the past? What worked; what did not work, and why? What kinds of programs has your organization completed in the past that were aimed at addressing the issues? What was the change that happened as a result of your work? Tell us why your organization is the right one to do the project that you are proposing.

- b. Brief description of the Applicant's program, which will address the issue(s). What is your goal? What are your specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-bound (i.e., SMART) objectives for achieving that goal? What are the concrete and specific "innovative" activities and results the program seeks to implement and achieve? What impact will these results have on the bigger issue being addressed?
- c. The concept must articulate linkages and connections with other organizations and networks and explicitly state how (*if at all*) the activities will strengthen or forge alliances among CSOs and with CEFs.
- d. How will your program involve women, youth and other minorities, and how will it address their concerns? What specific activities will be carried out and when? Applicants should note that KCERP is not simply looking for projects that have positive results for women, youth, the disabled, or other marginalized groups, but for projects that actively and meaningfully involve them in the activity, thereby building a real voice, skills, and achieving stronger, sustainable PCVE outcomes.
- e. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan: How will you tell if your program is working as planned? What data or information will you collect to monitor your work and determine whether you are making a difference in your community? Outline a brief Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the project: Key assumptions, risks and mitigation measures.

**Note:** Concept Notes must only be written in English.

## SUBMISSION

**On or before Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025.** Please submit Your Concept Note and Budget (*using the attached templates*) as separate attachments via e-mail to [kcerp-eoi@act.or.ke](mailto:kcerp-eoi@act.or.ke) clearly indicating in the subject of your email **Application for KCERP Funding** and quoting the **EOI Reference Number and Funding Track**. Applications received after the set deadline **WILL NOT** be considered.

## EVALUATION PROCESS

A **Technical Review Panel** made up of Act! Grants and Program teams will review the Concept Notes/full proposals. The process should be completed within **14 working days**. The review panel, using the criteria detailed below, will rate applications and make funding recommendations to the Act! Grants Management Unit.

	AREA OF FOCUS (TRACK 2 EOIs)	POINTS
<b>A.</b>	<b>Technical Feasibility:</b> Demonstrated knowledge of the Violent Extremism context and PCVE approaches. Experience of engaging or collaborating with CEFs and other county-level structures/government institutions relevant to PCVE mainstreaming and related issues is desirable.	25
<b>B.</b>	<b>Linkage</b> between the problem and the proposed intervention that is clearly presented in simple, and easy-to-understand language.	15
<b>C.</b>	<b>Creativity and Innovativeness</b> i.e. Innovative offline and online activities that advance the PCVE agenda; including but not limited to innovative alternative livelihoods, skills development and kitting of vulnerable women and youth.	15
<b>D.</b>	<b>Inclusivity:</b> i.e. to what extent the intervention substantively includes youth, women, community members of diverse ethnic, religious, cultural and other backgrounds, as well as key community stakeholders, including the CEF.	15
<b>E.</b>	Organizational ability to carry out actions and strong connection to on-going PCVE and peace efforts.	10
<b>F.</b>	<b>Sustainability:</b> Clear demonstration of how the initiatives will be sustained beyond the grant, including initiatives that build on existing community mechanisms and previous or ongoing PCVE Initiatives.	10

G.	<b>MERL:</b> Strength of the theory of change, a monitoring and evaluation plan <i>(including the indicators of impact)</i> .	5
H.	<b>Budget:</b> Cost realism, cost consciousness and value for money.	5
	<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>
AREA OF FOCUS (TRACK 1 EOIs)		POINTS
A.	<b>Technical Feasibility:</b> Knowledge of peace and security context, including Violent Extremism, in the community or geography of focus.	15
B.	Linkage between the problem and the proposed intervention respond to the identify problem or gap in the community or geography of focus. Proposed interventions should be focused in terms of geography or community of focus i.e. a sub county, ward, youth, women, religious networks, online community etc. Proposed activities are creative, innovative and scalable	10
C.	Organizational ability to carry out proposed actions i.e. existence of an office (including being co-hosted if necessary), some staff or volunteers and proven connection to the geography or community of focus as a sustainability mechanism. Prior PCVE and or peace building experiences will be a plus.	10
D.	<b>MERL:</b> Demonstrated understanding of MERL processes like a simple monitoring and evaluation plan (including the indicators of impact).	5
E.	<b>Budget:</b> Cost realism, cost consciousness and value for money. Demonstrated ability to prudently handle funds as will be determined during fiduciary assessment.	10
	<b>Total Points</b>	<b>50</b>

## ADMINISTRATION OF SUB-AWARDS

Sub-awards will be administered following the Act! Grants Manual and donor requirements.

The sub-awards will be managed and guided by the policies and procedures and the applicable cost principles documented therein.

**Please submit all clarifying questions concerning this EOI to Act! Grants team by email to [kcerp-eoi@act.or.ke](mailto:kcerp-eoi@act.or.ke) by 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Questions and Answers will be posted on our website on or before 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025.**