

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Action Against Disasters Somalia (AADSOM)



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**Serving humanity
with dignity ●●●●**



Table of Contents

Executive Director’s Message	1
AADSOM	2-3
The Humanitarian Landscape	4
Multi-Sectoral Overview	
Food Security	5
Nutrition	6
Health	7
WASH	8
Education and Protection	9
Localized Reponse	10
Lifesaving WASH response	11
Food Security Response	12
Nutrition Response	13
Food Systems Response	13-15
Stories	
A Mother’s Struggle: Finding Hope Amid Hardships	17

Executive Director's Message

Somalia's humanitarian crisis is neither new nor cyclical—it is protracted, systemic, and deeply complex. The interplay of violent conflict, climatic shocks, political instability, and weak governance has created a fragile environment where survival often depends on humanitarian aid.

In 2023, the country witnessed a shift from severe drought to widespread flooding. Yet, the underlying drivers of vulnerability, poverty, displacement, insecurity, and weak institution, remained unchanged. Across all regions, vulnerable populations continued to face life-threatening hunger, forced displacement, limited access to essential services, and pervasive protection risks.

At the beginning of 2024, approximately 6.9 million people, over 40% of Somalia's population required humanitarian and protection assistance. Although this reflected a modest reduction from the 8.25 million in need at the peak of 2023, the situation remained extremely fragile. Recovery from the drought was uneven, and catastrophic flooding devastated communities, particularly along the Shabelle and Juba river basins.

In parallel, insecurity and armed conflict persisted, displacing thousands in central and southern Somalia. Clashes between armed rivalries not only uprooted families but also compounded protection risks for women, girls, and persons with disabilities, particularly in informal settlements and IDP sites.

Equally concerning was the significant underfunding of humanitarian response. Only 47% of the \$1.6 billion Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) requirements were met in 2024. This shortfall led to the suspension of critical life-saving services, including nutrition centers, mobile health clinics, water, and school feeding programs. The impact fell hardest on children, the elderly, and displaced families with no alternative means of support. Somalia continues to rank among the lowest globally in food security, health outcomes, and human development indicators.

It is, therefore, with great responsibility and humility that I present you this annual report. It offers a comprehensive multi-sectoral overview of Somalia's humanitarian landscape in 2024 and documents how Action Against Disasters Somalia (AADSOM) has responded to some of the most urgent needs of the Somali people.

On behalf of AADSOM, I extend my deepest gratitude to our donors, partners, and dedicated staff for their unwavering commitment to alleviating suffering and saving lives. Together, we reaffirm our shared mission: to stand with the most vulnerable and to work relentlessly toward a Somalia where resilience, dignity, and hope can flourish.

Guled Osman
Executive Director

AADSOM

**“ Hope begins where
hunger ends ”**

With every meal, a child gains strength, a mother regains dignity, and a community rebuilds its future. Hunger may break lives, but together, we can restore hope.

www.aadsom.org



Action Against Disasters Somalia (AADSOM) is a national nonprofit humanitarian organization dedicated to saving lives, alleviating human suffering, and preserving dignity amid crises and disasters.

Action Against Disasters Somalia (AADSOM) anchors its interventions across five key thematic areas: Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL), Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), Health and Nutrition (H&N), Climate Change Adaptation, and Education. These focus areas collectively define the organization's integrated approach to addressing the multi-dimensional drivers of vulnerability in Somalia.

Guided by core humanitarian principles and international standards, AADSOM is deeply committed to upholding and advancing the values of principled humanitarianism—humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence. This commitment underpins all aspects of the organization's work, emphasizing meaningful community engagement, inclusive participation, and continuous alignment with internationally

recognized norms and frameworks that ensure transparency, accountability, and integrity in humanitarian action. Despite Somalia's persistently complex and fragile humanitarian environment, AADSOM remains steadfast and adaptive, ensuring the delivery of impartial, needs-based, and unconditional assistance that alleviates suffering, safeguards dignity, and strengthens community resilience.

As a frontline disaster response organization, AADSOM distinguishes itself through its unwavering neutrality and equity in aid delivery. Assistance is provided solely based on need, without discrimination of race, gender, nationality, religion, or socioeconomic status.

MISSION & VISION

Action Against Disasters Somalia (AADSOM) is guided by a clear mission, vision, and set of values that define its purpose. Through these guiding principles, AADSOM strives to make a meaningful difference in the lives of vulnerable populations in Somalia while contributing to a more resilient and sustainable future for the communities it serves.

Mission:

Our mission is to alleviate suffering and poverty by enabling communities to establish secure, productive, and just systems that promote resilience, equity, and sustainable development.

Vision

AADSOM's vision is to empower communities by delivering impactful programs that alleviate poverty, build resilience, and foster inclusive growth, while promoting peace and innovation as foundations for a sustainable future.

Core values:

AADSOM is guided by a set of globally recognized core values that define its purpose and shape its actions. These values emphasize a strong commitment to humanitarian principles, integrity, transparency, accountability, and equity. By upholding these commitments, AADSOM strives to promote dignity, respect, and inclusivity across all its programs. Our approach is rooted in the following widely endorsed humanitarian values and beliefs:

- Humanity
- Neutrality
- Impartiality
- Independence
- Integrity
- Respect
- Gender Equality
- Accountability

The Humanitarian Landscape



3

Somalia remained entrenched in one of the world's most complex and protracted humanitarian crises, fueled by the compounded effects of climate shocks, armed conflict, political fragility, chronic poverty, and mass displacement. Despite modest signs of recovery following the peak of the 2020–2023 drought, the overall humanitarian situation remained deeply alarming. An estimated 6.9 million people, including more than 4.3 million children, required life-saving humanitarian and protection assistance during the year. While this represented a 17% decrease from 2023, the scale of need remained staggering, with the most vulnerable bearing the heaviest burden amid deepening funding shortfalls and operational constraints.

The 2024 crisis was marked by a troubling convergence of worsening food insecurity, acute malnutrition, limited access to clean water and health services, and ongoing displacement. More than 4.3 million Somalis faced Crisis-level (IPC Phase 3) or worse food insecurity, while nearly 1.8 million children under five suffered from acute malnutrition—figures that prompted urgent appeals from humanitarian actors for scaled-up assistance.

Following the historic five-season drought that ended in 2023, unseasonal and destructive floods devastated communities along the Shabelle and Juba River basins, submerging more than 1.2 million hectares of farmland and displacing tens of thousands of people. According to local and international partners, over 477,000 new displacements were recorded during the year, bringing the total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to nearly 3.8 million. Many were forced into overcrowded, underserved informal camps where risks of gender-based violence (GBV), child separation, and disease outbreaks sharply increased.

In a stark illustration of need, humanitarian actors reported the mass closure of critical healthcare centers, overwhelmed by rising caseloads of malnutrition-related illnesses, cholera, measles, and acute watery diarrhea (AWD). Donor fatigue and severe underfunding left millions of lives at risk. By December 2024, only 47% of the \$1.6 billion Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) was funded, leaving millions without access to essential services. Local NGOs, though vital for last-mile delivery struggled to sustain operations due to a lack of direct and predictable financing.

Multi-sectoral Overview

From drought to floods: How overlapping crises have deepened Somalia's humanitarian emergency.





Food Security:

Food insecurity persisted as the most urgent and defining humanitarian challenge across Somalia in 2024. Although famine was narrowly averted in 2023, conditions persisted at critical levels throughout 2024, with an estimated 4.3 million people facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse food insecurity, including over 1.2 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). While this reflected a modest decline from the 2022–2023 peak, the underlying causes of food insecurity, climate shocks, displacement, conflict, inflation, and weak markets remained unresolved.

In multiple regions, particularly Hiraan, Middle Shabelle, Bay, Bakool, Gedo and Lower Juba, food security deteriorated due to the destruction of farmland by floods, collapse of local markets, and ongoing displacement. Riverine communities along the Shabelle and Juba rivers lost entire harvests due to submersion of fields. The Shabelle River overflow alone displaced more than 100,000 people in Hiraan and Middle Shabelle, while pastoralist families in central and northern regions continued to suffer from the cumulative effects of previous droughts that decimated their herds.

Nutrition:



Nutritional indices across the country remained at alarmingly critical levels throughout 2024. Although some regions showed marginal signs of recovery compared to the previous year, overall levels of malnutrition continued to exceed internationally recognized emergency thresholds.

By mid-2024, an estimated 1.8 million children under five were acutely malnourished, including approximately 479,000 suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)—a figure that starkly underscored the scale and urgency of the crisis.

In addition, over 800,000 pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) required targeted nutritional support, particularly in displaced and marginalized communities.

These figures placed Somalia among the worst nutritional emergencies globally, and humanitarian partners consistently warned that without urgent action, tens of thousands of children could face preventable death or irreversible developmental harm.

Health:

Somalia's health system remained structurally fragile, chronically under-resourced, and heavily reliant on external humanitarian assistance, particularly in regions affected by conflict and recurrent displacement. The sector continued to grapple with cyclical emergencies such as disease outbreaks, malnutrition-related morbidity, and persistently elevated maternal and child mortality rates. These challenges were further compounded by climate-induced shocks, large-scale population movements, inadequate health infrastructure, and an acute shortage of skilled healthcare professionals—factors that collectively restricted millions of Somalis from accessing essential health services.

Health facilities across Somalia continued to operate under extreme pressure, constrained by chronic shortages of medical supplies, overstretched health personnel, and insufficient funding. In many rural and hard-to-reach areas, health centers remained either non-existent, non-functional, or inaccessible due to persistent insecurity and recurrent flooding. Outbreaks of cholera and Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) were pervasive, particularly within IDP settlements and flood-prone districts, while recurrent measles outbreaks persisted in overcrowded areas with low vaccination coverage.

The health status of displaced populations further deteriorated due to inadequate shelter conditions, overcrowding, and insufficient access to safe water and sanitation facilities. Consequently, communicable diseases such as respiratory infections, skin ailments, and

diarrheal illnesses became endemic across numerous IDP camps. Somalia continued to have one of the world's highest maternal mortality rates, estimated at 692 deaths per 100,000 live births (WHO, 2024). In rural and crisis-affected areas, many women give birth without trained assistance, significantly increasing the risks of maternal death and complications.

Exposure to violence, displacement, gender-based violence, and trauma also generated a surge in mental health needs, especially among women, children, and former combatants.

Overall, Somalia ranked among the countries with the lowest health coverage and worst health outcomes globally, with women, children, and displaced populations bearing the heaviest burden.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) conditions across the country stood at critically inadequate levels, driving the spread of disease, malnutrition, and preventable mortality, particularly among displaced populations and vulnerable rural communities. The compounded shocks of the 2020–2023 drought and the devastating floods of 2024 inflicted severe damage on WASH infrastructure, disrupted essential water sources, and pushed already fragile systems to the brink of collapse.

An estimated 5.3 million people across Somalia required emergency WASH services in 2024, with more than 60% of internally displaced persons (IDPs) lacking access to safe drinking water or functional sanitation facilities, therefore contributing to recurrent cholera outbreaks, skin infections, diarrheal diseases, and heightened child undernutrition, particularly in flood-affected districts and informal settlements.

According to findings from the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) and cluster-led evaluations, over 79% of households depended on unimproved sanitation facilities characterized by serious structural deficiencies including the absence of walls, roofs, and locks. These inadequate conditions exposed communities to significant protection risks, particularly for women and girls. Open defecation remained widespread across both host communities and IDP settlements, largely due to the limited availability of latrines and the persistence of deep-rooted cultural barriers. Poor hygiene practices were also prevalent, compounded by restricted access to soap and other essential hygiene materials, constrained by high costs and inconsistent distribution. In addition, many schools, health centers, and child-friendly spaces lacked functional WASH infrastructure, severely undermining service delivery and increasing the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks.





Education & Protection

Access to quality, inclusive, and protective education remained critically constrained across Somalia in 2024, particularly in areas affected by conflict, displacement, and recurrent climatic shocks. An estimated 3 million school-aged children were out of school, with girls, displaced populations, and minority groups disproportionately excluded from learning opportunities. The education sector continued to face recurrent disruptions caused by flooding, prolonged school closures, deteriorating infrastructure, acute teacher shortages, and chronic underfunding.

Widespread poverty and economic hardship compelled many families to prioritize immediate survival over education, leading to a rise in child labor and early marriage. The wider humanitarian crisis further eroded safe learning environments, weakened teacher retention, and overstretched already fragile education systems, especially in rural and displacement settings where resources and institutional capacity remained extremely limited. In districts such as Beletweyne, recurrent flooding destroyed or submerged school buildings, leaving thousands of children without access to formal learning. In many IDP settlements, educational facilities were makeshift and poorly equipped, often lacking basic amenities such as benches, roofing, and functional sanitation facilities.

Persistent insecurity and ongoing military operations in contested districts also forced repeated school closures, further disrupting education continuity. Girls continued to face multiple, intersecting barriers, including restrictive gender norms, the scarcity of female teachers, early marriage, heavy domestic workloads, and heightened exposure to violence in and around schools. In some localities, girls accounted for less than 35% of total enrolment, with dropout rates increasing sharply during periods of flooding, drought, and food insecurity.

Additionally, the protection landscape in Somalia remained deeply concerning throughout 2024, with civilians particularly women, children, persons with disabilities, and members of minority groups continuing to bear the heaviest burden of conflict, displacement, and widespread lawlessness.

Persistent armed violence, insecurity within displacement sites, rampant gender-based violence (GBV), and the near absence of justice and accountability mechanisms further exacerbated protection risks. Ongoing clashes between rival parties resulted in widespread human rights violations, including killings, forced displacement, arbitrary arrests, child recruitment, and sexual violence. In many rural and conflict-affected areas, access to GBV prevention and response services such as medical care, psychosocial support, and legal assistance remained extremely limited or entirely unavailable. Children, particularly those who were displaced, orphaned, or from marginalized groups, continued to face grave violations of their rights and heightened protection vulnerabilities.

Parallel to this, the shelter situation remained critically inadequate, especially for internally displaced persons (IDPs), flood-affected families, and returnees. With more than 3.8 million IDPs nationwide and over 477,000 newly displaced people in 2024 alone, the demand for emergency and transitional shelter far exceeded available resources. The vast majority of displaced families were forced to live in makeshift shelters made from plastic sheets, sticks, and scrap materials, offering minimal protection from harsh weather and insecurity. Somalia continued to experience one of the world's largest and most protracted displacement crises in 2024, as reflected in these figures—underscoring the cyclical, overlapping, and prolonged nature of displacement across the country.

Localized Response

Local humanitarian actors are often the first responders when disasters strike, leveraging their proximity to communities, established trust, and deep contextual understanding to deliver rapid and effective assistance to affected populations.

The 2024 response landscape reflected a multi-layered system of national, international, and local actors working collaboratively to address urgent humanitarian needs across affected regions.

Within this broader framework, organizations such as Action Against Disasters Somalia (AADSOM) were indispensable in providing life-saving assistance under extraordinarily challenging conditions.

Drawing on its strong community presence, operational agility, and context-specific expertise, AADSOM played a frontline role in delivering integrated, life-saving support to the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations.

Lifesaving & Sustainable WASH Response

Funded and strategically designed under the SHF's Reserve Allocation, this life-saving emergency and sustainable WASH response intervention was designed to provide an early lifesaving response to El Niño-induced flooding. The project's overall objective was to ensure dignified access to emergency and sustainable WASH services for the most vulnerable flood-affected communities in Beletweyne district. A total of 3,400 households (approximately 20,400 individuals) received water vouchers, ensuring a reliable supply of safe water during the most critical 60-day post-flood period, with each household accessing 45 liters of water daily.

The project further rehabilitated 18 strategic shallow wells across multiple villages. Sixteen shallow wells were fitted with new hand pumps, while two high-yield wells were upgraded with solar-powered submersible pumps, kiosks, and storage tanks, hence establishing a climate-resilient water system for approximately 10,000 people and reducing dependence on costly water trucking.

A rigorous program of post-flood shock chlorination was undertaken across all rehabilitated wells, alongside the introduction of routine water quality monitoring for Free Residual Chlorine (FRC) to ensure safety at the point of collection and prevent disease outbreaks. In addressing sanitation needs, the project constructed 192 gender-sensitive and inclusive latrines. Of these, 172 were standard units, while 20 were specifically designed for persons with disabilities to ensure equitable access. To consolidate gains in hygiene and public health, a comprehensive hygiene behavior-change campaign was conducted, reaching all 20,400 beneficiaries with key messages and demonstrations. Overall, the project achieved both immediate humanitarian impact and long-term sustainability by restoring safe water access, rehabilitating critical infrastructure, promoting inclusive sanitation, and embedding hygiene behavior change across affected communities in Beletweyne District.



Addressing La Niña:

Lifesaving Food Security Support to Affected IDPs



The Hiraan region continued to face the devastating effects of La Niña-induced dry conditions, which further deepened the hardship caused by protracted displacement, localized conflict, and widespread economic fragility. A large proportion of internally displaced persons (IDPs) particularly recent arrivals reported severe food consumption gaps, reliance on unsustainable coping mechanisms, and complete dependency on humanitarian aid. The Somalia Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and IPC projections confirmed the severity of this food insecurity crisis in Beletweyne.

In response, Action Against Disasters Somalia (AADSOM), with support from Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH) through the Humanitarian Operations and Innovation Facility (HOIFA), implemented a two-month life-saving food assistance project aimed at stabilizing the nutrition and food security conditions among the most vulnerable households.

The overall objective of the project was to prevent acute food insecurity and nutritional deterioration among drought-affected and displaced populations in Beletweyne by delivering direct, dignified, and timely food assistance to 608 internally displaced households, reaching a total of 3,648 individuals. The intervention prioritized female-headed households, children, marginalized groups, and persons with disabilities. Through the provision of unconditional food vouchers, targeted families were empowered to access nutritionally balanced food items of their own choice, promoting household autonomy, dignity, and dietary diversity while reducing dependency on in-kind food distributions.

Overall, the project served as a critical stopgap intervention, successfully averting a further deterioration of food and nutrition outcomes during a period of acute vulnerability. It provided immediate relief that curtailed the adoption of harmful coping strategies and restored a measure of dignity and stability to affected households. Nevertheless, sustained support and complementary resilience-building initiatives remain essential to consolidate these gains and advance long-term food security for Hiraan's most at-risk communities.



Prevention of Moderate Acute Malnutrition Among Women & Children

Banadir and Hiran were among several regions classified as facing severe and persistent challenges of acute food insecurity and high malnutrition rates in 2024. In particular, Kaxda District, known for its status as the epicenter and host of the largest internally displaced population in the country, with approximately 653,057 individuals living in 1,115 congested informal makeshift settlements, was projected to face heightened risks of acute malnutrition and disease outbreaks between March and June 2024, as IDPs in the district were already experiencing low health and nutrition coverage due to a decline in funding.

Women and children, who constitute the majority of the displaced populations, were the most affected. Fever, diarrhea, measles, and acute watery diarrhea (AWD) emerged as the leading causes of morbidity and mortality among children under five. Infant and young child feeding (IYCF) indicators remained suboptimal, reflecting the national trend where only 9.5% of children meet the Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD). Poor dietary diversity and limited access to micronutrient supplementation have also contributed to widespread anemia and vitamin A deficiency, further deepening the overall nutrition crisis.

In response to this critical situation, Action Against Disasters Somalia (AADSOM), in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF), and in close coordination with the Banadir Regional Authority (BRA) and the Nutrition Sub-National Cluster, implemented a targeted, life-saving nutrition intervention. The program focused on Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) prevention and treatment services for 80,532 children aged 6–59 months and 15,328 pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) across the districts of Kaxda, Howlwadag, and Wardhigley in Banadir Region, and Jalalaqsi and Mataban in Hiran Region.

The project's overarching goal was to reduce malnutrition-related morbidity and mortality among the most vulnerable populations through an integrated package of interventions that included:

- Provision of MAM prevention and treatment services for 80,532 children (6–59 months) and 15,328 PLWs.
- Strengthening screening, referral, and case management systems for both MAM and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).
- Promoting optimal Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Feeding (MIYCF) practices through community outreach and behavior change communication (BCC).
- Enhancing the capacity of frontline health and nutrition workers to improve the quality and consistency of service delivery.
- Improving routine immunization uptake for children under one year, contributing to the national reduction of “zero-dose” children.

Through the operationalization of health facilities, extensive community outreach, and close coordination with government and partner agencies, AADSOM effectively addressed the immediate nutrition and health needs of 95,860 individuals. The intervention facilitated the distribution of 299.55 metric tons (MT) of specialized nutritious food to children and PLWs. The program's impact was significant—it reduced rates of acute malnutrition, morbidity, and mortality, while strengthening local healthcare capacity and contributing to broader national nutrition and health objectives. Treatment-based nutrition support prevented severe wasting and stunting, while Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programs (TSFPs), Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN), and Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programs (BSFPs) provided life-saving assistance to at-risk individuals.



MD SOMALIA SHF
PROJECT TITLE:
Provision of comprehensive prevention and management of Moderate Acute Malnutrition among Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) and children aged 6-59 months in Kaxda District in Mogadishu, Banaadir
Fund Project Code: CBPF-SOM-24-S-MG

ACTIVITIES:
1. Screening, identification and referral of severely malnourished children, pregnant and breastfeeding women.
2. Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for children under five, pregnant and breastfeeding women in supplementary feeding programs (SFPs).

MD SOMALIA
CHILD FRIENDLY SPACE
EVERY CHILD DESERVES TO FEEL SAFE
Project Code: CBF-SOM-24-S-MG
Location: Mogadishu, Banaadir

LWACTIGELIN
ITCF
COUNSELLING

MD SOMALIA
PROJECT TITLE:
Provision of comprehensive prevention and management of Moderate Acute Malnutrition among Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) and children aged 6-59 months in Kaxda District in Mogadishu, Banaadir
ACTIVITY:
MOTHERS TO MOTHER SUPPORT
Project Code: CBPF-SOM-24-S-MG
Funded by: SHF Implementation
Location: Kaxda District, Banaadir
Duration: August 2024



Transforming Smallholder Farmers' Resilience

Climate variability and extreme weather events including droughts, floods, and temperature fluctuations combined with socioeconomic challenges such as limited access to resources, financial volatility, and gender disparities, have rendered traditional farming practices increasingly unreliable and unsustainable in Somalia.

Jowhar District, historically one of the country's key agricultural hubs, holds vast potential due to its fertile land and extensive irrigation infrastructure. Yet, this potential remains largely untapped. Over the years, severe climate-related shocks have undermined the productivity of the district's irrigation scheme, threatening food security, livelihoods, and local economic stability.

Farmers in Jowhar have long relied on rain-fed agriculture; however, erratic rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, rising temperatures, and worsening soil degradation have rendered this system unsustainable. Traditional subsistence farming methods have proven ill-equipped to adapt to these environmental stresses, resulting in repeated crop failures and sharp declines in agricultural output. These challenges have had devastating repercussions for household food security and incomes. As a result, smallholder farmers who form the backbone of the local economy continue to face significant setbacks that limit their capacity to produce and supply essential horticultural products such as vegetables and fruits. The steady decline in productivity, coupled with resource depletion, has further deepened rural vulnerability and eroded Jowhar's capacity to reclaim its historical role as a major agricultural center supplying fresh produce to South-Central Somalia and beyond.



Despite strong consumer demand for quality vegetables and fruits throughout the year, smallholder farmers continue to face persistent challenges in meeting this demand. Their heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture has severely limited productivity, as rainfall in the region remains unpredictable, erratic, and insufficient. These interlinked challenges underscored an urgent need for climate-smart agricultural solutions capable of enhancing food security while simultaneously building resilience to climate-induced shocks.

In response, Action Against Disasters Somalia (AADSOM), in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), launched a transformative pilot Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) initiative targeting five smallholder farmer cooperatives in Jowhar District. The project aimed to address the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition while improving farmers' livelihoods and adaptive capacity to withstand climate variability. The initiative included:

- Development of five hectares of climate-smart agricultural land to ensure year-round production despite seasonal variability. Adaptive farming techniques were introduced to optimize resource use, maximize productivity, and strengthen resilience against erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, and soil degradation—factors that had previously undermined agricultural sustainability in the district.
- Construction of five modern greenhouses, each equipped with a solar-powered drip irrigation systems designed to create optimal growing conditions by regulating temperature, humidity, and exposure to climatic fluctuations and ensure consistent and high-quality crop production.

By delivering water directly to plant roots, the drip irrigation minimized waste, improved efficiency, and reduced dependence on unreliable rainfall, helping farmers mitigate the risks of water scarcity.

- Establishment of five shallow wells with water tanks to guarantee a reliable and sustainable source of water for irrigation (one for each greenhouse). The provision of a consistent water supply ensured uninterrupted farming activities, even during periods of low rainfall, thereby stabilizing food production and supporting the livelihoods of farming communities.
- Cultivation of high-value vegetables, including cucumbers, spinach, peppers, lettuce, and chilies, to meet local market demand and provide diversified dietary options. Carefully chosen based on their high market demand, and adaptability to local growing conditions. By diversifying crop production, farmers were able to meet local market needs, improve food security, and enhance income generation. The promotion of high-value horticultural crops encouraged dietary diversification, contributing to improved nutrition among local communities.
- To complement these infrastructural investments, farmers were trained in techniques such as composting, mulching, and integrated pest management. Farmers gained a deeper understanding of how composting, mulching, and pest management strategies can enhance soil fertility and health, improve moisture retention, reduce water loss, and minimize crop losses caused by pests and diseases.



Impact and Sustainability

The Enhanced Resilience of Smallholder Farmer Cooperatives through Climate-Smart Agriculture Systems initiative has proven that, despite persistent barriers to adoption, Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) offers a viable pathway to food security, economic stability, and environmental sustainability.

When farmers are equipped with the right resources, practical knowledge, and supportive policies, they can successfully transform their agricultural practices. The experiences of smallholder farmers who have embraced water-efficient irrigation, soil restoration techniques, drought-tolerant crops, and agroforestry stand as powerful evidence of CSA's transformative potential in building resilient and future-proof farming systems.





A Mother's Struggle: Finding Hope Amid Hardship

Hawa, 36-year-old mother of five, the days leading up to receiving food assistance were some of the hardest she had ever endured. Displaced by the severe drought that devastated her village, she and her family had settled in an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp in Beletweyne town. Life in the camp was fraught with uncertainty because food was scarce, employment opportunities were nonexistent, and every day was a fight for survival.

Hawa's husband, a former farmer, had lost everything when their farmland dried up due to the prolonged drought. With no crops left to harvest and no livestock to sell, their only option was to migrate in search of food and safety. However, arriving in the camp brought no immediate relief. The family struggled to find enough to eat, often surviving on one meal a day. The children, who had once been lively and energetic, became weak and malnourished.

"It was the worst feeling in my entire life to watch my children cry from hunger and not be able to give them anything," Hawa remembered, with her voice heavy with emotions. When Hawa was informed that she had been selected as a beneficiary for the food voucher program, she could hardly believe it. The thought of being able to purchase food for her family without having to beg or borrow filled her with immense relief. For a period of two months, she received a \$70 voucher each month, which allowed her to buy staple foods such as rice, flour, beans, oil, and milk from designated vendors.

"For the first time in months, I saw my children eat three meals a day," she said, her face lighting up with a smile. She was able to provide them with a variety of food, ensuring they received the necessary nutrients. Her youngest son, who had been visibly weak, started gaining weight and playing again. Her teenage daughter, who had been skipping school due to the family's lack of financial capacity, was now able to concentrate on her studies. Beyond the immediate impact on food security, the program gave Hawa and her family something even more valuable – hope and dignity. She no longer had to wake up dreading how she would feed her children. The burden of hunger was lifted, allowing her to focus on rebuilding their lives. "Now, I can focus on thinking other issues," she said. "I want to find a way to earn an income so that when the vouchers end, I can still provide for my family."

Hawa is just one of hundreds of women whose lives were supported by this intervention. The food voucher program did not just feed families; it restored their dignity, hope, and resilience, proving that timely humanitarian aid can have far-reaching effects beyond immediate hunger relief.



End Note: The name "Hawa" and the accompanying photo are pseudonyms used to protect the individual's identity and ensure personal privacy in accordance with AADSOM'S data protection guidelines.

Final Remarks

2024 was a year of saving lives — because of you.

Your compassion brought relief, hope, and dignity to thousands of people enduring life-threatening crises across Somalia. Action Against Disasters Somalia (AADSOM) deeply values your trust and remain committed to ensuring that every contribution delivers the greatest possible impact for those who need it most.

Your unwavering support is the heartbeat of our mission — the force that turns compassion into action. From all of us at AADSOM, thank you for standing with us and for being a vital part of our shared journey to save lives and restore hope.

Together, We Save Lives.

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