



Call for Proposals: Youth Innovation Grant Competition (STRIVE-GH)

Empowering Youth to Lead Change in Preventing Violent Extremism

Deadline for Submission: 25th October 2025

Grant Amount: GHS 5,000 – GHS 10,000

Target Regions: Upper East, Upper West, North East

Organized by: STRIVE-GH Consortium (Norsaac, CAPECS and AFRIKIDS)

Funded by: GCERF

Small Grant Competitions for Innovative Youth Ideas Preventing Violent Extremism

1. Are you a youth-led, women led group, community-based organization or movement?
2. Are you located and operating within the **Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism (STRIVE)** program areas of Mamprugu-Moagduri Municipal in NorthEast region, Nadowli-Kaleo, Daffiama/Busie/Issa (DBI) in Upper East region and Nabdam, Kasena-Nankana West, Bolga Municipal, Tempene, Builsa South and Talensi in Upper East region?
3. Does your interventions address local needs to contribute to resilience against violent extremism and social instability.

The **Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism (STRIVE)** Programme led by Norsaac and partnership with Capacity Enhancement and Community Support (CAPECS) and AFRIKIDS Ghana, presents you the opportunity to critical agents of change in building resilient communities and preventing violent extremism (VE), and to augment your activities in these given areas through the Innovative Youth Ideas on Preventing Violent Extremism.

Background of the STRIVE Programme

Youth are critical agents of change in building resilient communities and preventing violent extremism (VE). However, many young people lack access to resources and platforms to transform their ideas into impactful initiatives. This activity seeks to empower youth by providing small grants to support innovative, locally driven projects that address VE and social instability.

Across Northern Ghana, youth especially those in border communities continue to face multiple, overlapping vulnerabilities including high levels of unemployment, lack of access to education or vocational skills, social exclusion, and limited access to leadership or civic engagement opportunities. These structural challenges create a fertile environment for violent extremist organizations (VEOs) to recruit and manipulate young people through promises of identity, income, and power.

Despite being disproportionately affected by insecurity and exclusion, youth remain a powerful force for change and peacebuilding. Many young people are already leading informal efforts to address local conflict, promote dialogue, and create economic opportunities. However, they often

lack the resources, platforms, and visibility to scale their initiatives or transform their ideas into sustainable action.

In alignment with STRIVE-GH's commitment to youth empowerment and community resilience, this activity seeks to uncover, support, and amplify youth-led innovations that address the root causes of violent extremism (VE). The Annual Small Grant Competition will encourage young people to design and lead local initiatives focused on peacebuilding, livelihood creation, social cohesion, or civic education. The activity also aims to position youth not as passive beneficiaries, but as frontline actors in promoting inclusive development and PVE strategies.

Overall Objective: To contribute to resilient populations and communities against terrorism and violent extremism

Specific Objectives (SO):

- ❖ SO 1. To enhance awareness and understanding of counter-terrorism, violent extremism and preventive measures among communities, civil society organisations (CSOs), and authorities.
- ❖ SO 2: To facilitate vulnerable and at-risk population's access to sustainable socio-economic opportunities and livelihoods.
- ❖ SO 3: To Strengthen social cohesion in vulnerable communities by promoting traditional conflict resolution and peacebuilding mechanisms.

Background to YISG in PVE

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people to design and lead local initiatives focused on peacebuilding, livelihood creation, social cohesion, or civic education. The activity also aims to position youth not as passive beneficiaries, but as frontline actors in promoting inclusive development and PVE strategies.

Objective:

To support youth-led initiatives that promote resilience against violent extremism and social instability through an annual small grant competition.

Specific Objectives:

- Encourage youth innovation in addressing local VE challenges.
- Provide financial and technical support to youth-led projects.
- Build youth capacity in proposal writing, budgeting, and impact articulation.
- Promote transparency and community involvement in grant selection and implementation

YISG will therefore be a platform to catalyze ongoing actions or emerging joint actions that will reduce harmful practices, unintended pregnancies and SGBVs in the PtY implementing areas.

The YISG grant shall have two streams namely.

- The small grant stream
- The flexible stream.

The YISG small grants stream shall have the following characteristics.

- Youth-led innovations
- Youth ideas around preventing violent extremism
- Time bound innovations in the STRIVE key issues
- Innovations that demonstrate ability to impact on a larger scale at community and district levels
- Innovative ideas that demonstrate results within a maximum of 3 months period

Who Can Apply?

- Youth aged **18–35** from STRIVE-GH intervention communities.
- Groups with innovative ideas addressing peacebuilding, livelihoods, civic education, or social cohesion.
- Priority will be given to women groups or marginalized groups including youth with disabilities, out-of-school youth, and those from minority communities.

Grant Details

- Up to **6 youth-led initiatives** will be selected (2 per region).
- Each selected initiative will receive **GHS 5,000–10,000**.
- Winners will receive mentorship in project management, budgeting, and reporting.

Application Process

1. Call Announcement & Outreach

Disseminated via community radio, social media, youth networks, and CSOs.

2. Submission of Concept Notes

Short proposals outlining the idea, objectives, and expected impact.

3. Review & Selection

A Technical Review Committee will assess proposals based on:

- Innovation
- Feasibility
- Community impact
- Inclusion
- Relevance to VE prevention

4. Grant Award & Mentorship:

Selected applicants will sign grant agreements and begin implementation.

5. Implementation & Showcase:

Projects will run for up to 3 months, culminating in a **Youth Innovation Gallery** to showcase results.

How to Apply

Submit a **short concept note** (max 5 pages) including:

- Project title and objectives
- Target beneficiaries
- Proposed activities and timeline
- Budget estimate
- Expected outcomes



Send applications to: recruitments@norsaac.org

Deadline: *25th October, 2025.*

Contact

For inquiries, contact: Mohammed Sumaila (Program Advisor)

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